

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	MISSION	3
	• Our mission and vision	3
	• Our values	3
2	OBJECTIVE I — PROMOTING INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN EUROPE	4
	• Publications with impact	4
	• Increasing applications for support	6
	• Reach summary	7
	• Awards	8
	• Training and Mentoring Programme	10
3	OBJECTIVE II — FACILITATING NETWORKS OF JOURNALISTS IN EUROPE	15
	• Grantees at conferences	15
	• Lectures / External representation	15
4	OBJECTIVE III — AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION	16
	• Communication	16
	• Database	19
	• Pascal Decroos Fund ads	19
	• Security / Privacy Policy	19
5	ANNEXES	20
	• Annual accounts	20
	• European Cross-Border Grants (ECBG)	22
	• European Cross-Border Local Grant Programme	27
	• The Pascal Decroos Grant Programme	34
	• FPD Low Countries	41
	• FPD Science	43
	• Money Trail Project (Closed)	45
	• Modern Slavery Unveiled	45
	• Investigation Grants for Environmental Journalism	48
	• Professional Development Grants for Environmental Journalism	57
	• Local Media for Democracy	62

1 MISSION

● OUR MISSION AND VISION

We believe that journalism is crucial to fostering living democracies throughout the European continent. We are dedicated to advancing independent and investigative journalism across Europe that serves the public interest, furthers accountability as well as transparency, and contributes to critical thinking and well-informed debate.

We aim to promote and develop professional journalism on the European continent in response to the challenges and opportunities stemming from increased digitalisation, the internationalisation of political, business and criminal power structures, as well as changing revenue models.

Journalismfund Europe is a Brussels-based independent non-profit organisation incorporated by citizens in 1998. The organisation was established with the purpose of facilitating investigative, cross-border and independent journalism in order to promote democracy on the European continent by connecting donors and journalists without endangering the journalists' independence.

This is how we work:

1. We facilitate donors so that they can play their role supporting investigative journalism to the maximum extent possible. We therefore report very transparently on our projects.
2. We facilitate journalists in conducting investigative and cross-border journalism; moreover, we safeguard their independence from donors.
3. We help journalists disseminate their stories among citizens.

● OUR VALUES

INDEPENDENT. We operate independently from any political or economic influences, donors or other interests. We respect the editorial independence of the journalists we work with. Our key innovation was the setup of an independent, anonymous jury to assess applications and allocate funds for journalists.

TRANSPARENT. Our board, staff members, partners and the general public know what we stand for, and how we operate and make decisions. We ask those we work with to be equally transparent. We are aware that transparency in the context of investigative journalism can expose people to risk and are therefore mindful of our requirements.

COLLABORATIVE. Collaboration empowers. It amplifies the impacts of journalists and journalism. Our willingness and ability to collaborate with key stakeholders in our field strengthens our strategies. Collaboration within and between our organisational structures strengthens our operations.

RESPONSIVE. We act on the needs and interests of journalists and donors. We adapt to changing external and internal opportunities and threats. We walk our talk.

INNOVATIVE. We propagate new journalistic methods and skills. We encourage creative thinking and are willing to try new approaches.

2

OBJECTIVE I — PROMOTING INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN EUROPE

● PUBLICATIONS WITH IMPACT

The first step in raising awareness of human rights violations, climate change, organised crime and large-scale fraud is investigating them. Public opinion must have access to information, which is an essential condition for a critical democratic debate. That's exactly what journalists do: they search, dig and examine. They discover, reveal, expose. They tell their stories to readers, listeners and viewers, aid organisations and policy makers, who can then start doing what they each do best to fight those abuses.

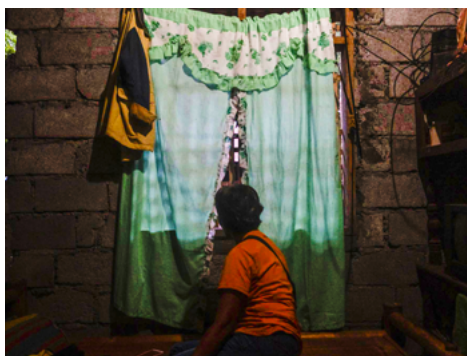
Based on what journalists discover, reveal and expose; readers, listeners, viewers, aid organisations, and policymakers can then start doing what they each do best to fight those abuses. The following examples illustrate how the stories made with the support of Journalismfund Europe and published in 2023 had an impact on the issues they addressed.

Bringing tools for investigations



Thanks to [this investigation](#) by Carlotta Indiano and Ariane Lavrilleux, the organisation France Nature Environnement (the largest federation of associations for the protection of nature and the environment in France) has denounced ArcelorMittal in the courts of Lille and Marseille for 'endangerment by emissions in the air' and 'degradation of air quality'.

Louder than words: investigations inspiring political action



Following the publication of the '[Hands on Deck](#)' investigation, Patrick Costello, Green Party TD and party spokesperson for Justice, hosted an Oireachtas briefing on the exploitation of migrant workers in the Irish fishing industry and invited Noteworthy to present our findings.

This took place on 25 January 2023 in Leinster House and also included presentations by Michael O'Brien of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), and Neil Bruton of the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI). Both organisations work with migrant fishers and are featured in our articles.

Civil servants, parliamentary assistants and politicians from a number of parties were in attendance, including Social Democrats TD Holly Cairns, Independent Senator Eileen Flynn and Green Party TD Stephen Matthews.

Following the briefing, Costello spoke about the investigation in the Dáil and of the 'very clear and quick reforms' being called on by the ITF and MRCI.

In response Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said that ‘It’s clear that some, if not many, migrant fishermen are being exploited and that’s not acceptable and not something that we want to be a feature of our marine economy or the fishing industry in Ireland.’ He continued: ‘I’ve heard and read about some really appalling examples of abuse that aren’t far off modern day slavery.’

He said that responsibility for this issue now falls to Minister Neale Richmond, following the recent resignation of Minister Damien English, adding that he would ‘certainly make sure that it’s on his agenda for this year.’

There have been some improvements reported by advocates since the investigation, including migrant fishers being granted ‘Stamp 4’ visas which allow them to work without being tied to a specific employer.

US: Ireland is failing to convict traffickers or support their victims

A US Department of State report has found that Ireland is failing to meet the minimum standards required to combat human trafficking.

The Department, which leads US foreign policy, released its annual Trafficking in Persons Report yesterday, ranking Ireland in the second tier of countries with respect to the State’s efforts to acknowledge and combat trafficking for the second year running.

That Ireland has not convicted any traffickers in the last year was one of the key issues highlighted in the report. The investigation ‘[Hands on Deck](#)’, written by Maria Delaney, Geela Garcia and Louise Lawless, has looked extensively into trafficking in Ireland’s fishing industry and was cited in the US Department’s report.

Recruited to Ireland with the promise of good wages, fishers from the Philippines — often in debt after paying illegal recruitment fees — travel across the world to provide better opportunities for themselves and their families. But a work permission scheme, introduced following exposure of trafficking and exploitation of undocumented workers in the sector, has now become a vehicle to exploit the same workers it was introduced to protect, according to workers’ advocates.

Ghana’s energy commission has introduced e-appliance regulation after investigation



Two years after [an investigation](#) into Europe’s e-waste problem and the impact on Ghana, Ghana’s Energy Commission has introduced regulation that will make it difficult to import sub-standard e-appliances. The investigation was written by Gideon Sarpong, Naipanoi Lepapa, Jennifer Ugwa, Leslie Olonyi Bosire and Paul-Joël Kamtchang, and mentored by Nick Mathiason.

Freezing peat mining permits in Estonia



In October, [an investigation](#) by Ingrid Gercama, Tristen Taylor and Nathalie Bertrams uncovered how Dutch companies benefit from the peat business in the Baltic states, as they do not only trade peat but also mine it in Estonia and Latvia. The project highlighted the severe consequences of these activities, such as environmental degradation caused by the industry’s carbon emissions.

Now, the Estonian Ministry of Climate is considering suspending the issuance of new peat mining permits and

freeze the extension of old permits until the new climate law is enacted. The new climate law will reassess the permissibility of peat mining, or at least limit its volume. This information was revealed by Eesti Päevaleht, stating that the ministry has not announced this decision yet.

One of the biggest Danish power plants stops buying coal from Glencore



[This investigation](#) by Danwatch and El Turbion revealed severe environmental damage and workers' and community rights violations in Glencore's Colombian Cerrejon mine.

It was further picked up by other Danish media, and in August 2023, the chairman of Nordjylland Power Station — a coal-fired combined heat and power plant near Aalborg, one of the biggest in Denmark — stated that they had put a stop to buying coal from Glencore.

In November, they reconfirmed that they intend to maintain that position and won't buy from them in the future.

● INCREASING APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORT

Pre-application sessions



In 2023, Journalismfund Europe offered in-house assistance in the form of individual pre-application meetings with all journalists interested in applying to any of the grant programmes for the better preparation of their application.

Meetings were available in ten different languages (English, French, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Croatian, Serbian, Montenegrin and Bosnian). Project coordinators facilitated these online sessions.

In 2023, the European Cross-Border Grants (ECBG) offered 33 pre-application sessions and the European Cross-Border Local Grant programme provided 111 pre-application sessions. Under the Pascal Decroos Fund, 43 pre-application meetings were offered. Eight sessions were provided by FPD Low Countries and four by the

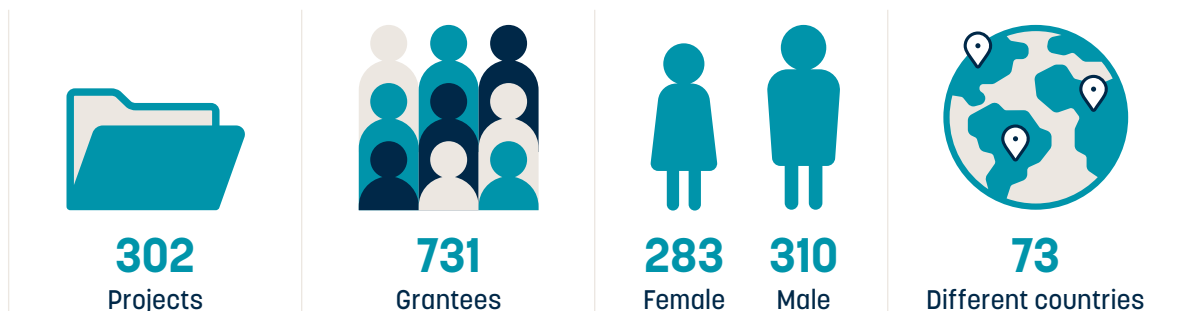
Science Journalism Grant programme. Modern Slavery Unveiled provided 15 pre-application sessions. Investigations Grants for Environmental Journalism offered 32 sessions and Professional Development Grants for Environmental Journalism provided 11 sessions. The number of pre-application meetings under Local Media for Democracy was 192.

Applications

In 2023 Journalismfund Europe received **865** applications (from 1,682 applicants) for nine grant programmes: European Cross-Border Local, European Cross Border (ECBG), Pascal Decroos Fund, Pascal Decroos Fund Low Countries, Science Journalism grants, Modern Slavery Unveiled Project, investigation grants for Environmental Journalism, Professional Development Grants for Environmental Journalism, Local Media for Democracy. For an overview of the goals, scope, grants, stories and impact of the grant programmes, see Annexes page 24 to 64. The grant applicants were domiciled in **87** different countries, see the table below.

	2021	2022	2023		
APPLIED					
#budget	3,277,733	5,844,745	19,842,300.02	239%	↗
#applications	309	384	865	125%	↗
#applicants	656	885	1,682	90%	↗
GRANTED					
#budget	1,088,463	2,594,152	4,638,316	78%	↗
#applications	135	203	302	48%	↗
#applicants	289	409	731	80%	↗

Grantees



In 2023, we supported 302 projects or 731 grantees (283 female, 310 male). The grantees are domiciled in 73 different countries.

The average age of the grantees is 40. Five hundred are freelance journalists, 34 are novices, 557 are experienced journalists (more than two years of experience).

● REACH SUMMARY

All online coverage 2023

Number of media outlets	446
Pieces of online coverage	1,080
Total views	26,681,284
Audience	4,797,159,321
Engagements	313,771
Average domain authority	52

Important note: all the numbers for 'Reach' throughout the report only refer to the readership of online pieces of coverage. Print coverage is not measured.

● AWARDS

In 2023 the following projects received or were nominated for an award:

Pascal Decroos Fund

- | An investigation into the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park in Uganda won the recognition of the most prestigious competition for visual artists in Ibero-America (*POY Latam*). Journalists Dicta Asiimwe and Pablo Garrigós Cucarella investigated the work of Ugandan scientists in the frontline of zoonotic disease surveillance, in the context of weak and under-supported healthcare systems in Africa, and how this could jeopardise the goal of protecting the global population from the next pandemic. Pablo Garrigós Cucarella won on the category of photojournalists in the world.

Money Trail Grant

- | An investigation about the surrogacy industry in Kenya was nominated for the Inge Fetrinelli Award. Naipanoi Lepapa uncovered a multitude of worrying allegations about this unregulated industry.

European Cross-Border Grants

- | An investigation about the post-election collapse of human rights in Belarus was nominated for the Fetisov Journalism Awards and won the Amnesty Media Award. Olga Loginova and Ottavia Spaggiari investigated how the regime responded to the protest by unleashing an unprecedented level of violence.
- | Investigation 'Hidden cross-border pollution in Ireland and the United Kingdom' by Luke Butterly, Niall Sargent, Rory Winters, Ella McSweeney and Tommy Greene was shortlisted for the Justice Media Awards 2023.
- | 'The bankers of irregular migration', an investigation by Elena Ledda, Andrea Giambartolomei, Priyanka Shankar, Emma Yeomans, Andrés Mourenza and Iliana Papangeli was shortlisted for the Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism 2023.

European Cross-Border Local Grant Programme

- | Investigation 'Dry to the Bone' won the 2023 ILO Global Media Competition on Labour Migration. Claudia Colliva, Giada Santana and Juli Simond delved into the role of organised crime and labour exploitation in the agricultural market.

Investigations Grants For Environmental Journalism

- | An investigation into the consequences of the Alqueva Dam for the south of Portugal by Tobias Asmuth won the Portuguese-German Journalism Prize.
- | Ricardo Rodrigues' investigation, which follows the work of a team of researchers revealing the urgent fight of Science to stop the decline in species and biodiversity, also won the Portuguese-German Journalism Prize.
- | An investigation into industrial peat extraction in the enforcement firing line by Niall Sargent and Juris Jurans was shortlisted for the Justice Media Awards 2023.

- | An investigation into the international bird trade won the award for best article in the print media category of the Dejan Anastasijević award 2023. Journalists Nemanja Rujević, Ingrid Gercama, Nathalie Bertrams and Tristen Taylor investigated how the smuggling of songbirds and other tropical birds to the European Union (EU) has skyrocketed in recent years, especially along the Balkan trafficking route.
- | An investigation into the dark trace of intensive macro-farms in Europe won the 2023 Climate Journalism Award in the Data Category and was nominated at Premio Gabo 2023. Ana Tudela and Antonio Delgado were part of a team who showed how areas of extremely high concentration of intensive macro-farms in Europe have polluted rivers, aquifers and even drinking water.
- | ‘The sinking cities project’, an investigation by Rehab Abdalmohsen, Ope Adetayo, Shamsuddin Illius, Lois Kapila, Zuza Nazaruk and Zuha Siddiqui won the 2023 Climate Journalism Award in the Emerging Talent Category.
- | An investigation into banned EU pesticides used in Kenya and Cameroon was the runner-up in the Digital category at the 11th Annual Journalism Excellence Awards. Mary Mwendwa and Christian Locka established that chemical pesticides produced in the USA and Germany, banned within the European Union markets, are still used in Kenya and Cameroon.
- | An investigation into illegal waste importation to the Czech Republic from Germany, was nominated three times for the German-Czech Journalism Award and was a finalist in the German Text and German Multimedia category. Journalists Michael Billig, Marius Münstermann and Zuzana Šotová revealed how a German company sent a potentially harmful product to a Czech waste site.
- | “The environmental and social impacts of Europe and Japan’s waste to energy push in Southeast Asia”, an investigation by Nithin Coca, Alexandra Buba, Geela Garcia and Nicha Wachpanich, was shortlisted for the Hostwriter Story Prize 2023.
- | ‘The forever pollution project’, an investigation by Tim Luimes, Stéphane Horel, Thomas Vanheste, Sarah Pilz and Gianluca Liva, was awarded 2nd place in the Large Market category of the Kevin Carmody Award for Outstanding Investigative Reporting, and was shortlisted for the Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism 2023. The story was also included in in GIJN’s list of 2023 Best Investigative Stories in French.
- | An investigation into the shipbreaking industry and the impact of asbestos on workers and the environment was included in in GIJN’s list of 2023 Best Investigative Stories in Turkey. The story was written by Mašenjka Bačić, Carlotta Indiano, Nils Mulvad, Fabio Papetti, Ante Pavić, Katharine Quarmby, Giulio Rubino, Zeynep Sentek, Craig Shaw, Krzysztof Story and Lorenzo Bagnoli.
- | An investigation into illegal crude oil mining in Nigeria won the 2023 Hostwriter Story Prize. Raluca Besliu, Elfredah Kevin-Alerechi and Kevin Woke uncovered the harmful impact of Total’s illegal oil and gas exploration activities in Nigeria.

Modern Slavery Unveiled

- | The investigation ‘Hands on deck’ won the Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Awards for Journalism Excellence and the Investigative Writing Award at the Irish Food Writing Awards 2023 and was shortlisted for the Justice Media Awards 2023. Maria Delaney, Geela Garcia, and Louise Lawless investigated how exploited Asian migrant workers in the Irish fishing sector are being ‘failed’ and ‘ignored’.
- | An investigation into the exploitation of Indian workers in Italy won the Ivan Bonfanti journalism prize 2023. Daniela Sala, Ankita Anand and Marco Valle investigated how, through debt, a network of intermediaries linking India to the Pontine countryside keeps thousands of Indian workers under blackmail, exploited in one of the largest fruit and vegetable districts in Europe.

