As the data from the Media Pluralism Monitor 2016 shows, EU Member States generally do not impose any restrictions on foreign ownership. That is the case for 23 countries out of 28. There are only 5 Member States that establish some kind of regulatory restriction on foreign ownership in the media sector, but in none of them do such restrictions apply to citizens or companies from EU countries, which enjoy the same rights as national citizens and companies. The restrictions on foreign ownership vary both in terms of percentage of capital held and the sector to which they apply.

Therefore, in all EU MS that establish some degree of restriction on non-EU ownership, the common pattern is that non-EU companies and citizens cannot have control of the media company, with Cyprus and France having the most restrictive environment, applying to all media sectors and with non-EU citizens and companies, which has to be below the maximum limit of non-EU capital of 20% and 25%, respectively.

Spain has restrictions for both the print and television sectors - but no restrictions for the joint media - with non-EU citizens and companies being allowed to hold - individually - up to 25% of the total capital. Moreover, it also imposes a limit on the shares of ownership that can be held by non-EU citizens and companies, which has to be below 50%.

In Cyprus non-EU citizens and companies can individually hold up to 25% of all capital share on approval by the Council of Ministers and the joint percentage of foreign capital in a licensed company may not be more than 49%.

Austria, established individual restrictions for the radio and TV sectors (but no specific percentage for newspapers), setting the maximum of foreign capital participation of the Slovak media outlet, which has to be below 20%.

In Poland set no restrictions for the newspaper sector and a maximum limit for the broadcasting sector of the ownership rule.