

The main topic of this thesis is the functioning of the public service media, especially public service television broadcasters. After general definitions of the basic terms associated with this topic, the thesis highlights the differences between the media in the private and the public sectors, and characterizes the public service media in the previously selected European countries: the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic. The choice of these particular states was based on their different economic, political and media systems. The history, the development and the crisis of the Greek public service media are subjected to a thorough analysis. Regarding the inclusion of the historical context the thesis moves onto the crisis which occurred in June 2013 due to inconsistent government interferences in the media field, which led to a suspension of the transmission of the Greek public broadcaster ERT. The practical part is dedicated to a detailed analysis of the viewership of the Greek television, focusing on the period before, during and after the crisis had occurred. The main objective of the thesis is to point out whether the government interferences had influenced the viewership of the Greek television.