- | An investigation into the exploitation of workers in Italy's kiwi industry won the Tina Merlin national awards for investigative journalism and was shortlisted for the Fetisov Journalism Awards 2023 in the Outstanding Investigative Reporting category. Stefania Prandi, Francesca Ciculli, Charlotte Aagaard and Kusum Arora revealed how farm workers are trafficked from Punjab in India to work in the kiwi fields of Lazio.
- | Investigation 'Diplomatic immunity and impunity' included in GIJN's list of 2023 Best Investigative Stories from Southeast Asia. Ana P. Santos, Michelle Abad and Pauline Macaraeg revealed how diplomatic immunity allows diplomats to get away with exploiting domestic workers.

All awards and nominations can be found online:

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/about/impact/awards>

● TRAINING AND MENTORING PROGRAMME

International Investigative Journalism — Post-academic (Mechelen)

The course targets people with a master's degree in any subject (or with a bachelor's degree in journalism) and provides insight into how a successful, properly substantiated and credible investigative journalism project can be set up. The course consists of three modules: Investigative journalism, International reporting, and Portfolio. The course takes 136 hours and takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (throughout the academic year).

The ultimate goal of the course is to teach students how to make news. The students are familiarised with techniques of which mainstream journalists have little or no knowledge. For instance, considerable attention is paid to data analysis and visualisation, searching on the internet, making use of Freedom of Information legislation, archives, etc. Considerable attention is also paid to cross-border collaboration and entrepreneurship.

The guest lecturers are all experts in their field with extensive experience: Evert De Vos (*Groene Amsterdammer*), Henk Van Ess (*Poynter, Bellingcat*), Peter Teffer (*Follow the Money*), Peter Verlinden (*former Belgian public broadcaster VRT journalist*), Kristof Clerix (*investigative journalist for Knack*), Luuk Sengers (*Story-Based Inquiry*), Karin Eeckhout (*Knack*), Doruntina Islamaj (*VRT*), Catherine Vuylsteke (*De Morgen, Trends, Mo*), Adriana Homolova (*Investico etc.*), to name a few. Every year, we also schedule a guest lecture given by a former IRJ student who successfully completed the course and is now working as a journalist.

www.researchjournalistiek.eu

Training Programme Earth Investigations Grant

Estación Podcast is the first Ibero-American festival of audio and sound creation. Its second edition in 2023 took place in Madrid, 9-13 May 2023, bringing together the most important creators of podcasts to discuss their work, including established and emerging proposals. A multitude of activities, talks, premieres and live events took place over the course of just a few days.

In the framework of the festival, Journalismfund Europe organised the 'Financing investigations presented in audio format' panel. Journalists and producers shared their investigative experience and problems they encountered, and discussed what they found special about the audio format for producing investigations. Most importantly, they also elaborated on options for financing series and documentaries that can achieve greater impact.

Panelists: Flavia Campeis (podcast 'Where is Paula?'), Ana Tudela (co-founder of Datadista), Carolina Guerrero (CEO of Radio Ambulante) together with the moderation of Daniel Wizenberg (Audience Engagement & Impact Manager at Journalismfund Europe).

Journalismfund also organised a dedicated networking event that brought together a total of 42 podcasts from the Spanish-speaking world, creating a vibrant and diverse atmosphere for the exchange of ideas and collaboration. Notable participants included renowned podcasts such as Radio Ambulante, a significant presence in Latin America, and the podcast by Mexican Olallo Rubio, a key figure in the industry. The event attracted journalists predominantly from Spain and Latin America, with a focus on environmental reporting. Notable attendees included environmental journalists from the prestigious Spanish agency EFE. The highlight of the event was the presence of the main speaker, Argentine investigative journalist and writer Martin Caparros, recipient of the 2023 Ortega y Gasset Prize, the most prestigious award for Spanish literature.

The central theme of the event revolved around investigative journalism, particularly focusing on fieldwork, narrative techniques drawing from literature, contemporary ethics in Spanish environmental investigative journalism, and financing strategies. Attendees gained insights into the various Journalismfund Europe grants, and practical tips for successfully applying for projects were shared. The event provided a platform to discuss Journalismfund Europe grants, offering valuable information on how to apply for funding. Attendees engaged in discussions and shared useful tips for developing project proposals, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. The talk was followed by a dinner, providing an opportunity for participants to interact and collaborate.



Together with Dart Centre for Journalism and Trauma Europe (DCE), Journalismfund Europe hosted [two webinars](#) on climate crisis reporting, trauma and journalism to build resilience and impact for sustainable reporting on the climate crisis. They were held on 17 February 2023 and 24 February 2023. The sessions, moderated by Juliana Ruhfus, brought together leading experts to discuss the psychological impact of the climate crisis and how it affects interviewees (survivors) and journalists who cover such stories, as well as their

audiences. Ajit Niranjan, Dr Patrick Kennedy-Williams and Sara Schurmann were the speakers. The first webinar, can be watched [here](#) and the second webinar [here](#).



[‘Avoiding burnout and eco-anxiety’](#). Two workshops, in English and in Spanish, facilitated learning, conversation and self-reflection about how stress and eco-anxiety pose a serious risk to journalists’ mental health and professional abilities. The sessions specifically honed in on the effects of stress and eco-anxiety, such as the lack of self-care and work-life balance, drawing a line between activism, journalism and moral injury. The webinars were led by Mar Cabra and Irene Baños. The recording can be watched in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).

185 people registered for these online sessions. **50** people participated in the first webinar and **37** in the second, giving an attendance rate of **47%**.



hosted on 26 June 2023 (Italian) and 28 June 2023 (English). The recordings can be watched in [English](#) and in [Italian](#).

For these webinars **312** people registered. There were **96** attendants at the first webinar and **113** at the second.

Journalismfund Europe organised a series of seven free webinars for improving environmental coverage. For seven weeks, investigative journalists from all over the planet shared their experiences and advice investigating various issues and problems related to the environment. One of the webinars was cancelled due to technical issues, but the speaker joined the next scheduled webinar:



[‘Political conflicts and green transition’](#). The war jeopardised the green modernisation of the Ukrainian steel industry and the climate goals by the EU. In West Africa the drive for lithium (essential mineral for the green transition) is causing conflict and crop destruction in rural communities. Hanna Kibovskaya, Noel Konan and Jack Wolf talked about their experience investigating these cases. The webinar was held on 21 September 2023 and 41 people participated. The recording can be watched [here](#).



[‘Covering sinking cities’](#). Covering coastal areas in the face of sea level rise caused by climate change. Cities are taking vastly different approaches to their preparation, but almost all are continuing to allow unrestricted real estate development and business activity, to the detriment of natural defences such as wetlands. This webinar was led by journalists Giada Santana, Ope Adetayo and Arison Tamfu on 5 October 2023 with 43 attendees. The recording can be watched [here](#).



[‘Modern slavery and environmental issues’](#). Agriculture still remains an insufficiently regulated economic sector. Pesticide abuse, environmental crime, corruption, slave-like working conditions and human rights violations continue to be reported on all continents. Poliana Dallabrida, Ismail Einashe, Paolo Riva and Mauricio Angelo presented this webinar, which was hosted on 11 October 2023, with an audience of 24. The recording can be watched [here](#).



their experiences covering and presenting their investigations for different types of audience. Two investigations were presented by Daiva Repečkaitė and Ana Tudela on 19 October 2023 in front of 39 participants. The recording can be watched [here](#).



'Photojournalism and climate crisis'. On 26 October, photojournalists Edu Ponces and Bruna Casas shared their experience in the planning, production, and distribution of a documentary photography project centred on climate change. They explained in detail the steps of a collective project and shared the journalistic and photographic decisions that were taken and why. They also shared the financial strategy for a big format project. There were 38 attendees. The recording can be watched [here](#).



'Reporting the waste industry'. Authorities turn a blind eye to environmental and health and safety challenges posed to millions in West Africa due to the export from Europe of used car parts and end-of-life vehicles (ELVs), as well as clothes. Elfredah Kevin-Alerechi, Raluca Besliu and Lucy Taylor talked about their investigations on 2 November 2023. The number of attendees was 27. The recording can be watched [here](#).

For these six webinars, **269** people registered in total. There were **212** participants, with an attendance rate of **78%**.

Training under the local media for democracy project



As an initiative to maximise contact with local media outlets in the European Union, Journalismfund Europe organised a total of five webinars. The two initial webinars were in English.

The [Introductory webinar Local media for democracy](#) explained the project's objectives, as an introduction to the new grant programme. This webinar took place on 12 April 2023, two weeks after the launch of the media funding scheme. The purpose of this webinar was mainly

to introduce the consortium partners and the tasks of each organisation, as well as further explaining the media funding scheme. The speakers (Dr Clare Cook, Dr Agnes Gulyas, Sofia Verza, Samuel Allan and Paola Condemayta) provided examples of technical and mentorship support. For this first session, **133** people registered and **65** attended live, making the attendance rate **49%**. The recording can be watched [here](#).



'Local media for democracy webinar: How to get a successful application'. This webinar was aimed at explaining to the attendees how to achieve a successful application, for this purpose, useful tips were provided to maximise the chances of obtaining the grant. It took place on 14 June 2023, after the first deadline for applications. For this second session, **87** people registered and **33** attended live, with an attendance rate of **35%**.

These two webinars were organised by Journalismfund Europe in collaboration with all the consortium partners. A discussion with the consortium concluded that there were few applicants, in some cases none at all, from countries such as the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Greece and Cyprus in the first round in May. For that reason, Journalismfund Europe decided to organise two extra webinars in Czech and Greek, aiming to overcome the language barrier. These webinars were organised in collaboration with International Media Support. The Czech webinar took place on 31 August 2023, 24 people registered and 21 attended the session live, making the attendance rate 87%. It is important to highlight that there were participants from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. On 5 September 2023, the Greek webinar took place, 55 people registered and 18 attended live, making the attendance rate 33%. After these two webinars, people booked several pre-application sessions. The participants were from Greece and Cyprus.

Prior to the second deadline for applications, one of the consortium partners, The Centre for Media Pluralism and Freedom suggested organising a final webinar in Bulgarian since this country was portrayed as a region with a need for more local media outlets. In a joint initiative, all the consortium joined forces to organise this last session which happened on 14 September 2023. Twenty-two people registered and 15 attended live. The attendance rate was 68%.

All these five webinars were recorded and published online. The webinars can be watched in [English](#), [Czech](#), [Greek](#) and [Bulgarian](#).

Mentoring programme (under ECB, MSU, CBL and ENV1 Grants)

For teams that need support in terms of investigation skills, a mentor can be appointed. We can propose calling on a mentor during a prior dialogue with the team applying for a grant. The mentors are selected based on the focus of the investigation or in view of their competence in a specific skill. Having the help of a mentor can have a significant positive impact on a team and its story. Teams of journalists less experienced in the field of cross-border investigative stories can particularly benefit from help from more experienced colleagues. The jury can also make the award of a grant subject to collaboration with a mentor.

Over the last six years (2018-2023) Journalismfund Europe's pool of mentors had a significant positive influence on the teams of journalists, processes of their investigations and results of the stories.

You can find the list of mentors online: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/mentors-overview>

Capacity building — mentoring

In 2023 the project coordinators spent approximately 233 hours guiding and coordinating the mentors. Nine teams of European Cross-Border Grants received mentorship, while for CBLocal, 14 mentors were provided to 18 projects. Under the Investigation Grants for Environmental Journalism, 24 teams received a mentor. The six Modern Slavery Unveiled projects that were awarded grants also received mentors, with one of these teams receiving two mentors. In total seven mentors were assigned. Based on the requirements of the teams, Journalismfund Europe expanded its pool of mentors to provide more specific support to journalists.

More information about the mentors: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/mentors-overview>

3 OBJECTIVE II — FACILITATING NETWORKS OF JOURNALISTS IN EUROPE

● GRANTEES AT CONFERENCES

Journalismfund Europe considers it important that journalists are given the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge with colleagues and fellow journalists at conferences. Journalists who have been given an Investigation Grant for Environmental Journalism (ENV1) or a European Cross-Border Grant (ECB), share their experiences at conferences after the publication of their reports and, in doing so, help and inspire their colleagues. This year, journalists who received a Modern Slavery Unveiled grant (MSU) were also given the opportunity to gain a scholarship, since there was a budget surplus. We believe that the more successful investigation projects turn out, the more journalists will want to investigate corruption, tax evasion and other financial injustices and the greater the budget media will want to make available for it.

Forty-two grantees went to the following conferences with the support of Journalismfund Europe: Belgrade Faculty of Political Sciences (*Belgrade*), COLPIN (*Mexico City*), DIG Conference (*Modena*), EJC Climate Journalism Award (*Lisbon*), Global Investigative Journalism Conference (*Gothenburg*), ICIJ Conference (*London*), Internazionale Festival (*Ferrara*), NICAR 2023 (*Nashville*), Openfacto (*Paris*), UN South Asia Forum on Business and Human Rights (*Kathmandu*), VISA Perpignan Photo Festival (*Perpignan*), ZEG (*Tbilisi*), Cross-border Reporting on Sanitation Work in Asia (*Tokyo*).

● LECTURES / EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

Over the year, Journalismfund Europe attended several conferences and networking events to promote our grants and organisation. With its networking activities, Journalismfund Europe tries to convince journalists to start a cross-border investigative journalism project and lower the threshold for this.

Here is the list of conferences / networking events:

- 2023 Global Investigative Journalism Conference (*Gothenburg, Sweden*),
- Summer School of Investigative Journalism (*Riga, Latvia*),
- Dataharvest 2023 (*Mechelen, Belgium*),
- #CIJSummer Investigative Journalism Conference 2023 (*London, UK*),
- M100 YOUNG EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS WORKSHOP (*Potsdam, Germany*),
- iMedD International Journalism Forum (*Athens, Greece*),
- Webinar Bridging Boundaries: Ushering a new era of labour migration reporting (*Online*),
- VVOJ Conference 2023 (*Ghent, Belgium*),
- JIVE Climate (*Berlin, Germany*),
- ARIJ 16th Annual Forum (*Amman, Jordan*),
- Climate Arena Conference (*Vienna, Austria*),
- COLPIN (*Mexico City, Mexico*),
- International Journalism Festival (*Perugia, Italy*),
- DIG Festival 2023 (*Modena, Italy*),
- Festival di Internazionale a Ferrara (*Ferrara, Italy*),
- Networking Event: Sustainable Journalism for Local Communities (*Zagreb, Croatia*),
- ZEG Storytelling Festival (*Tbilisi, Georgia*),
- Gen Zoo (*Antwerp, Belgium*),
- Difference Day — World Press Freedom Day (*Brussels, Belgium*),
- EFJ Annual Meeting (*The Hague, Netherlands*).

4 OBJECTIVE III - AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

● COMMUNICATION

In 2019, Journalismfund Europe researched and designed a new communications strategy for the organisation as a whole, given that many grant programmes were open in the last years. The goals of the new strategy are to further enhance:

- (1) Discovery of Journalismfund Europe grants by potential applicants;
- (2) Engaging journalists, editors and grantees for our grant programmes;
- (3) Audience retention to our brand through constant relationships with our grantees;
- (4) Networking through maintaining a vibrant journalism community around the organisation.

Journalismfund Europe research has shown that we can achieve the above goals:

- (1) Through personal communication with aspiring applicants (recruitment in conferences and via email and social media);
- (2) By boosting our Facebook and X campaigns when nearing the application deadlines;
- (3) By adding to our 'how to' materials regarding budgeting of investigations, the investigation itself, applications for funding;
- (4) By conducting interviews with experienced investigative journalists and featuring them on our website (at least one a month).

In the new Journalismfund Europe communications strategy, we have also increased the volume of communication tools in order to demonstrate the **impact** in terms of the development of transnational networks of journalists and the main benefits for society that are generated by these networks. Part of the organisation's resources and personnel has been assigned to an essential task within the scope of our strategic communication strategy, that of monitoring the impact of Journalismfund Europe as a whole.

Websites

| Corporate website www.journalismfund.eu

The website — www.journalismfund.eu — is the basis of Journalismfund Europe's communication. It includes communication about the most important aspects of the organisation as a whole: grants, news updates, upcoming events, wrap-ups of activities, supported stories, etc.

Supported projects — <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects>

We continue to build our archive of cross-border stories realised through our support. At the moment we have about 946 stories/projects available and bio's of 1591 supported journalists. It is a collection of all journalists who across the years have been awarded a grant through various grants programmes (European Cross-Border Grants, Pascal Decroos Fund, Modern Slavery Unveiled, The Money Trail, Earth Investigations Programme, European Cross-border Local grant, Local Media for Democracy, Cross-border Local)

Nowhere in the world will you find such a rich collection of interesting cross-border investigative stories. It is also easy to use. And the list of more than 1500 journalists — who have already passed a rigorous assessment — is very often used by applicants for work grants.

News — <https://www.journalismfund.eu/news>. Here, you'll mainly find corporate news.

Database of Journalists — <https://www.journalismfund.eu/journalists>

Electronic newsletters

Journalismfund Newsletter

The purpose of the e-newsletter is to highlight content published on the website: published grants and interviews with grantees, important news items or upcoming events. Occasionally, we refer to stories or updates on websites of partner organisations. The newsletter subscribers are a somewhat diverse group: applicants and grantees, journalists, media people, journalist associations and sympathisers.

In 2023, the average publication frequency of the electronic newsletter was approximately twice a month. Especially during May, June, August, and December we could submit two issues per month which coincided with application deadlines and project publications. In March and November we sent out three newsletters since we had a lot to communicate about results of grantees, new publications and events. For the Journalismfund Europe Newsletter, we use MailChimp.

