

Comparative Assessment of Political Party Funding Regulation

COUNTRY	PUBLIC FUNDING PROVIDED	PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATE FUNDING	FOREIGN FUNDING PERMITTED	DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS ON DONORS
Angola	No	No	No	No
Argentina	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Australia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Austria	Yes	Yes	Yes – up to 2500 euros	No
Belgium	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹	No
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Yes	Yes	No	No
Botswana	No	No	Yes	No
Brazil	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Bulgaria	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Burkina Faso	Yes	No	Yes	No
Canada	Yes	Yes	No	No
Central African Republic	No	No	Yes	No
Chile	No	Yes	No	No
Colombia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	No	No
Croatia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Czech Republic	Yes	Yes	Yes ²	No
Democratic Republic of Congo	No	No	No	No
Denmark	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ecuador	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Finland	Yes	Yes	Yes ³	No
France	Yes	Yes	Yes ⁴	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Germany	Yes	Yes	Yes ⁵	Yes
Ghana	No	Yes	Yes ⁶	No
Greece	Yes	Yes	No	No
Honduras	Yes	No	No	No
Hungary	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Iceland	Yes	No	Yes	No
India	No	Yes	Yes ⁷	Yes ⁸

¹ Donations from foreign corporations are prohibited.

² Only permitted from foreign political parties.

³ Only allowed from private individuals and legal entities.

⁴ Only allowed from individuals and limited to 7 500 euros per donor per year.

⁵ Limited to 1000 euros per donor per year.

⁶ Foreign corporations are banned and foreign donations are not permitted to be made directly to political parties but are distributed between the parties by the Electoral Commission

⁷ New legislation was enacted to allow this in 2016 - previously there was a ban on foreign funding.

Ireland	Yes	Yes	No	Yes ⁹
Israel	Yes	Yes	No ¹⁰	No
Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Japan	Yes	Yes	No	No
Latvia	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Lesotho	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Lithuania	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Luxembourg	Yes	Yes	No	No
Madagascar	Yes	No	Yes ¹¹	No
Malawi	Yes	No	Yes	No
Malaysia	No	No	Yes	No
Mali	Yes	No	Yes	No
Malta	Yes	No	No	No
Mexico	Yes	Yes	No	No
Morocco	Yes	Yes	No	No
Mozambique	Yes	No ¹²	No	No
Namibia	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Netherlands	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
New Zealand	No	Yes	Yes	No
Niger	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Norway	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Panama	Yes	No	Yes	No
Papua New Guinea	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹³	Yes
Paraguay	Yes	Yes	No	No
Peru	No	Yes	Yes	No
Poland	Yes	Yes	No	No
Portugal	Yes	Yes	No	No
Romania	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Russia	Yes	Yes	No	Yes ¹⁴
Senegal	No	No	No	No
Seychelles	Yes	No	No	No
Sierra Leone	No	No	Yes	No
Singapore	No	Yes	No	Yes ¹⁵
Slovakia	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹⁶	No
Slovenia	Yes	Yes	No	No
South Africa	Yes	No	Yes	No
Spain	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹⁷	No
Sweden	Yes	No ¹⁸	No	No
Swaziland	No	No	Yes	No

⁸ Public companies only.

⁹ Companies, trade unions and building societies are required to disclose donations made above a certain threshold.

¹⁰ Except by Israeli nationals living abroad.

¹¹ Donations from foreign governments and foreign public entities are prohibited.

¹² Parties are required to account for their donations to an oversight body but no public disclosure obligations exist.

¹³ Only individuals donors are permitted.

¹⁴ Donors must disclose donations made which are above 1000 times the minimum wage.

¹⁵ Donors donating above a certain threshold must report as much to an oversight agency but these records are not made public.

¹⁶ Only allowed from foreign political parties.

¹⁷ Permitted from foreign governments and companies.

¹⁸ Donations are disclosed to an oversight agency but not to the public.

Switzerland	Yes	No ¹⁹	Yes	No
Thailand	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Uganda	No	No	Yes	No
Ukraine	No	Yes	No	No
United Kingdom	Yes	Yes	No	Yes ²⁰
United States	Yes	Yes	No	No
Uruguay	Yes	No	Yes	No
Venezuela	No	Yes	Yes	No
Zambia	No	No	Yes	No
Zimbabwe	Yes	No	No	No

Of the 79 countries listed above the following data emerges:

- 77% of the countries provide public funding to political parties and 23% do not;
- 68% require the public disclosure of their private funding;
- 32% of the countries, including South Africa, do not have regulation requiring transparency in their private funding;
- Only 24% of the countries who give public funding to political parties do not require transparency in their private funding activities. South Africa is included in this list accompanied by: Burkina Faso, Honduras, Iceland, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mozambique, Panama, Seychelles, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.
- 52% of the countries permit some form of foreign funding;
- 23% of the countries have some form of obligation on certain donors to disclose donations to political parties.

¹⁹ Disclosure is required in some cantons but not others.

²⁰ Companies must disclose donations to their shareholders.