In 2023, JF prepared 20 External Newsletters (English language) in total. The number of subscribers of the JF External Newsletter (English version) has increased in 2023, totalling around 13,112 for the reporting period (in 2022 we counted about 10,979 subscribers).

Fonds Pascal Decroos Newsletter

Also for the electronic newsletter of the Pascal Decroos Fund grant programme (in Dutch), we use MailChimp. The Pascal Decroos Fund issued 4 e-newsletters in 2023 and had 6,446 subscribers at the end of 2023 (compared to 5,141 at the end of 2022). The Pascal Decroos Fund issues newsletters with information about its activities, supported projects, events, important media news updates, etc.

Social media

Journalismfund Europe — Social media

All separate social media platforms of Journalismfund Europe are useful tools for communicating outputs and the outcome and impact of the organisation's projects and for networking activities. The main objective of the social media channels of Journalismfund Europe is network building, generating awareness about published articles and informing people about campaigns and project results. The target audience of the organisation consists of: potential grant applicants, journalists, the general public, donors, an international audience of professionally interested investigative journalists and CSO activists.

1. **X** — is the most popular communication channel of Journalismfund Europe. We use X to spread news about the organisation, supported stories and events, all relevant information from partner organisations and some interesting investigative journalism-related writing. By the end of 2022, we had 10,000 followers on our X page. By the end of 2023 we reached the **11,605 followers**. We post an average of 46 to 55 posts a month to stay active and increase the reach of our page.
2. **LinkedIn** — Journalismfund Europe uses this channel to expand our target audience/network and develop a professionally interested audience. The organisation has a LinkedIn company page with **4,105 followers** (vs. 1,527 in 2022), we almost tripled the number of 2022, and a [LinkedIn group](#) with about **5,140 members** (vs 5,176 in 2022). We try to post or share our published project stories at least three times a week, along with relevant news relating to the organisation, and to like and share stories that have been posted.
3. **Facebook** — we use the Facebook online community to create a space for Journalismfund Europe's growing network of investigative journalists (attendees of training, events, grantees) with the goal to communicate remotely and digitally, exchange ideas and seek collaboration for new or follow-up stories. We share, amongst other things, Journalismfund Europe-related news, supported stories and news from similar organisations. By the end of 2023, we had **7,949 followers** of our Facebook page (vs. 7,531 in 2022). We usually post 10-17 times a week.

The Facebook group is still open, and we now have **779 members** (vs. 645 members in 2022), this group is where we want to share more tips on cross-border investigative journalism with the community.

4. **Instagram** — Journalismfund Europe created its own Instagram account in 2017. In general, the organisation shares relevant news on the platform to develop new projects and give impressions of those that have been completed. We have also established a routine for image and story posts and post short videos that could potentially become viral. We usually try to have **5 to 8 posts a week** according to the frequency of publications. We also try to share stories with the links to the new publications and events we support or organise. Until the end of 2023, we reached **2,271 followers** (vs. 1,240 followers in 2022). We doubled the number of followers of the previous year.

In addition to this, with a view to highlighting work supported by Journalismfund Europe, we start communicating as soon as the first round of publications comes out and the journalists provide us with the necessary material, both on the first day of publication and whenever new parts of their investigation are released in new countries or media outlets.

Pascal Decroos Fund — social media

While www.fondspascaldecroos.org publishes news messages that are directly related to (grants of) the Fund or that are very relevant to Flemish media, Facebook, Instagram and X have a more general approach. Through these social media, we also spread messages that have no direct link with the Fund. The Facebook page of the Fund also continued to grow in 2022 and went from 3,116 page likes at the end of 2022 to **3,168 likes** by the end of 2023 (followers: 3,190). On X, @pascaldecroos is **followed by 2,117** people (compared to 2,100 in 2022). On Instagram we can count on **457 loyal followers**. In 2023 we aim to extend actively the reach of all our social media networks further.

- <https://www.facebook.com/FondsPascalDecroos/>
- <https://twitter.com/pascaldecroos>
- <https://www.instagram.com/fondspascaldecroos/>

Survey

A special **Impact Survey** has been developed for grantees to monitor the impact of their projects. The Survey includes two evaluation sections, including an impact section. Grantees are asked to fill in the Survey after the project finalisation in line with their contracts. The survey helps to register ‘the continuum theory’ of impact so as to be able to include it in our annual reports.

JF further developed a Survey Questionnaire for the grantees by shortening it and making it clearer and more concise to monitor the following phases of the project: application phase, project phase and cross-border collaboration, publication phase. The survey now also includes questions about ‘added value’ from the cross-border collaboration, ways of using possible new methods / tools for its improvement, main challenges of the collaboration across borders etc. The section regarding Funding and Fees was also updated in the questionnaire.

According to the contract regulations that the grantee signs with Journalismfund Europe, a survey should be completed on the SurveyMonkey platform upon publication of the project, within one month after publication at the latest.

● DATABASE

Journalismfund Europe has a designated database of professional journalists (including mentors, jury members, publishers, editors-in-chief, etc.). This database is used as an instrument for all grant programmes of the organisation. By the end of 2023, the platform included around 10,684 professional contacts (vs. 9,312 in 2022).

● PASCAL DECROOS FUND ADS

The free advertising space that the Flemish print and online media allocated to the Pascal Decroos Fund, accounted in 2023 for a total sum of € 102,145. Thanks to the support of Flemish newspapers, magazines and news websites, the Pascal Decroos Fund has been able to increase its brand awareness among journalists, publishers and the general public. This year, the campaign highlighted the important role of qualitative in-depth investigative journalism for a vibrant and fruitful democracy. It stated that journalism is too important to be exclusively left to the media. It focuses on its role in nuanced public debate.

● SECURITY / PRIVACY POLICY

Journalismfund Europe has created a new digital security policy in order to guarantee the security of journalists and grantees. Over the last years, the organisation has implemented several thorough changes in its digital security protocols. First, Journalismfund Europe switched to the European Nextcloud instead of Google Drive in order to share files internally on a secure server. Secondly, the organisation offers journalists the opportunity to contact it through PGP, an encryption programme for email communication. Thirdly, Journalismfund Europe tries to use two-factor authentication.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/privacy-and-cookies-policy>

5 ANNEXES

● ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

BALANCE SHEET					
ASSETS	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
CURRENT ASSETS					
Amounts receivable within one year	€ 751,703	€ 109,312	€ 93,261	€ 89,402	€ 134,098
Cash at bank	€ 3,913,306	€ 4,624,633	€ 3,532,045	€ 1,390,149	€ 1,384,547
Deferred charges and accrued income	€ 18,911	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0
Total current Assets	€ 4,683,920	€ 4,733,945	€ 3,625,306	€ 1,479,551	€ 1,518,645
FIXED (LONG-TERM) ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	€ 16,657	€ 19,791	€ 14,086	€ 16,604	€ 19,441
Total fixed assets	€ 16,657	€ 19,791	€ 14,086	€ 16,604	€ 19,441
Total Assets	€ 4,700,577	€ 4,753,736	€ 3,639,392	€ 1,496,155	€ 1,538,086

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY					
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Amounts payable within one year	€ 76,161	€ 75,569	€ 42,680	€ 55,598	€ 57,851
Deferred income	€ 1,748,370	€ 2,661,484	€ 2,228,948	€ 616,819	€ 618,605
Total current Liabilities	€ 1,824,531	€ 2,737,053	€ 2,271,628	€ 672,417	€ 676,456
PROVISIONS					
Provisions for liabilities and charges	€ 311,350	€ 181,550	€ 96,150	€ 29,000	€ 23,800
Provisions for grants	€ 2,261,545	€ 1,593,367	€ 1,098,307	€ 665,630	€ 735,896
Total Provisions	€ 2,572,895	€ 1,774,917	€ 1,194,457	€ 694,630	€ 759,696
EQUITY					
Available reserves	€ 4,547	€ 4,547	€ 4,547	€ 4,547	€ 4,547
Unavailable reserves – social liabilities	€ 303,070	€ 246,498	€ 182,522	€ 144,541	€ 124,500
Accumulated profits (losses)	-€ 4,466	-€ 9,279	-€ 13,762	-€ 19,980	-€ 27,113
Total equity	€ 303,151	€ 241,766	€ 173,307	€ 129,108	€ 101,934
Total Liabilities and Equity	€ 4,700,577	€ 4,753,736	€ 3,639,392	€ 1,496,155	€ 1,538,086

INCOME STATEMENT					
OPERATING INCOME AND CHARGES	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
OPERATING INCOME					
Turnover	€ 14,552	€ 11,134	€ 12,290	€ 11,861	€ 50,043
Donations, foundation grants and subsidies	€ 5,631,490	€ 3,576,757	€ 1,622,415	€ 1,439,893	€ 1,485,243
Other operating income	€ 44,126	€ 65,098	€ 23,633	€ 137,123	€ 121,851
Financial income	€ 17,925	€ 168	€ 29	€ 2	€ 23
Total operating income	€ 5,708,093	€ 3,653,157	€ 1,658,367	€ 1,588,879	€ 1,657,160
OPERATING CHARGES					
Grants paid	€ 3,822,411	€ 2,102,103	€ 573,748	€ 1,028,567	€ 1,221,057
Purchased services and other goods	€ 453,985	€ 386,617	€ 160,475	€ 244,068	€ 279,773
Remuneration and social security costs	€ 553,809	€ 501,220	€ 363,674	€ 341,334	€ 331,181
Depreciations	€ 8,087	€ 7,495	€ 4,400	€ 4,586	€ 5,482
Provisions for grants: Appropriations (uses and write-backs)	€ 797,978	€ 580,460	€ 499,827	-€ 65,066	-€ 285,590
Other operating charges	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 55
Financial charges	€ 10,439	€ 6,803	€ 6,979	€ 4,955	€ 7,613
Total operating charges	€ 5,646,709	€ 3,584,698	€ 1,609,103	€ 1,558,444	€ 1,559,570
Operating (profit) loss	€ 61,384	€ 68,459	€ 49,264	€ 30,435	€ 97,589

EXCEPTIONAL INCOME AND CHARGES					
EXCEPTIONAL CHARGES					
Exceptional charges from office move	€ 0	€ 0	€ 5,066	€ 3,261	€ 105
Total exceptional charges	€ 0	€ 0	€ 5,066	€ 3,261	€ 105
Gain (loss) over the period available for appropriation	€ 61,384	€ 68,459	€ 44,198	€ 27,174	€ 97,484

TRANSFER TO RESERVES					
Transfer to unavailable reserves – social liabilities	€ 56,572	€ 63,976	€ 37,981	€ 20,041	€ 60,000
Transfer to accumulated profits (losses)	€ 4,812	€ 4,483	€ 6,217	€ 7,133	€ 37,484
Total transfer to reserves	€ 61,384	€ 68,459	€ 44,198	€ 27,174	€ 97,484

● EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER GRANTS (ECBG)

Purpose



Over the past decade, European Cross-Border grants have stimulated cross-border journalism by making it possible for hundreds of European journalists to undertake in-depth independent investigations. In the past few years, the number of transnational investigations has risen sharply, leading to substantive political, legislative and other changes in Europe.

In 2023, our goal was to maintain a strong journalism community around European Cross-Border grants (grantees, alumni, mentors and advisory group members). We also aimed to attract young talent to the larger decentralised network of investigative journalists across Europe, as well as to increase the quality of cross-border journalism through its practice.

Today independent cross-border investigative journalism is needed more than ever to find solutions to increasingly complex problems like climate change,

inequality, pandemics and so on. The fast-growing number of applications shows the increasing demand of independent cross-border investigative journalism, and the growing need for funding this type of resource-intensive reporting. Journalismfund Europe is the only organisation that is funding so many cross-border investigative journalistic projects in Europe (and for such a long period).

With the European Cross-Border grant programme Journalismfund Europe aims to further contribute to the development of a vital European public sphere by enabling investigations into issues of common interest to European citizens.

The programme, running since 2009, supports professional journalists who have good ideas for cross-border investigations with a focus on European topics. Cross-border teams can apply for a grant to cover working time and expenses for their joint investigations. In addition to a grant, teams can also apply for a mentor to provide assistance with either the focus of the investigation or the need for competence in a specific skill.

The programme supports teams of professional journalists from at least two European countries who have good ideas for a cross-border investigation with a focus on European topics. To be eligible, the journalists should be living in geographical Europe or a Council of Europe country. When relevant to the story, team members from elsewhere can be accepted, too.

Grant overview

Journalismfund Europe has a strong belief in cross-border cooperation between European journalists as the best way to tell the major international stories of the 21st century. The organisation supports teams of journalists from different countries, who usually work on a joint story from their respective countries. This enables them to combine their investigative skills and to publish their work in different countries, which is considered important when addressing the different European target groups and for generating maximum impact.

STATISTICS / 2018-2023							
Year	#rounds	#applied	#financial support	#supported projects	#grantees	#applications	#applicants
2018	2	368,825	77,625	9	38	35	128
2019	4	1,113,316	196,192	23	103	75	243
2020	3	1,338,995	183,238	25	76	92	282
2021	4	1,160,711	207,250	27	82	93	265
2022	4	1,075,046	232,880	21	62	57	175
2023	4	1,612,561	222,122	21	79	110	282

Overview of grantees

Our European Cross-Border Grants Programme is very inclusive. We are currently supporting journalists who live in the member states of the European Council (geographical Europe). If relevant for the story, team members from beyond this region can be accepted as well.

As a result, for the reporting period of 2023, 21 projects were supported with 79 grantees. The jury came together four times and awarded a total sum of € 222,122.

The largest grant received in 2023 was € 30,000.

PROFILE OF GRANTEES 2023
Average age: 39
49 men / 30 women
3 starters / 76 seniors
64 freelancers / 14 employees / 1 student
26 nationalities

Overview of grants published in 2023

Mass misinformation: The UK Catholic charity funding the Italian far right

AUTHORS: Katherine Denkinson, Stefano Vergine, Sabrina Provenzano

GRANT: € 6,000

REACH: 213,220

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/mass-misinformation-uk-catholic-charity-funding-italian-far-right>

Missing funds of West African shea collectors

AUTHORS: Elfredah Kevin-Alerechi, Elza Sandrine Sawadogo, Nelly Kalu, Lasse Sørensen

MENTOR: David Crouch

GRANT: € 14,000

REACH: 11,407

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/missing-funds-west-african-shea-collectors>

Freezing Mubarak and Ben Ali's Assets: Many violations, few results

AUTHORS: Alexandre Brutelle, Osama Al-Sayyad

GRANT: € 10,180

REACH: 14,4398

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/freezing-mubarak-and-ben-alis-assets-many-violations-few-results>

The Armenian laundromat

AUTHORS: Matt Bernardini, Kristine Aghalaryan, Scott Stedman, Rima Grigoryan

GRANT: € 3,000

REACH: 1,396

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/armenian-laundromat>

The bankers of irregular migration

AUTHORS: Elena Ledda, Andrea Giambartolomei, Priyanka Shankar, Emma Yeomans, Andrés Mourenza, Iliana Papangeli

GRANT: € 7,500

REACH: 409,111

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/bankers-irregular-migration>

Istanbul to illegality: Visa-free Serbia a hub for EU-bound Turks

AUTHORS: Hamdi Firat Buyuk, Saša Dragojlo, Orhan Şener, Zeynep Sentek, Yagiz Alp Tekin

MENTOR: Edouard Perrin

GRANT: € 9,000

REACH: 278,661

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/istanbul-illegality-visa-free-serbia-hub-eu-bound-turks>

Open doors and barbed wire: Europe's asylum paradox

AUTHORS: Sadiya Ansari, Joanna Grill, Jade Wilson

MENTOR: Sylke Gruhnwald

GRANT: € 14,000

REACH: 29,867

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/europes-asylum-paradox>

Forced sterilisation of women with disabilities in Europe

AUTHORS: Lucía Riera, Laura Llach, Flora Garamvolgyi, Alexander Maxia

MENTORS: Crina Boros, Álvaro de Cózar

GRANT: € 15,000

REACH: 452,669

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/forced-sterilisation>

Disappeared in the sand

AUTHORS: Katy Fallon, Franziska Grillmeier, Vincent Haiges

GRANT: € 15,700

REACH: 344,254

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/disappeared-in-the-sand>

Ghost debts

AUTHORS: Sotiris Sideris, Manuel Gabarre de Sus, Hendrik Lehmann, Lorenzo Bagnoli, Alexander Abdelilah, Edoardo Anziano, Nina Breher, Lennart Tröbs

MENTOR: Lionel Faull

GRANT: € 10,000

REACH: 67,213

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/ghost-debts>

Hackers: Assault on intimacy

AUTHORS: Eva Laloum, Matteo Born, Sabine Pirolt

GRANT: € 9,800

REACH: 23,453

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/hackers-assault-intimacy>

The Channel: Lost at sea

AUTHORS: Nicola Kelly, Maïa Courtois, Simon Mauvieux, Maël Galisson, Valentina Camu

GRANT: € 10,000

REACH: 100,657

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/channel-lost-sea>

War without ammunition

AUTHORS: Lennart Hofman, Laurens Groeneveld, Oliver Kund, Anna Myroniuk

GRANT: € 7,800

REACH: 143,981

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/war-without-ammunition>

Goliath vs David: The race to EU defence money

AUTHORS: Laure Brillaud, Lennart Hofman

MENTOR: Amanda Cox

GRANT: € 15,800

REACH: 16,482

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/goliath-vs-david-race-eu-defence-money>

Football club cyber slavery

AUTHORS: Philippe Auclair, Jack Kerr, Steve Menary

GRANT: € 15,000

REACH: 6,752

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/football-club-cyber-slavery>

Grabbing profit from forgotten lands

AUTHORS: Rea Nefeli Tzanetakou, Vasiliki Grammatikogianni, Vittoria Torsello

GRANT: € 10,000

REACH: 9,835

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/grabbing-profit-forgotten-lands>

The Oatly chronicles: Can capitalism ever be sustainable?

AUTHORS: Katz Laszlo, Katy Lee, Wojciech Oleksiak

MENTOR: Margot Gibbs

GRANT: € 12,000

REACH: 187

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/oatly-chronicles-can-capitalism-ever-be-sustainable>

Ground control: Investigating land ownership in European capitals

AUTHORS: Alexander Abdelilah, Steven Vanden Bussche, Hendrik Lehmann, Helena Wittlich, Gaby Khazalová, Kirk Jackson, Federica Testi

GRANT: € 10,000

REACH: 25,906

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/ground-control-investigating-land-ownership-european-capitals>

How Europe co-financed Sudan's notorious paramilitary group

AUTHORS: Mohamed Anwar, Anna-Theresa Bachmann, Johan Persson, Anina Ritscher, Anna Roxvall, Maren Saeboe, Giacomo Zandonini

GRANT: € 12,750

REACH: 104,608

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/europe-co-financed-sudans-paramilitary-group>

Anglo-Italian job: Leonardo, AgustaWestland and corruption in Indonesia

AUTHORS: Andrew Feinstein, Lorenzo Bagnoli, Alix Smidman

GRANT: € 8,000

REACH: 350

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/angloitalian-job-leonardo-agustawestland-and-corruption-indonesia>

Italian connection: How convicted white-collar Romanians escape jail time

AUTHORS: Cătălin Prisacariu, Stanimir Vaglenov, Stefano Vergine

GRANT: € 8,000

REACH: 159,564

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/italian-connection-how-convicted-white-collar-romanians-escape-jail-time>

Criminal captains

AUTHORS: Fabien Perrier, Taina Ternoven

GRANT: € 10,000

REACH: 5,700

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/criminal-captains>

Death threats without consequences

AUTHORS: Nora Belghaus, Volkan Açar, Ali Çelikkan

GRANT: € 9,100

REACH: 54,875

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/death-threats-without-consequences>

Inside Europe's secret conversion therapy conference

AUTHORS: Antonia Gross, Finbarr Toesland, Rina Nikolaeva

GRANT: € 9,000

MENTORS: Craig Silverman, Gabriela Keller

REACH: 56,950

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/inside-europes-secret-conversion-therapy-conference>

● EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER LOCAL GRANT PROGRAMME

Purpose



This grant programme supports local cross-border investigative teams of professional journalists and/or news outlets to bring the locals to the European level as well as to local citizens all over Europe.

Compelling stories can be found everywhere, even at the local level. This grant programme aims to address the shortage of local journalists and award grants to local investigative and in-depth journalistic projects. The key aspect of this programme is cross-border collaboration, which will allow interested local journalists and/or media outlets to explore possible solutions using extensive resources. This project also aims to spur more critical thinking about society's pressing problems, increase the level of debate, and foster civic engagement. The grant can also offer support to preliminary work in the development of new investigative and in-depth projects.

Grant overview

Our Local Cross-Border Journalism grant programme is very inclusive, with eligibility covering members of the European Union, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Georgia, Ukraine and Tunisia. If relevant for the story, teams from non-EU member states can apply with a team member from one of the eligible countries.

STATISTICS / 2022-2023							
Year	#rounds	#applied	#financial support	#supported projects	#grantees	#applications	#applicants
2022	3	625,687.66	280,470	20	68	36	121
2023	3	810,093.58	317,420	27	87	54	153

Overview of grantees

For the reporting period of 2023, 27 projects were supported with 87 journalists and local media outlet grantees. The jury met three times and awarded a total sum of € 317,420.

PROFILE OF GRANTEES 2023		
Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Average age: 33	Average age: 40	Average age: 39
5 men / 7 women	7 men / 9 women	17 men / 13 women
12 freelancers / 10 companies	16 freelancers / 9 companies	27 freelancers / 3 employees / 10 companies
14 nationalities	13 nationalities	23 nationalities

Overview of grants published in 2023

Sanctioned Belarussian oligarch gets lucky in Latvia

AUTHORS: Stanislau Ivashkevich, Šarūnas Černiauskas

MENTOR: Edouard Perrin

GRANT: € 14,000

REACH: 84,509

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/sanctioned-belarussian-oligarch-gets-lucky-latvia>

Can depopulation in Europe's islands be reversed?

AUTHORS: Jamie Mann, Niall Sargent, Daniela Sala, Giacomo Zandonini, Angela Caitlin

GRANT: € 16,000

REACH: 17,851

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/can-depopulation-europes-islands-be-reversed>

Study of Russian propaganda in Georgian and Moldovan churches

AUTHORS: Nino Bakradze, Aidan Yusif, Ia Asatiani, Manana Ghoghoberidze, Mariam Katchkatchashvili, Nanuka Bregadze, Natia Mikhelidze, Anatolie Eșanu, Ilie Gulca, Mădălin Necșuțu, Mariana Colun, Victor Moșneag, Viorica Zaharia

GRANT: € 29,000

REACH: 17,815

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/study-russian-propaganda-georgian-and-moldovan-churches>

Corruption in urban construction projects in Georgia and Ukraine

AUTHORS: Pavlo Novyk, Nana Biganishvili, Tskrialia Shermadini

GRANT: € 3,060

REACH: 409

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/corruption-urban-construction-projects-georgia-and-ukraine>

Czech engineering tycoon's business in Latvia

AUTHORS: Lucie Sykorova, Raivis Šveicars

GRANT: € 13,100

REACH: 62,926

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/czech-engineering-tycoons>

Energy crisis in the post-socialist housing blocks

AUTHORS: Lucie Čejková, Ádám Kolozsi

GRANT: € 7,000

REACH: 67,650

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/energy-crisis-post-socialist-housing-blocks>

Disruptive change? Radical climate activism in Europe

AUTHORS: Clara S. Thompson, Daniel Harper, Hylkje Kroon, Pamina Rosenthal, Thekla Liebmann, Viola Karsten, Carlotta Terhorst

MENTOR: Craig McKune

GRANT: € 7,000

REACH: 3,153

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/disruptive-change-radical-climate-activism-europe>

The dark side of surrogacy

AUTHORS: Dmytro Drabyk, Ilya Gridneff, Anette Dowideit, Alfred Hackensberger, Emily Schultheis

GRANT: € 7,900

REACH: 187,462

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/dark-side-surrogacy>

Timber 2.0. Bypassing sanctions

AUTHORS: Stanislau Ivashkevich, Šarūnas Černiauskas, Alexander Yarashevich

GRANT: € 18,000

REACH: 101,890

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/timber-20-bypassing-sanctions>

The world in a classroom

AUTHORS: Carolina Rapezzi, Marzia Minore, Ula Idzikowska, Agata Szymanska-Medina, Shirin Abedi, David Simantov-Lévi, Sal Ahmed

MENTOR: Crina Boros

GRANT: € 24,500

REACH: 70,645

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/world-classroom>

Child abuse in a minority community

AUTHORS: Tünde Szabó, Árpád Kulcsár

GRANT: € 14,500

REACH: 1,539,809

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/child-abuse-minority-community>

Rights at risk. How Ukraine war affects Hungarian and Romanian ethnic communities

AUTHORS: Marian Chiriac, Ádám Kolozsi

MENTOR: Dr. habil. Kyriaki Topidi

GRANT: € 8,000

REACH: 117,203

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/rights-at-risk>

Open doors and barbed wire: Europe's asylum paradox

AUTHORS: Sadiya Ansari, Joanna Gill, Jade Wilson

MENTOR: Sylke Gruhnwald

GRANT: € 11,400

REACH: 29,867

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/europes-asylum-paradox>

Who is who: Volunteers and mercenaries of the Ukrainian war

AUTHORS: Dmito Durnev, Ilia Shablinskii, Marina-Maya Govzman, Nikita Varenov, Alexey Voloshinov

GRANT: € 23,900

REACH: 623,448

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/volunteers-and-mercenaries-ukrainian-war>

When the sun goes down

AUTHORS: Dani Domínguez, Óscar F. Civieta, Fabio Papetti, Simone Olivelli

GRANT: € 9,650

REACH: 9,759

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/when-sun-goes-down>

Comparison of Antwerp-Bruges and Rotterdam ports

AUTHORS: Mira Sys, Steven Vanden Bussche, Esmeralda Borgo, Tom Cochez, Jan Daalder, Tom Claessens

GRANT: € 22,600

REACH: 90,563

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/antwerp-bruges-rotterdam-ports>

Dry to the bone

AUTHORS: Giada Santana, Claudia Colliva, Juli Simond

MENTOR: Lindita Çela

GRANT: € 9,000

REACH: 50,191

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/dry-to-the-bone>

Food crisis speculators

AUTHORS: Romana Puiulet, Elena Loginova

GRANT: € 13,800

REACH: 4,447

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/food-crisis-speculators>

Grants for luxury

AUTHORS: Lukács Csaba, Zoltán Sipos

GRANT: € 12,180

REACH: 34,034

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/grants-for-luxury>

The road to ruins

AUTHORS: Ana Poenariu, Ionuț Stănescu, Tamás Bodoky

GRANT: € 11,400

REACH: 2,804

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/road-to-ruins>

Brownfield sites are no cure for housing blues

AUTHORS: Anna Debreczeni, Tim Gosling, Svetoslav Todorov

MENTOR: Luuk Sengers

GRANT: € 10,000

REACH: 63,558

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/housing-blues>

EU Agriculture Funds Favour Businessmen Linked to Politics and Crime over Farmers

AUTHORS: Aida Ciro, Aleksandar Dimitrievski, Geri Emiri

GRANT: € 14,100

REACH: 877,993

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/eu-agriculture-funds-favour-businessmen>

Sharing the hate

AUTHORS: Codruța Simina, Zoltán Sipos

GRANT: € 16,600

REACH: 3,950

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/sharing-hate>

The disappearance of Prespa Lake

AUTHORS: Elona Elezi, Esmeralda Topi, Suzana Miceva, Aleksandar Metodijev

GRANT: € 19,400

REACH: 942,243

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/disappearance-prespa-lake>

From Serbia to Hungary — Crossing the border into the EU

AUTHORS: Virág Gyurkovics, Csaba Segesvári, Bence Bodoky, Krisztián Szabó

GRANT: € 20,940

REACH: 6,186

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/serbia-hungary-crossing-border-eu>

ATI & LTNs: Does class disparity in car-reduction schemes exist?

AUTHORS: Cormac Kehoe, Sam Trantum

GRANT: € 5,000

REACH: 8,815

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/ati-ltns-does-class-disparity-car-reduction-schemes-exist>

The Turów case: Lost opportunity for a just energy transition

AUTHORS: Czesław Kulesza, Iwona Lewandowska, Piotr Lewandowski, Michal Černý, Małgorzata Kulbaczevska-Figat, Veronika Sušová-Salminen

GRANT: € 16,700

REACH: 134,195

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/the-turow-case>

Asylum seekers in the age of offshoring: Shrinking space for human rights protection

AUTHORS: Isabella Yasmin Kajiwarra, Natasha Phang Lee, Polina Bachlakova, Hannah El-Hitami

MENTOR: Lindita Çela

GRANT: € 12,000

REACH: 20,192

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/asylum-seekers>

Family challenges: When children leave far away

AUTHORS: Hilma Unkic, Žarka Radoja, Milica Bogdanović

MENTOR: Lindita Çela

GRANT: € 7,300

REACH: 37,955

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/family-challenges-when-children-leave-far-away>

Route of fertilisers from Belarus to the EU

AUTHORS: Stanislaw Ivashkevich, Šarūnas Černiauskas, Alina Yanchur

GRANT: € 11,710

REACH: 176,207

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/route-fertilizers-belarus-eu>

Emerging energy cooperatives: Bright future or great failure?

AUTHORS: Edyta Iwaniuk, Marius Daea,

MENTOR: Gabriele Crescente

GRANT: € 12,340

REACH: 238,352

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/emerging-energy-cooperatives-bright-future-or-great-failure>

Play local, fix global

AUTHORS: Steve Menary, Philippe Auclair, Jack Kerr, Simon Hirt, Ondrej Tuma, Mateusz Miga, Samindra Kunti, Andy Brown

GRANT: € 8,000

REACH: 13,821

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/play-local-fix-global>

Thirsty Europe: How communities cope with increasing droughts

AUTHORS: Teseo La Marca, Michele Curel, Emerson Mendoza Ayala, Pierluigi Bizzini

MENTOR: Gabriele Crescente

GRANT: € 11,870

REACH: 11,371

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/thirsty-europe-how-communities-cope-increasing-droughts>

The road of no return

AUTHORS: Vanja Stokic, Ajdin Kamber, Goran Gazdek

MENTOR: Nancy Porsia

GRANT: € 8,500

REACH: 8,342

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/road-no-return>

My Maire hidden secrets

AUTHORS: Clémence de Blasi, Charlotte Deprez

GRANT: € 8,000

REACH: 8,491

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/my-maire-hidden-secrets>

Rider accident: Now what?

AUTHORS: Benjamin Wray, Laura Carrer

GRANT: € 10,800

REACH: 115,557

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/rider-accident-now-what>

A 'degree' of sacrifices

AUTHORS: Alexander Maxia, Jazz Munteanu, Lasse Sørensen, Maya Lagerholm, Benjamin Nordtømme

MENTOR: Juliana Ruhfus

GRANT: € 20,000

REACH: 1,443

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/degree-sacrifices>

Dark days of local journalism in Europe

AUTHORS: Wojciech Oleksiak, Viktória Serdült, Katy Lee, Dimitar Ganey

GRANT: € 5,850

REACH: 140

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/dark-days-local>

Are Hungarian public funds being invested in a Romanian village?

AUTHORS: Emese Gelmarean-Vig, Gergely Brückner, Dénes Csurgó

GRANT: € 5,930

REACH: 275,847

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/hungarian-public-funds>

Water parasites victims: Rome and Istanbul's effects on regional water resources

AUTHORS: Gabriele Di Donfrancesco, Sofia Cherici, Federico Ambrosini, Federico Ambrosini

MENTOR: Aiganysh Aidarbekova

GRANT: € 22,200

REACH: 2,399

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/water-parasites>

Ecocide in Ukraine: Environmental impact on EU countries

AUTHORS: Taras Zozulinsky, Cornelia Cozonac, Alina Turcanu

GRANT: € 13,800

REACH: 9,788

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/ecocide-ukraine>

(Mis)Managing water

AUTHORS: Alessio Perrone, Cecilia Butini

MENTOR: Gabriele Crescente

GRANT: € 7,300

REACH: 23,685

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/mismanaging-water>

Lost for words: Interpretation services failing asylum seekers

AUTHORS: Alice Chambers, Moira Lavelle, Maria Delaney

GRANT: € 12,000

REACH: 22,417

MORE INFO: <https://journalismfund.eu/lost-words>

● THE PASCAL DECROOS GRANT PROGRAMME

Purpose

The Pascal Decroos Fund is a project of Journalismfund Europe vzw and aims to keep the memory of Pascal Decroos alive and to continue his life's work in the following ways:

- › Promoting high-quality investigative journalism in Flanders and beyond;
- › Creating opportunities for young people to develop journalistic talent in practice;
- › Bringing people from all sections of society together.

Grant overview

STATISTICS / 2017-2023						
Year	#applied	#financial support	#supported projects	#grantees	#applications	#applicants
2017	875,630	280,050	58	79	134	186
2018	658,987	250,461	43	60	84	118
2019	884,911	274,265	61	89	149	194
2020	652,358	277,685	58	85	102	152
2021	478,696	235,144	52	75	103	147
2022	587,108	325,360	56	87	96	134
2023	1,105,535.65	301,145	53	82	148	206

Overview of grantees

For the Flemish Pascal Decroos Fund programme, in 2023 Journalismfund Europe received 148 applications from 206 applicants in four application rounds. The jury came together four times and awarded grants to 53 projects (82 grantees).

PROFILE OF GRANTEES 2023
Average age: 43
57 men / 25 women
12 starters / 70 seniors

Overview of grants published in 2023

Wardrobe Fasting, Unravelling the textile supply chain

AUTHOR: Sarah Vandoorne

GRANT: € 7,750

REACH: 4,359

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/wardrobe-fasting-unravelling-textile-supply-chain>

Femmes à abattre

AUTHORS: Juliette Robert, Hélène Molinari, Sophie Boutboul, Rouguyata Sall, David Breger, Delphine Bauer, Leïla Miñano

GRANT: € 8,680

REACH: 15,022

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/femmes-abattre>

Northern lights, at the end of the tunnel

AUTHORS: Majd Khalifeh, Roel Nollet

GRANT: € 6,000

REACH: 100,328

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/northern-lights-end-tunnel>

Monsters don't exist

AUTHOR: Ruth Vandewalle

GRANT: € 5,200

REACH: 9,782

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/monsters-dont-exist>

Pharma sector keeps medical news in tight grip

AUTHOR: Luc Vanheerentals

GRANT: € 1,600

REACH: 31,964

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/pharma-sector-keeps-medical-news-tight-grip>

The Mexican method

AUTHOR: Arthur Debruyne

GRANT: € 8,000

REACH: 115,184

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/mexican-method>

Self-service at action damien

AUTHORS: Marieke Brugnera, Ruben Brugnera

GRANT: € 8,000

REACH: 198,210

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/self-service-action-damien>

Travelling to Iceland with the Belgica

AUTHORS: Johannes De Bruycker, Arno Van Rensbergen

GRANT: € 2,500

REACH: 77,675

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/travelling-iceland-belgica>

Can Congo save the world?

AUTHORS: John Vandaele, Bart Lasuy

GRANT: € 7,600

REACH: 2,279

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/can-congo-save-world>

Jan de Nul builds controversial port terminal for oil extraction in Guyana

AUTHOR: Zoë Deceuninck

GRANT: € 1,445

REACH: 8,005

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/jan-de-nul-builds-controversial-port-terminal-oil-extraction-guyana>

High stakes: The political biography of Shell

AUTHOR: Marcel Metze

GRANT: € 10,000

REACH: 276,914

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/high-stakes-political-biography-shell>

The end of Burundi's Balkan Route

AUTHOR: Elie Spillebeen

GRANT: € 3,300

REACH: 3,649

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/end-burundis-balkan-route>

Victims of female genital mutilation

AUTHOR: Ana Muñoz Padrós

GRANT: € 3,650

REACH: 38,064

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/victims-female-genital-mutilation>

Eunice Street

AUTHORS: Lara Richir, Ellen Boonen, Michelle Peters

GRANT: € 7,050

REACH: 100,328

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/eunice-street>

When the pomegranates ripen

AUTHORS: Emiel Petrovitch, Johannes Decat

GRANT: € 9,000

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/when-pomegranates-ripen>

Behind desert and barbed wires

AUTHOR: Evelyn Groenink

GRANT: € 6,750

REACH: 3,444

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/achter-woestijn-en-prikkeldraad>

Yangambi: a climate of tension

AUTHOR: Carl Theunis

GRANT: € 5,000

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/yangambi-climate-tension>

In Europe: Social mask of Vlaams Belang falls

AUTHOR: Luc Vanheerentals

GRANT: € 1,500

REACH: 2,607

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/europe-social-mask-vlaams-belang-falls>

How do you spell home?

AUTHORS: Wederik De Backer, Louisiana Mees-Fongang

GRANT: € 6,000

REACH: 2,395

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/how-do-you-spell-home>

Mondai: Jōhatsu

AUTHORS: Robbe Van der Vloet, Arend Bucher

GRANT: € 6,120

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/mondai-johatsu>

Paradise not for sale

AUTHOR: Lieven Bulckens

GRANT: € 10,500

REACH: 97,550

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/paradijs-niet-te-koop>

Copsa Mica

AUTHOR: Marleen Daniëls

GRANT: € 2,500

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/copsa-mica>

A neo-colonial oil pipeline through Uganda and Tanzania

AUTHORS: Pablo Garrigós Cucarella, Halima Athumani, David Soler Crespo, Soraya Aybar

GRANT: € 9,500

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/neocolonial-oil-pipeline-through-uganda-and-tanzania>

The darkest darkness

AUTHOR: Rosanne Kropman

GRANT: € 6,000

REACH: 229,706

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/darkest-darkness>

Draw for change!

AUTHOR: Catherine Vuylsteke

GRANT: € 11,200

REACH: 5,822

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/draw-change>

Fixing Ukraine: Mental problems among Ukrainian fixers and producers

AUTHORS: Peter Van Goethem, Johana Kotišová

GRANT: € 4,250 and € 3,620

REACH: 870

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/fixing-ukraine-mental-problems-among-ukrainian-fixers-and-producers>

Not everything but a lot starts with listening

AUTHOR: Dominique Willaert

GRANT: € 5,800

REACH: 207,555

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/not-everything-lot-starts-listening>

Children of the ABN

AUTHOR: Miet Ooms

GRANT: € 5,100

REACH: 8,822

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/children-abn>

No man's land

AUTHOR: Willem Staes

GRANT: € 4,000

REACH: 103,914

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/no-mans-land>

Oostakker's forgotten sex scandal

AUTHOR: Thomas Holvoet

GRANT: € 3,300

REACH: 2,607

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/zedenschandaal-oostakker>

During the war, I was Solange

AUTHOR: Sofie De Schamphelre

GRANT: € 4,500

REACH: 293,041

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/solange>

This is where mommy lives now

AUTHORS: Katrin Lohmann, Wederik De Backer

GRANT: € 4,400

REACH: 79,724

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/where-mommy-lives-now>

Our autobiography

AUTHOR: Daan Ballegeer

GRANT: € 7,550

REACH: 173,672

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/our-autobiography>

On the sense and nonsense of free public transportation

AUTHOR: Luc Vanheerentals

GRANT: € 750

REACH: 3,713

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/sense-and-nonsense-free-public-transportation>

Wicket Belgium

AUTHOR: Aaron Lapeirre

GRANT: € 3,000

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/wicket-belgium>

Healing

AUTHORS: Johannes Decat, Emiel Petrovitch

GRANT: € 9,600

REACH: 6,619

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/healing>

Real borders, mental borders

AUTHOR: Koen Demarsin

GRANT: € 5,500

REACH: 13,102

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/real-borders-mental-borders>

Wild land: The return of wild animals

AUTHOR: Paul Cobbaert

GRANT: € 5,600

REACH: 1,093

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/wild-land-return-wild-animals>

Is there still a future for Svalbard?

AUTHORS: Arno Van Rensbergen, Johannes De Bruycker

GRANT: € 5,700

REACH: 43,245

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/there-still-future-svalbard>

Sons of Abraham

AUTHORS: Amra Dorjbayar, Alexandro Yaramis, Idries Bensbaho, Jonathan Atzmon, Nathan Tetroashvili, Kanzi Louagie

GRANT: € 9,900

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/sons-abraham>

New tension in Northern Ireland

AUTHORS: Arno Van Rensbergen, Johannes De Bruycker

GRANT: € 2,250

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/new-tension-northern-ireland>

In search of traces of liberal funerary heritage in Flanders

AUTHOR: Peter-Jan Bogaert

GRANT: € 2,300

REACH: 39,717

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/search-traces-liberal-funerary-heritage-flanders>

The sadness of rock churches

AUTHOR: Laura Zuallaert

GRANT: € 11,000

REACH: 48,596

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/sadness-rock-churches>

Nostalgia for the Iraqi marshes

AUTHOR: Judit Neurink

GRANT: € 3,200

REACH: 4,810

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/nostalgia-iraqi-marshes>

The wrong generation

AUTHORS: Robbe Vandegehuchte, Eugenie D'Hooghe, Jeroen Van Rensbergen

GRANT: € 5,500

REACH: 48,596

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/wrong-generation>

The EU's Moroccan Waiting Room

AUTHOR: Brecht De Vleeschauwer

GRANT: € 7,955

REACH: 2,658

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/eus-moroccan-waiting-room>

A wind of change

AUTHORS: Arne Gillis, Thomas Ceulemans

GRANT: € 9,960

REACH: 48,612

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/wind-change>

Nightbook from Kiev

AUTHOR: Helena Cazaerck

GRANT: € 4,600

REACH: 238,284

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/nightbook-kiev>

● FPD LOW COUNTRIES

Purpose



After the summer of 2020, our organisation launched a pilot project with the aim to support local journalism, and more specifically local investigative journalism in the Dutch-speaking parts of Europe (Belgium and the Netherlands). The project included the following activities: stimulating local journalists to engage in investigative journalism and learn from colleagues in other countries; stimulating them to compare with other cities in other countries where the problems are the same; encouraging local journalists to better distribute their stories in order to inspire others. As an outcome, the public will be better informed and at the same time new Dutch/Belgian networks of journalists will be created. In the long term, it will broaden the spectrum of local journalists and will strengthen the international network of investigative journalists who inspire each other. This concept of comparison will also inspire citizens and local politicians.

Grant overview

STATISTICS / 2021 -2023						
Year	#applied	#financial support	#supported projects	#grantees	#applications	#applicants
2020	52,634	52,676	4	28	4	
2021	30,341	21,325	4	9	5	
2022	38,434	24,190	4	9	5	11
2023	46,100	46,070	7	16	7	16

Overview of grantees

Seven projects (for 16 grantees) were awarded a total amount of € 46,070. In 2023, Journalismfund Europe received seven applications from 16 applicants in four application rounds. The jury came together four times and awarded grants to all applicants.

PROFILE OF GRANTEES 2023
Average age: 41
7 men / 9 women
4 starters / 12 seniors

Overview of grants published in 2023

Does Appeltans trial bring an end to 20 years of slumming?

AUTHOR: Arne Sonck

GRANT: € 1,600

REACH: 5,393

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/does-appeltans-trial-bring-end-20-years-slumming>

Arguing on the railroad

AUTHORS: Daan Stoop, Tomas Vanheste

GRANT: € 4,740

REACH: 6,088

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/ruzie-op-het-spoor>

The new Nederbelg

AUTHORS: Steven Vanden Bussche, Hester den Boer, Bram Logger

GRANT: € 7,750

REACH: 102,077

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/nederbelgen>

The port project

AUTHORS: Esmeralda Borgo, Jan Daalder, Tom Cochez, Steven Vanden Bussche, Tom Claessens, Mira Sys

GRANT: € 4,000, € 22,600 and € 9,900

REACH: 90,563

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/port-project>

Green port: Mirage or miracle?

AUTHOR: Zuza Nazaruk

GRANT: € 5,450

REACH: 14,622

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/green-port-mirage-or-miracle>

Is the Dutch Language Union going in at the deep end?

AUTHORS: Daan Stoop, Tomas Vanheste

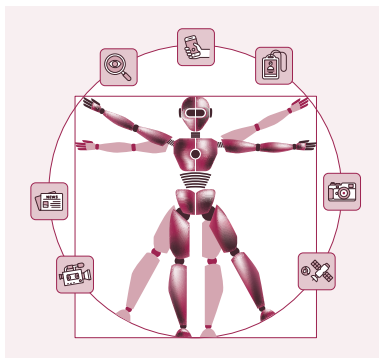
GRANT: € 4,740

REACH: 12,240

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/dutch-language-union-going-deep-end>

● FPD SCIENCE

Purpose



With this project Journalismfund Europe offers grants for science journalists. It's meant for projects that have great newsworthiness and depth but that cannot be realised in regular media. The projects should be original, innovative and time-consuming and must involve investigative reporting on science and its impact on society.

Grant overview

STATISTICS / 2021 -2023						
Year	#applied	#financial support	#supported projects	#grantees	#applications	#applicants
2021	95,612	64,612	13	14	18	20
2022	38,139	28,955	5	8	7	10
2023	129,393	88,300	14	18	17	22

Overview of grantees

14 projects (for 18 grantees) were awarded a total amount of € 88,300. In 2023, Journalismfund Europe received 17 applications from 22 applicants in two application rounds. The jury came together twice and awarded grants to all applicants.

PROFILE OF GRANTEEES 2023
Average age: 40
9 men / 9 women
2 starters / 16 seniors

Overview of grants published in 2023

First aid in reforestation

AUTHOR: Tim Vernimmen

GRANT: € 5,500

REACH: 2023

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/eerste-hulp-bij-herbebossing>

Pelvic (bottom) pain, an under-reported problem

AUTHOR: Nina Landau

GRANT: € 5,800

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/pelvic-bottom-pain-under-reported-problem>

The concealed PFAS problem

AUTHORS: Esmeralda Borgo, Jan Daalder, Tom Cochez, Steven Vanden Bussche, Tim Luimes, Mira Sys

GRANT: € 8,350

REACH: 12,678

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/dark-pfas>

Improved recipe

AUTHOR: Eva Kestemont

GRANT: € 3,575

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/supported-projects/improved-recipe>

We are all children of the steppes

AUTHOR: Senne Starckx

GRANT: € 3,500

REACH: 39,860

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/klokbekercultuur>

Twenty years of SARS

AUTHOR: Stefano Valentino

GRANT: € 7,800

REACH:

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/twenty-years-sars>

Internment is a lottery

AUTHOR: Thomas Detombe

GRANT: € 1,125

REACH: 1,764

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/internering-loterij>

The thin line between business and university

AUTHORS: Marie-Monique Franssen, Marie-Monique Franssen

GRANT: € 5,080

REACH: 5,703

MORE INFO: <https://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/bedrijf-en-universiteit>

● MONEY TRAIL PROJECT (CLOSED)

Purpose

Money Trail was a collaborative project between highly regarded journalism and training organisations — Journalismfund Europe, Finance Uncovered, Free Press Unlimited and Oxfam Novib. It was supported by the Dutch ‘Nationale Postcode Loterij’.

In Money Trail, Journalismfund Europe offered working grants for (teams of) African, Asian and European journalists to investigate cross-border illicit financial flows, tax abuse, money laundering and corruption in Africa, Asia and Europe. Grants were awarded to journalists solely by Journalismfund Europe, with no input or oversight at any stage from the consortium as a whole.

The primary goal of this grant is to expose illicit finance, tax abuse, corruption and money laundering.

Overview of grants published in 2023

Forest destruction fuelled by EU ‘green’ fuel

AUTHORS: Stefano Valentino

GRANT: € 8,100

REACH: 5,390

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/forest-destruction-fueled-eu-green-fuel>

● MODERN SLAVERY UNVEILED

Purpose



This grant programme aims to enable independent journalistic investigations into the exploitation of Asian victims of human trafficking and forced labour in Europe.

Cross-border teams of professional journalists can apply for a grant to cover working time and/or expenses to investigate, document and expose aspects and cases of forced labour, cross-continental trafficking and other issues related to the exploitation of Asian victims in Europe.

In addition to a grant, teams can also apply for a mentor to provide assistance with either the focus of the investigation or the need for competence in a specific skill.

Grant overview

APPLICANTS / COUNTRIES	
Country	# of applicants
Bangladesh	2
Belgium	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Czech Republic	1
France	3
Germany	5
Hong Kong	1
India	4
Indonesia	5
Italy	2
Kyrgyzstan	5
Nepal	1
Netherlands	1
Pakistan	1
Portugal	1
Sri Lanka	2
Turkey	1
United Kingdom	2
TOTAL	39

STATISTICS / 2022 -2023							
Year	#applied	#financial support	#largest grant	#supported projects	#grantees	#applications	#applicants
2022	223,517	103,225	14,000	9	25	18	49
2023	235,255	98,220	19,930	6	19	12	39

Overview of grantees

In 2023, the Modern Slavery Unveiled Grant programme had its last call for applications and the only one in this year. It received 12 applications and six projects were granted.

Of the **39** applicants, **20** were **men** and **19 women**. Six journalists worked as permanent members of staff and 33 as freelance journalists.

PROFILE OF GRANTEEES 2023
Average age: 40
9 men / 9 women
2 starters / 16 seniors
18 freelancers / 1 employee

Overview of grants published in 2023

The true cost of kiwis

AUTHORS: Stefania Prandi, Francesca Cicculli, Charlotte Aagaard, Kusum Arora

MENTOR: Pramod Acharya

GRANT: € 12,600

REACH: 504,294

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/true-cost-kiwis>

Brooms, brushes and a call for justice

AUTHORS: Michael Beltran, Sarah Haij

MENTOR: Crina Boroj

GRANT: € 13,500

REACH: 6,288

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/brooms-brushes-and-call-for-justice>

Filipino, Turkish and Bangladeshi workers exploited in Antwerp port

AUTHORS: Michael Beltran, Goele Vandenberghe, Muhammad Owasim Uddin Bhuyan

MENTOR: Juliana Ruhfus

GRANT: € 13,800

REACH: 29,679

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/exploited-in-antwerp-port>

Serbia rule change leaves stranded Indians at mercy of smugglers

AUTHORS: Pari Saikia, Sona Singh, Ana Curic

MENTOR: Lindita Çela

GRANT: € 14,000

REACH: 2,083

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/serbia-rule-change-leaves>

The exploitation of Bangladeshi beach vendors in Italy

AUTHORS: Ismail Einashe, Kate Stanworth, Muhammad Owasim Uddin Bhuyan

MENTORS: Pramod Acharya, Aiganysh Aidarbekova

GRANT: € 15,350

REACH: 160,146

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/exploitation-bangladeshi-beach-vendors-italy>

Immunity and impunity: How diplomats get away with exploiting domestic workers

AUTHORS: Ana P. Santos, Michelle Abad, Pauline Macaraeg

MENTORS: Sylke Gruhnwald, Crina Boros

GRANT: € 10,200

REACH: 164,678

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/immunity-and-impunity-how-diplomats-get-away-exploiting-domestic-workers>

The slaves of Champagne

AUTHORS: Robert Schmidt, Stéphanie Wenger, Ishaq Ali Anis, Jeevan Ravindran

MENTOR: Nancy Porsia

GRANT: € 19,930

REACH: 164,895

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/champagneleaks>

● INVESTIGATION GRANTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM

Purpose



This grant programme supports cross-border teams of professional journalists and/or news outlets to conduct investigations into environmental affairs related to continental Europe.

While news media and newsrooms still predominantly operate nationally, most power structures and societal and environmental problems transcend national boundaries. This grant programme is therefore aimed at cross-border teams of investigative journalists and newsrooms to investigate and document illegal, unreported and unregulated abuse of nature that involves European affairs in and outside Europe.

In addition to investigations of environmental issues that transcend borders, this programme can also support and stimulate comparative investigations into local environmental issues and policies between two or more regions or cities.

The grants can also offer support to preliminary work in the development of new investigative projects.

The grant can cover working time and expenses such as logistics, travel, insurance, access to legal support, translations, access to technology and data sets, etc.

In addition to financial support, teams can also apply for an experienced mentor to provide assistance with either the focus of the investigation or the need for competence in a specific skill.

Grant overview

STATISTICS / 2022 -2023						
Year	#applied	#financial support	#supported projects	#grantees	#applications	#applicants
2022	2,560,824	1,357,802	73	214	123	341
2023	5,221,237.42	2,136,276	102	352	208	631

Overview of grantees

In 2023 the Environmental Journalism Grant had a total of 279 applicants. Journalismfund Europe contributed to investigations by 152 journalists, who were awarded a grant. A total of € 2,136,276 was granted, which makes an average of near € 21,000 (€ 20,943) per project.

PROFILE OF GRANTEES 2023
Average age: 43
140 men / 152 women
8 starters / 282 seniors

Overview of grants published in 2023

Exporting hazard

AUTHORS: Elfredah Kevin-Alerechi, Gideon Sarpong, Raluca Besliu

GRANT: € 17,450

REACH: 138,610

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/exporting-hazard>

Why banned toxic pesticides from EU markets are a concern for Cameroon and Kenya

AUTHORS: Mary Mwendwa, Christian Locka

MENTOR: Stéphane Horel

GRANT: € 23,450

REACH: 1,714

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/banned-toxic-pesticides>

How exotic birds are trafficked from Guinea into the EU via Serbia

AUTHORS: Nemanja Rujević, Nathalie Bertrams, Dr Tristen Taylor, Ingrid Gercama

GRANT: € 16,325

REACH: 247,378

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/exotic-birds-trafficked-guinea-eu-serbia>

The forever pollution project

AUTHORS: Tim Luimes, Stéphane Horel, Tomas Vanheste, Sarah Pilz, Gianluca Liva

GRANT: € 42,850

REACH: 3,468,963

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/forever-pollution-project>

Behind the smokescreen

AUTHORS: Poliana Dallabrida, Fernando Martinho, Florian Elabdi, Louise Voller

GRANT: € 30,000

REACH: 29,672

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/behind-smokescreen>

Impact of large industrial facilities on the Danube River

AUTHORS: Orsolya Fülöp, Alicia Prager

GRANT: € 16,600

REACH: 54,724

MORE INFO: <https://journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/impact-large-industrial-facilities-danube-river>

EU regulations triggering illegal fishing in Tunisia and Libya

AUTHORS: Sara Manisera, Davide Mancini, Arianna Poletti

GRANT: € 15,560

REACH: 104,390

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/illegal-fishing-tunisia-and-libya>

Siat's land grabbings in West Africa

AUTHORS: Elfredah Kevin-Alerechi, Kevin Woke, Raluca Besliu

GRANT: € 25,650

REACH: 26,499

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/siats-land-grabbings>

ArcelorMittal carcinogenic pollution

AUTHORS: Ariane Lavrilleux, Carlotta Indiano, Nina Hubinet

GRANT: € 10,000

REACH: 3,931

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/arcelormittal-carcinogenic-pollution>

Environmental campaigners 'spied on' ahead of Sadiq Khan event

AUTHORS: Jenna Corderoy, Kenneth Foxe, Lucas Admin

GRANT: € 22,623

REACH: 11,138

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/environmental-campaigners-spied>

Climate neutrality: For whom?

AUTHORS: Malte Stieber, Angela Wolf, Florian Kaufmann, Bohuslav Kuřik

GRANT: € 11,300

REACH: 138,610

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/climate-neutrality>

Nigeria: Illegal crude oil mining

AUTHORS: Elfredah Kevin-Alerechi, Kevin Woke, Raluca Besliu

GRANT: € 21,750

REACH: 9,376

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/nigerian-illegal-crude-oil-mining>

Balkans: A deadly coal dependency

AUTHORS: Simon Rico, Marion Roussey, Milica Čubrilo-Filipović, Florentin Cassonnet, Geoffrey Brossard

GRANT: € 15,900

REACH: 80,092

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/coal-dependency>

Bosnia's wood barons

AUTHORS: Ingrid Gercama, Jeanne Frank, Harun Dinarević, Alena Beširević, Marjolein Koster

GRANT: € 13,250

REACH: 3,218,519

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/bosnias-wood-barons>

Dirty deals: Illegal waste trade

AUTHORS: Michael Billig, Marius Münstermann, Zuzana Šotová

MENTOR: Oliver Schröm

GRANT: € 36,900

REACH: 62,358

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/dirty-deals-illegal-waste-trade>

The price of oil

AUTHORS: Daniela Sala, Sara Manisera, Ollie Ballinger

GRANT: € 32,950

REACH: 292,571

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/the-price-of-oil>

Toxic pesticides: Banned in Europe, dumped in Africa

AUTHORS: Gideon Sarpong, Jennifer Ugwa, Naipano Lepapa, Leslie Olonyi Bosire

GRANT: € 31,300

REACH: 15,045

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/toxic-pesticides>

Shell continues with oil pollution in the Niger Delta

AUTHORS: Elfredah Kevin-Alerechi, Kevin Woke

MENTOR: Marcel Metze

GRANT: € 20,000

REACH: 36,976

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/shell-continues-oil-pollution-niger-delta>

Europe's plastic disaster

AUTHORS: Nico Schmidt, Maria Maggiore, Attila Kálmán, Wojciech Cieśla

GRANT: € 28,750

REACH: 400,702

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/europes-plastic-disaster>

Who are Ivory Coast's new lithium miners?

AUTHORS: Jack Wolf, Noel Konan, Alix Smidman

GRANT: € 10,400

REACH: 2,932

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/who-are-ivory-coasts-new-lithium-miners>

Organic put to the test

AUTHORS: Paolo Riva, Vlad Odobescu, Michael Bird

GRANT: € 14,600

REACH: 8,121

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/organic-put-to-the-test>

Sinking cities: Gouda and Venice

AUTHORS: Cynthia Boll, Stephanie Bakker, Giada Santana

GRANT: € 40,000

REACH: 41,709

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/sinking-cities-gouda-venice>

The West Africa green rush

AUTHORS: Jack Wolf, Noel Konan, Alix Smidman

MENTOR: Raf Custers

GRANT: € 10,400

REACH: 2,932

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/west-africa-green-rush>

Endangered fish flood the EU market

AUTHORS: Gideon Sarpong, Raluca Besliu

GRANT: € 14,100

REACH: 16,444

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/endangered-fish-flood>

Melting societies

AUTHORS: Méline Laffabry, Sergio Matalucci, Benjamin Hindrichs

GRANT: € 15,400

REACH: 202,010

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/melting-societies>

European investments funding environmental crime in Brazil

AUTHORS: Sarah Sax, Maurício Angelo

GRANT: € 32,560

REACH: 164,231

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/environmental-crime-brazil>

Odra ecological disaster

AUTHORS: Nancy Waldmann, Bartek Sabela

GRANT: € 17,600

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/odra-ecological-disaster>

Superyachts

AUTHORS: Léonor Lumineau, Margherita Nasi

MENTOR: Sylvain Mignot

GRANT: € 15,460

REACH: 32,189

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/superyachts>

Dirty rubber

AUTHORS: Arison Tamfu, Nathalie Bertrams, Dr Tristen Taylor, Ingrid Gercama

MENTOR: Robert Soutar

GRANT: € 19,150

REACH: 652,454

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/dirty-rubber>

Balkan security in the light of global warming

AUTHORS: Renata Saric, Slavica Gligorovic, Danijel Garic, Vladimir Šušak, Martin Pushevski

GRANT: € 20,450

REACH: 116,466

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/balkan-security-and-global-warming>

Cook Islands determined to start deep sea mining

AUTHORS: Raf Custers, Greet Brauwers, Rachel Reeves

GRANT: € 50,000

REACH: 186,821

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/deep-sea-mining>

Hydropower controversy in Georgia

AUTHORS: Ula Idzikowska, Marek Kowalczyk, Shota Kincha

GRANT: € 11,730

REACH: 73,348

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/hydropower-controversy-georgia>

Glencore: ‘We were not aware’

AUTHORS: Andrés Gómez Tarazona, Omar Vera

GRANT: € 42,247

REACH: 2,629

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/glencore-we-were-not-aware>

Waste crimes know no borders, and easily breach them

AUTHORS: Guia Baggi, Virginia Kirst, Rahma Behi, Laura Carrer

MENTOR: Sandro Mattioli

GRANT: € 5,630

REACH: 1,596

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/waste-crimes-know-no-borders>

The lithium diaries

AUTHORS: Janvier Murairi, Jack Wolf, Sophia Pickles

MENTOR: Will Fitzgibbon

GRANT: € 15,475

REACH: 53,792

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/the-lithium-diaries>

Environmental racism

AUTHORS: Elfredah Kevin-Alerechi, Kevin Woke

GRANT: € 20,000

REACH: 8,271

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/environmental-racism>

The gold chain

AUTHORS: Quentin Noirfalisce, Ludovica Jona, Hyury Potter

GRANT: € 20,038

REACH: 25,714

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/gold-chain>

How ‘green’ investments are financing big carbon

AUTHORS: Stefano Valentino, Giorgio Michalopoulos

GRANT: € 15,500

REACH: 21,938

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/how-green-investments-are-financing-big-carbon>

No man’s land: digging for water on the front lines of climate collapse

AUTHORS: Sara Pinho, Janine Louloudi, Petrut Calinescu, Myrto Boutsis, Konstantinos Kontokostas, Michael Perreira, Carla Tomás, José Fernandes

GRANT: € 27,600

REACH: 46,060

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/no-mans-land>

Ukraine delays industrial pollution reforms: What it means for Europe

AUTHORS: Oleksandr Berdyskykh, Hanna Kibovskaya, Tetyana Vysotskaya, Olha Khvorost

GRANT: € 9,000

REACH: 11,003

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/ukraine-delays-industrial-pollution>

Malta: Increased vessel traffic and lax air pollution monitoring lead to health concerns

AUTHORS: Julian Delia, Christian Zeier, Joanna Demarco

GRANT: € 16,357

REACH: 11,316

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/malta-increased-vessel-traffic-and-lax-air-pollution>

Baltic peat, Dutch profits, and carbon emissions

AUTHORS: Dr Tristen Taylor, Ingrid Gercama, Nathalie Bertrams

GRANT: € 22,580

REACH: 45,759

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/baltic-peat-dutch-profits-and-carbon-emissions>

Moldgres: money for Transnistria, ecological problems for Ukraine and energy blackmail for Moldova

AUTHORS: Elena Chernyshova, Mariana Rață, Ilie Gulca, Vladyslav Balinsky, Yulia Braslavskaya

GRANT: € 12,200

REACH: 4,756

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/moldgres>

Mine games: Europe's hunt for critical raw materials

AUTHORS: Attila Kálmán, Amund Trellevik, Maren Saeboe, Chris Matthews, Wojciech Cieśla, Ingeborg Eliassen

GRANT: € 37,100

REACH: 130,733

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/mine-games>

Rubber for Europe is fuelling environmental and human rights violations in Ghana and Nigeria

AUTHORS: Gideon Sarpong, Elfredah Kevin-Alerechi, Audrey Travère

GRANT: € 20,700

REACH: 550

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/rubber-europe-fuelling-environmental-and-human-rights-violations-ghana-and>

Inside Iceland's blood farms

AUTHORS: Jessica Abrahams, Abby Young-Powell, James Imam

GRANT: € 22,300

REACH: 1,471

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/inside-icelands-blood-farms>

Deforestation and hydropower plants: Damage for Europe's blue heart

AUTHORS: Elona Elezi, Aleksandar Metodijev, Suzana Miceva, Esmeralda Topi

GRANT: € 20,400

REACH: 32,048

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/deforestation-hydropower-damage-albania-macedonia>

Climate, COPs, NAPs... and Africa

AUTHORS: Caroline Chebet, Jerry Sam, Bryan Pearson, Patrick Smith, Tim Concannon

MENTOR: Gabriele Crescente

GRANT: € 29,700

REACH: 1,154

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/climate-cops-naps-and-africa>

Hunting in Malta: The 'way of life' that robs the rest of Europe

AUTHORS: Thomas Krumenacker, Sean Montebello

GRANT: € 21,148

REACH: 39,858

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/hunting-in-malta>

Intensive dairy farming: Increasing water pollution

AUTHORS: Fergal MacErlean, Cecilia Fasciani

GRANT: € 9,700

REACH: 2,946

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/dairy-increasing-pollution>

Carmakers strike back: How they lobbied down new EU emissions rules

AUTHORS: Gian-Paolo Accardo, James Jackson, Lorenzo di Stasi

MENTOR: Staffan Dahllöf

GRANT: € 14,100

REACH: 455,799

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/carmakers-lobbied-down-eu-rules>

Build Back Better? 10 Years After Typhoon Haiyan

AUTHORS: Sandra Blenner Rasmussen, Isabella Perez Rubio, Carl Sayat, Veronica Uy, Bernard Testa

GRANT: € 9,500

REACH: 73

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/build-back-better>

Fuelling a mega-fire on the Iberian peninsula

AUTHORS: Lily Mayers, Paulo Nunes dos Santos, Mikel Konate

GRANT: € 38,970

REACH: 605

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/iberian-mega-fires>

Old cars from Western Europe polluting Serbia

AUTHORS: Ingrid Gercama, Nemanja Rujević

GRANT: € 5,435

REACH: 6,164

MORE INFO: <https://journalismfund.eu/old-cars-serbia>

Shades of green hydrogen

AUTHORS: John Grobler, Fiona Macleod, Joe Lo, Matteo Civillini, Sebastián Rodríguez

GRANT: € 13,900

REACH: 4,488

MORE INFO: <https://journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/green-hydrogen>

The cost of water

AUTHORS: Vahe Ohanyan, Liza Torosyan, Tehmine Yenokyan

MENTOR: Nils Hanson

GRANT: € 24,980

REACH: 11,859

MORE INFO: <https://journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/cost-water>

From Colombia to Germany: The impact of coal route

AUTHORS: Anita Pouchard Serra, Rocio Periago, G Jaramillo Rojas

MENTOR: Eliezer Budasoff

GRANT: € 22,600

REACH: 33

MORE INFO: <https://journalismfund.eu/coal-route>

Tunisia: How legal limbo allows fracking by Serinus Energy

AUTHORS: Alexandre Brutelle, Hanene Zbiss

GRANT: € 11,000

REACH: 17,919

MORE INFO: <https://journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/serinus-in-tunisia>

Bioplastics: A green innovation or just another plastic problem?

AUTHORS: Daiva Repečkaitė, Simone Fant, Jelena Malkowski

MENTOR: Hans van Scharen

GRANT: € 10,200

REACH: 2,610

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/bioplastics-EU>

Universities accept fossil fuel funding

AUTHORS: Lorenzo Buzzoni, Manuel Rico, Amund Trellevik, Ingeborg Eliasse, Maxence Peigné, Juliet Ferguson, Chris Matthews, Jenna Corderoy, Martin Williams, Finlay Johnston

GRANT: € 23,000

REACH: 84,129

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/fossil-fuel-funds-universities>

Perenco extracting oil and gas in protected areas around the world

AUTHORS: Alexandre Brutelle, Dorian Cabrol, Madeleine Ngeunga, Juliana Mori

GRANT: € 23,200

REACH: 19,623

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/perenco-global-damage>

The cost of war for the Danube Delta

AUTHORS: Cătălin Prisacariu, Oleg Oganov, Petru Zoltan

GRANT: € 9,300

REACH: 216,985

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/cost-war-danube-delta>

European night trains: A sustainable way of traveling?

AUTHORS: Bart Grugeon, Karthik Muthuswamy

GRANT: € 3,000

REACH: 2,728

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/europe-night-trains-sustainable-traveling>

Pesticides: Poison for sale

AUTHORS: Birte Mensing, Paul Hildebrandt

GRANT: € 11,000

REACH: 6,437

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/poison-sale-pesticides-kenya>

Russian navy killing dolphins in the Black Sea

AUTHORS: Mariana Verbovska, Tsira Gvasalia

GRANT: € 11,200

REACH: 12,042

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/killing-dolphins-black-sea>

Tripoli's wastewater treatment plant: It took 120 million euros and two decades

AUTHORS: Hala Nouhad Nasreddine, Søren Steensig, Anders Palm Olesen

MENTOR: Nils Hanson

GRANT: € 28,100

REACH: 43,589

MORE INFO: <https://journalismfund.eu/tripolis-wastewater-treatment-plant>

Carbon laundering: EU's embrace of carbon capture helps UK and Norway produce more oil

AUTHORS: Michael Buchsbaum, Edward Donnelly, Matthew Green

GRANT: € 28,100

REACH: 2,844

MORE INFO: <https://journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/carbon-laundering-eus-embrace-carbon-capture-helps-uk-and-norway-produce-more>

Comparison of Antwerp-Bruges and Rotterdam ports

AUTHORS: Mira Sys, Steven Vanden Bussche, Esmeralda Borgo, Tom Cochez, Jan Daalder, Tom Claessens

GRANT: € 38,000

REACH: 90,563

MORE INFO: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/antwerp-bruges-rotterdam-ports>

● **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM**

Purpose

The services grants programme aims to support activities and services for environmental investigative journalism. It supports and incites initiatives generated by organisations in the field, and seeks to promote collective development and support services for environmental investigative journalism, by providing funding to project ideas from organisations and institutions for training and professional development programmes, i.e. skills-focused professional training or fellowship programmes targeted at enabling investigative journalists to upskill with regards to reporting on environment-related issues. This is part of a larger programme: The Earth Investigations Programme supported by Arcadia.

Grant overview

Because of the specificity of this grant programme, the grantees can only be organisations and therefore we do not have a gender, age or professional level breakdown as we have in other grants. Journalismfund Europe's jury awarded grants to 13 projects out of 93 applications.

Journalismfund Europe distributed € 236,644 to 13 supported projects, in the second year of the programme.

STATISTICS / 2022 -2023						
Year	#applied	#financial support	#supported projects	#grantees	#applications	#applicants
2022	1,048,329	241,270	15	17	42	44
2023	2,272,315	236,644	13	13	94	94

Overview of grants finalised in 2023

Visegrad Center for Environmental Investigations - Phase 2

The objective was to develop a network of investigative reporters from mainly Visegrad countries who will collaborate on cross-border environmental investigations. As the project is nearing its end, we are happy to see that the networking phase is going very well.

The first phase managed to create a network of non-profit investigative outlets who are motivated to collaborate on tracking down big polluters in the region with a footprint in more than just one country. In this second phase the organisers would like to bring the network members together in person, brainstorm and look for synergies that would lead to regional investigations.

Organisation: Deník Referendum is an independent online daily publication funded mainly by its readers. It was established in 2009 by journalist Jakub Patočka with the aim of changing the media landscape in the Czech Republic. Since then, it has played a unique role as a platform of Czech civil society, giving voice to those who would not otherwise be heard.

GRANT: € 4,050

EIF develops tool to investigate West African mining industry

The team scraped data from West African news websites. They gathered data for a total of 23 African countries and secured a partnership to further promote their tool.

This extension of the existing 'West Africa Mining Platform' will still compile cross-national data of all mining licences with geographic data concerning sensitive ecosystems and inhabited areas, but will grow to cover the whole of Africa. The tool will be rebranded 'Mine Alert ! Africa'.

Organisation: The Environmental Investigative Forum (EIF) is a global non-profit organisation registered in France and specialised in environmental investigative reporting. It is composed of a core team of six and of a network of over 100 members based in the Western Balkans, North, West and East Africa, as well as Western Europe and the US, in the form of a global consortium. EIF aims to develop new environmental investigative reporting methods, tools and initiatives.

GRANT: € 14,000

Strengthening through training in environmental reporting techniques

This training has the goal of strengthening local media outlets and local journalists in a wide range of environmental reporting techniques, such as the tracking of eco spending on a national and regional level, or the specificities of local environmental reporting.

Organisation: The Institute for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection Zeleni Krug is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation, working in the field of environmental protection, sustainable development, healthy lifestyles, agriculture, human rights and improvement of social services, humanitarian and volunteer work.

GRANT: € 24,700

Headliner will train environmental reporters in live journalism

Live journalism is the internationally established term for show productions in which reporters, photographers, filmmakers, etc. present well-researched and verified stories in front of a live audience. If it serves the story, artistic elements will be interwoven to illustrate, provoke or encourage the audience to participate. The genre was born out of a need to find more relatable and engaging ways to present journalistic content.

The planned activities will introduce 25 reporters from all over Europe to this new skill, offering them a new, compelling way to tell their environmental stories and connect directly with audiences from their home countries.

Eight of them will present their solution-oriented stories for a more climate-friendly urban development on stage, at the first JIVE Climate show, hosted with CORRECTIV. The show will be held on 21 November 2023 in Berlin. Prior to the show, a two-day performance camp will prepare the selected reporters for their live performances.

After the show, the theatre foyer turns into an open marketplace where the audience gets the chance to exchange ideas with experts or actively support one of the causes presented on stage.

Organisation: Headliner is the first non-profit organisation in Germany to combine journalism and culture in inspiring stage shows. Developed out of the Slampions GbR, which has brought the Reporter Slam format to Germany as well as international stages since 2016. Besides the existing formats, new shows are being developed with a focus on connecting journalists with a live audience. The performances counteract the rampant news fatigue. They also bring back the joy of work to the reporters and provide a new source of income for them.

GRANT: € 9,500

Local Spanish media against climate disinformation

The journalists will participate in a 1.5-day capacity building course developed by specialists from Maldita.es—centred around practical learning to improve their response to climate disinformation narratives affecting their communities.

With the participants, Maldita will then launch a network of local Spanish media against climate disinformation, cultivating a community of knowledge sharing between members and Maldita.es to continue strengthening local investigative journalism into European environmental issues as a bulwark against widespread disinformation.

Organisation: Founded in 2018, Maldita.es is a leading non-profit foundation and media outlet that fights against misinformation in Spanish and promotes transparency through fact-checking and data journalism techniques.

Maldita's main mission is to provide citizens with tools, technology and information so that they can make informed decisions. The organisation's work is underscored by specialised teams, cutting-edge technological tools, and an extensive community of engaged citizens who collaborate with the organisation in the battle against disinformation.

Maldita serves a national audience of 2 million monthly website visitors, 50 thousand website subscribers, and over 1.5 million followers on social media. Central to their work is a bidirectional relation with the community: they are consumers of and participants in the selection and creation of content.

Maldita has a team of 42 staff members consisting of journalists, educators, and researchers who produce and adapt content to various formats and platforms, amplifying our reach and impact.

GRANT: € 17,600

Reporting on climate change - and its significance for democracy

The idea is to discuss current socio-political developments and trends as well as the role and influence of the media in international affairs with representatives from politics and science.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats of the 20th century and globally affects all areas of our lives: society, economy, supply chains, work, agriculture, health, nutrition, mobility. It promotes fear, insecurity, social division, lack of freedom, migration, poverty — and thus also affects the state and resilience of democracy worldwide. Against this background, high-quality, fact-based and objective journalism is of particular importance.

A special conference programme gathers 20-25 young journalists between the ages of 20 and 30 from all over Europe. Discussions range from investigative journalism to local journalism, crisis reporting, climate reporting, and fake news. Impulses for the modules come from renowned experts. The YEJ enables participants to exchange ideas with colleagues from all over Europe, to learn about the different conditions and challenges for journalism in different political and social systems and to create a sustainable network between the participants.

This project aims to teach participants what journalism can look like using successful examples and to give training on investigating environmental risks and impacts on a cross-regional level, based on investigations produced through Environmental Investigative Forum's network, as well as inviting senior editors (digital and/or on-site) to talk about exemplary projects.

Organisation: The non-profit association Potsdam Media International e.V. was founded in 2006 to continue the M100 Sanssouci Colloquium (M100SC) and the M100 Young European Journalists Workshop (M100YEJ) conferences, initiated in 2005 by a group of leading media and political figures as part of Potsdam's bid to become the European Capital of Culture in 2010.

GRANT: € 10,000

ONLINE: <https://www.m100potsdam.org/en/m100/m100-young-european-journalists/agenda/>

Network of environmental investigative journalist centres

This global consultation will be initiated with at least seven journalism hubs based in South America (Info Amazonia), Eastern & South Africa (Oxpeckers), Western Africa (CENOZO), the Arab world (ARIJ), the Black Sea region (Media Lab Georgia) and Asia (Third Pole and CIR), in a series of online webinars.

Outcomes of this consultation will also be used as a global needs assessment for strengthening cross-regional cooperation on environmental investigations to be presented as a side event of the GIJ23 Conference.

Organisation: IMS (International Media Support), is the biggest media development organisation in the Nordic countries, and has for two decades supported independent media where they are at greatest risk. IMS pushes for quality journalism, challenges repressive laws and keeps media workers of all genders safe through alliances and innovation to contribute to positive change and better societies.

Founded in 2001, IMS works in more than 40 countries across four continents with more than 150 staff members. IMS contributes to setting the global agenda for best practices in media development.

GRANT: € 18,000

Ground-breaking day-long workshop on climate change at the Global IJ Conference

This invitation-only workshop took place on 19 September 2023, the day before the 2023 Global Investigative Journalism Conference (GIJC23), with sessions on strategies for watchdog journalism, the latest reporting techniques, and cross-border collaboration.

Focused on corporate and government accountability, this unique workshop brings together the main investigative journalism networks, top names in the world of climate change journalism, and reporters and researchers working on the topic from across the world. It provides a structured but non-competitive arena for sharing ideas, learning, and methods for maximising the impact of journalistic detective work and inquiry. The programme combines guided discussion, practical advice, reflections on strategies, brainstorming, and themes for further investigation.

Organisation: The Global Investigative Journalism Network serves as the international hub for the world's investigative reporters. Our core mission is to support and strengthen investigative journalism around the world— with special attention to those from repressive regimes and marginalised communities. At the heart of GIJN is an international association of non-profit journalism organisations. Since its 2003 founding, GIJN now includes 244 member groups in 90 countries. Today, with staff in 24 countries, GIJN works in a dozen languages daily to link the world's most enterprising journalists, giving them the tools and training to go after abuses of power and lack of accountability.

GRANT: € 21,254

ONLINE: <https://gijc2023.org/>

Stop air pollution in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fokus.ba is pointing out problems and logical weaknesses when talking about air pollution in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the authorities are failing to control an issue that relates to the death of thousands of people.

The country's reliance on coal and wood for heating and electricity generation makes cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina some of the most polluted cities in the world during the winter months, when the levels of fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, and other deadly pollutants regularly exceed what the World Health Organization says is safe for human health. An estimated 3,300 people in the country die prematurely each year from exposure to air pollution — nine percent of all deaths, according to the World Bank. Thousands more live with worsening respiratory and cardiovascular problems. Elderly people and children are especially vulnerable.

Five young journalists are working together with the professional team of Fokus.ba and another three external journalists, producing investigative stories about air pollution in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The ultimate goals of Fokus.ba for this project are:

- To improve investigative journalists' capabilities.
- To inform citizens and other interested parties about the serious situation in the field of air pollution in our country.

- To achieve close cooperation with CSO representatives.
- To influence the authorities to take urgent action and reform in this domain.
- To educate and encourage other media to focus their resources and media content on writing about this important topic.

GRANT: € 19,000

ONLINE:

- [Air pollution in Sarajevo: “This is what my lungs look like, and I’m not a smoker”](#)
- [Sarajevo, the most polluted European capital city](#)
- [Trovanje građana Tuzle i Lukavca: Borba za profitom važnija od zdravlja ljudi](#), Fokus.ba, 23/06/2023.

● LOCAL MEDIA FOR DEMOCRACY

Purpose



This media funding scheme injects 1.2 million euros in financial support to local, regional and community media who are struggling to serve the public interest in places where access to information has significantly decreased. The selected media will also receive technical and mentorship support (managed by [International Media Support](#)) to improve their organisational capacity, journalistic innovation and business sustainability. This is part of a larger programme supported by the European Commission and the King Baudouin Foundation.

These [news desert areas](#) can be a geographic or administrative area, or a social community, where it is difficult or impossible to access reliable, diverse and independent local, regional and community media. In other words, news deserts can emerge not only where there are no media outlets, but also where there are newsrooms captured by economic, political or other interests. The geographical coverage of this grant was EU27 countries and the nine outermost regions.

Grant overview

In the two calls of 2023, the Local Media for Democracy grant programme received 215 applications from 190 organisations and 47 journalists. In total 42 projects were granted.

APPLICANTS / COUNTRIES				
	EU Countries		First round	Second round
1	Austria	3	0	3
2	Belgium	7	2	5
3	Bulgaria	9	2	7
4	Croatia	9	6	3
5	Czech Republic	18	3	15
6	Estonia	4	1	3
7	Finland	1	0	1
8	France	26	5	21

9	Germany	4	4	0
10	Greece	5	0	5
11	Hungary	10	5	5
12	Ireland	4	2	2
13	Italy	9	6	3
14	Latvia	13	8	5
15	Lithuania	9	4	5
16	Luxembourg	1	0	1
17	Malta	1	1	0
18	Netherlands	1	0	1
19	Poland	40	22	18
20	Portugal	18	6	12
21	Romania	10	5	5
22	Slovakia	5	0	5
23	Slovenia	4	1	3
24	Spain	19	9	13

	Other countries		First round	Second round
25	Albania	1	1	0
26	North Macedonia	1	1	0
27	India	1	0	1
28	Belarus	1	0	1
		TOTAL	235	

Statistics

	1st round May	2nd round September	TOTAL
#applications	88	127	215
#applicants	94	145	239
#grantees	17	48	65
#granted projects	17	42	59
Amount granted	€ 524,265.00	€ 667,854.00	€ 1,192,119.00
Minimum project support	€ 6,300.00	€ 5,500.00	€ 6,300.00
Maximum project support	€ 60,000.00	€ 40,000.00	€ 60,000.00
Amount applied for	€ 4,020,319.98	€ 4,389,489.39	€ 8,409,809.37

Overview of grantees

Most of the applicants of the grant were companies/media organisations. However, a few teams of journalists applied for the grant, in total **47** journalists. Only four teams of journalists received the grant (10 journalists), from which five were freelancers and five were employees. All of them were senior journalists, **8** female and **2** male. The average age of the grantees is **42**.

Overview of grants finalised in 2023

Marsactu Wireless

Back in the days, it used to be common to see copies of the newspapers of the day lying around in public places, especially cafés. This habit has largely disappeared, as we all make contact with the news through our digital devices, if at all. Our goal with Marsactu wireless, is to make our investigations available to the users of different kinds of places (cultural centres, third spaces, cafés, etc.), for free.

When a person logs into our website from the venue's wifi, they won't see our paywall. Community centres would then allow their users to enjoy quality journalism for free.

Marsactu Wireless aims to bring online investigation to the most concerned citizens. We will open free reading points in everyday venues like cafés and community centres, with specific work to make this offer visible, including workshops with journalists.

GRANT: € 35,655

ONLINE: <https://marsactu.fr/>

Apache Lokaal

With 'Apache Lokaal', the Belgian platform for investigative journalism, Apache, will kick-start a network of local investigative journalists. The focus will be on municipalities and regions barely covered by the media in Flanders (Belgium).

With the grant 'Local Media for Democracy', Apache will create and sustain a local investigative journalism structure embedded in the newsroom. A coordinator will be recruited and a network of local investigative journalists will be formed. As part of this project, Apache will also set up one participatory investigation that will serve as a blueprint for future local investigations.

GRANT: € 20,900

ONLINE: <https://www.apache.be/>

InfoGIFT — Read with understanding. You will be rewarded!

InfoGIFT is an application that aims to increase readers' awareness of local events. It encourages you to read the entire article with comprehension. You earn points for reading, which you exchange for prizes.

InfoGIFT is a supplement to our local information portals. The mobile application is a system of rewarding readers for reading comprehension. At the end of each article there is a question with three answers. One is correct. You can only answer once. You get one point for a correct answer. After collecting a certain number of points, the reader may apply for a prize. The application has a catalogue of gifts with information about the stock status of individual prizes. It can be compared to loyalty programmes at petrol stations. In this case, it's a reading comprehension programme. Ultimately, the awards are obtained from the budget financed by advertisers for the publication of sponsored articles. A reader receives 10 points for reading a sponsored article. The advertiser can

be sure that his message will reach the recipients. Recipients become more aware, earning points by reading articles about important local issues. Each new message is a notification in the application. We will become independent of social networks. We reach the recipients directly.

The project is covered by a patent application to be developed. We already invite publishing houses from all over Europe and the world to participate in the InfoGIFT project.

GRANT: € 33,650

ONLINE:

- <https://miastko24.pl/pl/>
- <http://www.ibytow.pl/>

PresseLib: New contents for a mature local media

The media is based in the city of Pau in France and it covers the news of the South-West region. It is targeting decision makers, general public, policy makers, economic decision-makers and association members.

We would like to upgrade our editorial proposal with new contents such as short videos, podcasts, infographics, etc. The same subjects should be accessible in various formats to reach more readers. This new content could include additional products to sell to our advertisers. We want to give the clearest information possible, targeting people who don't like to read a long articles. To achieve this goal, we need to hire a digital specialist.

GRANT: € 20,700

ONLINE: <https://presselib.com/>

Innovative development of engagement with local readers

This project aims to present as much real information and opinion as possible, to bring opinions into conflict and thus to develop the advocacy capacity of citizens. We are present on almost all platforms (website, Facebook, YouTube, podcast platforms, Instagram, newsletter, live meetings), so we can reach a wide range of ages and social groups, including various marginalised groups. We have a significant social media following.

Our association has always considered it important to actively involve the community in content creation. This is achieved by sending their written and multimedia content and other information to our editorial team. For five years, members of our community, as well as our readers living further away, have been able to send us content, ideas and information via an encrypted messaging system (called 'I report'). We would like to further develop this system so that the content sent by readers is automatically uploaded to the self-developed editorial system (CMS) of Nyugat.hu and Enyugat.hu. In this way, a workflow will be automated. We can process, check and use content sent in by our readers as a basis for our articles.

GRANT: € 20,000

ONLINE: <http://nyugat.hu/>

Undesert the news in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area

'Undesert the News' is a constructive journalistic project that focuses on engaging with young individuals from underprivileged communities in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. These young people are typically disconnected from mainstream news and are often overlooked by the rest of society.

The project's main goal is to address the lack of information coming from within these communities and collaborate with their members to share untold stories, empowering them in the process. This

involves guiding them through the complexities of the news media landscape and helping their stories reach a wider audience.

What stories would young adults living in the peripheral areas of Lisbon tell if they had the power to do so in mainstream media? This project aims to do exactly that. Working with youngsters to share stories that represent a diverse range of experiences and perspectives that are often overlooked. Mensagem will work with three communities in the Lisbon metropolitan area, collaboratively developing innovative storytelling formats while adhering to journalistic standards. The objective is to empower young individuals living in news deserts and those who tend to avoid the news. By helping them to build their own narratives, the project seeks to bridge the gap and amplify their voices. Ultimately, 'Mensagem' aims to foster understanding, empathy, and positive change within society.

GRANT: € 40,000

ONLINE: <https://amensagem.pt/>

Building Chayka's capacity in the domains of local journalism and commercial sustainability

The project centres on Chayka, the premier independent Russian-language news source in Daugavpils, Latvia. We aim to enhance its local journalism capabilities and financial stability by launching a creative studio for diversified revenue, and expanding news coverage in the underreported Latgale region. This initiative primarily benefits the Russian-speaking population, who often feel disconnected from Latvia's central government and the rest of the nation, providing them with trustworthy, inclusive, and relevant news content.

Chayka is the sole independent Russian-language news source in Daugavpils, a largely Russian-speaking city near Latvia's border with Belarus. It has become a trusted go-to place for the city's residents, who often feel disconnected from decision-makers in Riga, while also covering sensitive issues — such as LGBT+ rights and Russia's war in Ukraine — that other outlets ignore or distort. Chayka will embark on two complementary projects:

Harnessing Chayka's storytelling skills to launch a profitable creative studio, delivering native advertising and creative assets to clients across Latvia, diversifying Chayka's revenues and supporting the outlet's journalistic activities;

Expanding news coverage into the wider Latgale region, an area underserved by both national and local media.

GRANT: € 35,260

ONLINE: <https://www.chayka.lv/>

Informant of the city

Our project focuses on the communities of Alytus city and region, as well as the surrounding three municipalities, Druskininkai, Lazdijai and Varėna. The area covered is in the south of Lithuania near the border with Belarus and Poland.

By covering different topics, from budget spending to education and the social sphere for the most vulnerable people, we will fill the gap for impartial and versatile information on local life and decision makers. We will follow decisions made by the local council, fact check them, explain and discuss with the local community. We will follow the situation at schools and local institutions, looking at the reality and informing the community. We will create journalistic material and disseminate it via different platforms for different audiences — on air, online radio, websites, YouTube, social networks.

We will have news on our city and region on the air each day, including radio reports on the most important topic of the day, discussions with citizens and experts. We will have a special programme every month for the analysis of the decisions taken at local council meetings and how they impact

the lives of local people. We will have short video interviews with the stories of local people posted on YouTube and shared on the website. All content will be available on our 'Radio FM99 podcast' on all main platforms, such as Spotify, Apple podcasts, Google podcasts, etc. All content will be also provided on the website and shared on social networks.

GRANT: € 31,350

ONLINE: <http://fm99.lt/>

Mujeres de Ciempozuelos I / Ciempozuelos' Women I

Production of a series of audio and video interviews about local women. Since our team's digital skills are limited, the grant will help in our digitalisation process. It will allow us to find new ways to reach a wider audience as well as younger generations.

We'll produce a series of videos and podcasts for which our staff will be trained on multimedia publication. For this purpose we'll bring in a consultant for six months to carry out journalistic projects with our team. This will enable us to find the best ways to reach more people, gather data and be able to carry out an audience analysis we weren't able to study before. The editorial team will be trained on the ground in the following:

1. How to produce and publish a podcast.
2. How to produce and publish video interviews.
3. How writing for the web differs from writing for print.
4. How to conduct an audience analysis.
5. Forms of digital advertisement and crowdfunding.
6. How to produce a non-fiction book-length investigation.

GRANT: € 6,300

ONLINE: <https://latorredeciempozuelos.com/>

Improving local democracy in Piątek Commune by creating an innovative news product

The aim of the project is to eliminate one of the news deserts in central Poland in the rural areas of the Piątek Commune by launching an innovative news product. The central part of the project will be a dedicated information platform with a module enabling communication between journalists and the local community, which will allow readers to become co-creators of local news.

A local newsletter dedicated to community issues will also be created. Thanks to the project, it will be possible to provide access to reliable, verified, and independent information for the inhabitants of the commune who are excluded from access to information.

This project focuses on a small community of the commune of Piątek in Poland, with fewer than 10 thousand inhabitants, located in the district of Łęczyca in central Poland, about 30 km from Łódź. The community lives in a rural area that has become a news desert in the last five years. The inhabitants of the Piątek commune are currently almost completely deprived of valuable independent local information. This applies to both information of a functional nature as well as information on important public matters, in particular those concerning local government and local authorities.

GRANT: € 40,000

ONLINE: <https://tulodz.pl/>

A news desert no more: Serving Fingal with quality coverage

Towards the end of last year, one of the largest media companies in Ireland shut down its publication covering Fingal in the north of Dublin. We are piloting the expansion of our coverage from Dublin's centre northwards to step up and help serve these communities, shaping our coverage around what they say they need during active outreach.

Dublin Inquirer is piloting the addition of coverage of Fingal in north Dublin to our stories. The coverage — at least three stories a week — will focus on local government and community news, as well as in-depth public-interest pieces.

For the duration of the pilot, they are adding coverage from one full-time Fingal reporter, and two freelance part-time Fingal reporters, one of whom will cover 'immigrant life' in the county.

GRANT: € 31,200

ONLINE: <https://dublininquirer.com/>

Flourishing investigative reporting in Italy's news deserts

This project will amplify the voices of marginalised communities through editorial productions that collaborate with local newsrooms, grassroots activists and non-governmental organisations in Rome, Milan, Sardinia, Sicily, Calabria and other territories. Together, they will produce quality reporting taught through fieldwork, networking and workshops. This project will not only provide the bedrock for small newsrooms to build reporting skills, but also water for the growth of their networks, audiences and impact for the flourishing of investigative reporting in Italy.

With this fund, IrpiMedia will broaden investigative training and reporting with grassroots communities and local media outlets to promote equal access to quality information for historically underrepresented societal groups, such as youths, migrants and ethnic minorities who often inhabit the peripheries together. The project will do so by publishing at least four investigations coordinated with collectives and local newsrooms in news deserts in Italy: Calabria, Sicily, Sardinia and peripheries of two large cities, Rome and Milan. Moreover, we will organise two in-person journalism workshops for reporters, advocacy groups and relevant NGOs in areas where our primary audiences are disadvantaged, like those under the control of Italian mafias or those with heavy migrant work exploitation. One of these workshops will work specifically with young reporters (under 30) and students from Fondazione Basso Journalism School and/or Cattolica University's Journalism School. Editorial productions will stem from these workshops and be published on IrpiMedia. With this project, we will also strengthen a bottom-up perspective by offering our whistleblowing platform IrpiLeaks in multiple languages with a specific channel for migrants who can flag injustices and share their stories. A pilot has been conducted with a project on gig economy couriers in Milan, producing good results. We believe IrpiMedia already has a unique approach to underrepresented communities and issues, and through this fund it could increase its capability of representing them.

GRANT: € 50,900

ONLINE: <https://irpimedia.irpi.eu/>

Public debate and subscription access research

The project aims to examine the behaviour of readers whose identities have been verified participating in a public discussion. Public debates on the development of the region will form the topic of discussion, which should not be anonymous. The recipients are the inhabitants of a city in Silesia in Poland, mainly from Jaworzno and Myslowice.

We are planning five ordinary public debates for residents in two cities. We want to broadcast the debates on websites to build new content engagement for residents. The debates will concern public life, city development, culture and sport.

GRANT: € 38,160

ONLINE:

- <http://jaw.pl/>
- <http://ctmyslowice.pl/>

Developing video programmes as a new channel of information and a new source of income

Video production for the cities of Łowicz, Głowno, Stryków and Żychlin and its surroundings. This represents a third parallel channel of information, alongside an existing traditional newspaper and internet portal.

The project introduces regular video programmes, both from studio and realised outside, covering interesting topics, especially in areas where there is little engagement with written news content. The grant will be used for buying necessary equipment, organising the studio, training the journalists and preparing video ads as a source of income.

GRANT: € 14,780

ONLINE: <https://lowicznanin.info/pl/>

Independent journal on the road

This project aims to develop innovative audience engagement exercises in three neighbouring towns, to generate audience growth and strengthen trust in independent media. The voice of marginalised groups and independent NGOs are not heard, and opposition views receive biased representation. These groups and the general population would benefit from this project.

During the project we will focus on three cities within Hajdú-Bihar county, where Debreciner aims to extend its network and engage citizens to be active partners and storytellers. Our planned activities:

OPEN EDITORIAL MEETINGS (OEMs). Debreciner has a three-year-old, reliable experience with organising open editorial meetings in the city of Debrecen, which are quite successful and well-visited events. Based on those insights, we are organising open editorial meetings in all three towns, where members of the content production team and members of the management team would also participate. These towns are the largest in the county and closest to Debrecen. The open editorial meetings would be publicly announced and organised in public places (cafés, pubs), where a presentation about Debreciner to the locals would open discussion about local interests, their access to news, and their reporting needs.

EXTENDING OUR NETWORK. Building up a regional network of people who are interested in joining our community as A.) readers, as B.) supporters, or C.) active participants in our activities, involving those who could become local reporters for our journal.

INTERVIEWS. This task focuses on developing a more robust understanding regarding the news desert situation in Hajdú-Bihar County by conducting semi-structured in-depth interviews with people in our new extended regional network.

LOCAL JOURNALISM AWARD. Parallel to organising the OEMs we are announcing a local journalism prize for the best original articles written about current local issues. Applications are accepted from local citizens.

GRANT: € 18,260

ONLINE: <https://www.debreciner.hu/>

Media milestone in Croatian region of Lika: First-ever media app

The objective of this project is to develop a media app dedicated to Likaclub, a media outlet located in the Lika region of Croatia, which has been operating in the market for the last nine years and has a significant readership. The creation of the app aims to cater to the needs of local citizens residing in predominantly rural areas.

The app aims to provide relevant news, information, and content that directly serves the interests and concerns of the target audience. By focusing on the specific needs of the local community, the app will enhance access to regional media and foster a stronger sense of connection within the region.

The Likaclub team intends to utilise the funding to develop an app aimed at enhancing information dissemination within the rural areas of central Croatia. As the sole politically independent media outlet in the Lika region of Croatia, Likaclub plays a crucial role in providing relevant information to its citizens. The app development process will involve hiring a skilled app developer to create a user-friendly application accessible on smart devices. Additionally, the team will conduct app promotions and events, focused on enhancing media literacy among the local population. By creating the Likaclub app, the project seeks to fulfil the critical need for improved information flow and better serve the community's informational requirements.

GRANT: € 60,000

ONLINE: <https://likaclub.eu/>

Real news for Romania's media desert regions

The beneficiaries of this programme would be the communities of Moldova, Oltenia, and Southern Muntenia. These regions are characterised by widespread politically controlled corruption, significant social problems and few independent sources of information. These are the poorest and least educated regions in Romania, with wide disparities in access to quality education and where leaving school early is particularly common in rural areas (22.4 %) and among disadvantaged groups.

GRANT: € 28,050

ONLINE: <https://context.ro/>

Project Rhodopi: Empowering regional news for sustainable growth and civic participation

This project will help Xronos understand the needs of young university students and audiences above 70 years of age through market research, and train Xronos' personnel to tailor its content accordingly. It will also educate the target audiences by explaining to them the work of journalists and the value of local news, as well as providing them with free printed newspapers for a short period of time.

Xronos is a regional news group, active in the regional unit of Rhodopi (East Macedonia and Thrace Region, with about 105 thousand inhabitants). This is one of the poorest regions in the EU, with a declining and ageing population. It is also home to the Democritus University of Thrace. The project aims to help Xronos address the main contemporary challenges faced by local media in terms of readership and income, and support it in improving its business model and adapting its content to the needs of specific audiences.

More concretely, the project will bring Xronos closer to two particular target audiences: young readers, particularly students in the university faculties in Komotini, and seniors above 70 years of age who live in the sparsely inhabited areas outside the town of Komotini. Through market research, staff training and direct dialogue with its readers — which includes interactive workshops and free distribution of the printed newspaper for a limited time — the project aims to help Xronos grow sustainably, educate the target audiences by explaining to them the work of journalists and the value of local news, and empower local communities towards active civic participation.

GRANT: € 40,000

ONLINE: <https://xronos.gr/>

Quartiers connectés (Connected Neighbourhoods)

In some areas of Strasbourg, journalists are often assimilated with local powers, such as city government, police or public housing. With 'Quartiers connectés', the journalists of Rue89 Strasbourg meet with people from popular neighbourhoods and discuss their issues, without pressure, outside of any actual news agenda.

With the help of partners, flyers, posters, door-to-door visits and gatherings in these neighbourhoods, Rue89 Strasbourg is explaining what local journalism is about, focusing on its role as a service for the people. Once this is understood, journalists get to hear about ultra-local issues, generally topics that are completely ignored by mainstream media due to lack of experience and alerts from these areas. Regular journalism is then produced, but directly inspired by the experience, issues or testimonies from these areas.

As a result, popular neighbourhood residents understand that their voice can be heard, that their issues can make front-page stories, that journalists are not 'part of the system' but are on their side. They gain trust in local independent journalism and have a voice in the local public debate.

GRANT: € 25,000

ONLINE: <https://www.rue89strasbourg.com/>

The map of local community issues

We are a team of three journalists from different regions of Lithuania, who came together to facilitate the implementation of our ideas, one of which is to create an innovative map of local community issues. It would be hosted on our network of websites gyvenuKaune.lt, gyvenuJurbarko.lt, gyvenuPlungeje.lt and gyvenuNeringoje.lt. The interactive map would serve as an innovative tool for the communities to publicise their issues, and would therefore have the greatest impact in advocating for community interests and helping to address the concerns of particular groups of citizens of Kaunas, Jurbarkas, Plungė and Neringa.

The problem map we want to create would make it possible to publicise issues of concern to communities in an inclusive, fast and visually appealing way. It would also increase their visibility and encourage politicians and officials to find solutions faster. This would reinforce the fundamental democratic principle that government acts in the public interest.

We would also write articles for our websites based on the issues people raise, so this tool will provide communities with the opportunity to become initiators and co-creators of the content published on our websites, thus increasing public involvement in the production of journalistic content.

GRANT: € 33,500

ONLINE: <https://www.gyvenukaune.lt/>

A nossa gente (Our people!)

The readers of *Região de Cister* and the entire community of three municipalities will benefit from the project as it aims to show the day-to-day life of ordinary people and reach all social strata.

'A nossa gente' ('Our people') is a series of multimedia reports that will be published in the print and digital editions of *Região de Cister*. It consists of conducting interviews with ordinary people from our villages and towns. We aim to tell the life stories of farmers, fishermen, shopkeepers, teachers and individuals from various fields of activity who are everyday heroes. The objective is to highlight the communities of our three municipalities, emphasising individuals who, typically, would never make headlines in the news. Through their examples, we aim to show that local society is built by and for everyone.

Reporting will involve ordinary citizens, who will share their life stories and represent the local community. The interviews will result in significant journalistic articles that will be published through the print edition and the website of *Região de Cister*, accompanied by photography and audio. Once a month, a podcast featuring the highlights of these reports will be released.

GRANT: € 5,500

ONLINE: <https://regiaodecister.pt/>

Closer to migration — Czaban Robi Raban

The project aims to present the issue of migration on the Polish-Belarusian border to the residents of Podlasie in an accessible and inclusive way. It assumes the creation of a news website and the organisation of a series of meetings in border towns.

Target group

The main beneficiary will be the inhabitants of Podlasie, for whom an information portal with a newsletter will be prepared. Live meetings will be organised for local residents, during which documentary materials will be shown and a discussion will be held. These meetings are aimed at broadening horizons, introducing migration issues, opening space for discussions, expressing doubts and asking questions. The aim is also to promote the news portal as an alternative source of information.

GRANT: € 11,800

Always Kashubia — get to know more

The Kashubians are a distinctive ethno-regional group in Pomerania. Unfortunately, they are currently deprived of valuable independent local information. There are a few local media services but they are controlled by the party in power, which disrupts democracy and debate at the local level, human rights and creates an unequal situation in the media market. Our project aims to change this, to increase media pluralism locally, empowering Kashubians in the information desert, helping them construct their own narratives and giving them a voice in the public space.

We want to employ two reporters from northern Kashubia (Puck, Wejherowo) and central Kashubia (Kościerzyna, Kartuzy, Lębork), who will provide reliable information (without propaganda) from these parts of the voivodeship on a daily basis and publish it in a special section *Wiedno Kaszëbë* (Always Kashubia) on the portal www.zawszepomorze.pl and in the independent printed weekly *Zawsze Pomorze*. They will produce daily editorials from the six Kashubian counties, video reports, photo galleries and podcasts. Most of these will be promoted on social media, the website and the weekly newspaper. The same topics will be available in a variety of media and formats to reach as many Kashubian residents as possible. In addition, this new content can be editorial products sold to our advertisers. Residents of north and central Kashubia will have the opportunity to benefit from direct contact with our reporters, who will be on duty once a month in six Kashubian county towns. Once a month, they will be on duty for three hours so that residents/readers can report topics of importance to them, which we will take up and which will certainly not be covered by the party-controlled media. In this way, we will increase residents' access to an independent editorial board. We will also cooperate even more closely with local branches of the Kashubian- Pomeranian Association in Puck, Wejherowo, Kościerzyna, Kartuzy, Bytów and Lębork, in order to reach Kashubians, their problems but also the activities they undertake to preserve tradition and culture.

GRANT: € 25,000

ONLINE: <https://www.zawszepomorze.pl/>

Democratising investigations by video in Brittany

Our project involves producing videos. We have identified this medium as being an important audience vector for our audience. We want to make our investigations known to an audience who do not engage with the written press and long articles. The latest study carried out by the Reuters Institute and the University of Oxford shows that on a global scale, social networks have become the leading points of access to online information, ahead of websites and social networks.

In France, 34% of people surveyed say they obtained their information from social networks in 2023. This rate rises to 45% for the 18-34 age group. Facebook appears to be the preferred social network for consulting the news (36%), ahead of YouTube (23%). Among 18-24 year olds, Instagram (35%) is ahead of YouTube (26%). The spectacular growth of TikTok, used by 8% of French people for information (15% of 18-24-year-olds) confirms the importance of the online video medium. In a context of continued growth in use of digital content, but also of public loss of confidence in journalists and interest in information, it seems pragmatic to us to adapt to new consumption habits and new uses of information.

On the one hand, we want to disseminate our investigations to an increasingly wide audience, fulfilling the promise of carrying out impactful journalism. On the other hand, we want to offer our content on channels with little or no investment by traditional media in order to contribute to the urgent fight against disinformation and misinformation. Since the launch of Splann!, in 2021, we have invested in social networks. The media is now active almost daily on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and Mastodon. We recently ran an account on BlueSky for a total of 22 thousand subscribers. With the exception of BlueSky, all of these networks allow video streaming.

Until now our video production has remained anecdotal, due to the significant costs it requires. We were nevertheless able to experiment with certain short formats, such as survey summaries. Nearly three years after our creation, after a structuring phase which led to the creation of two permanent jobs and in the face of the urgency revealed by the media panorama, our associative structure (NGO) is preparing to develop a video strategy.

GRANT: € 22,350

ONLINE: <https://splann.org/>

Objective and quality information for everyone!

The project plans to improve and develop the information platform by expanding information dissemination channels (social networks). To achieve this goal, the aim is to create a new technical platform for both portals, connecting them to social networks, thereby making them accessible to a wider audience.

The project also aims to attract business consultants who will help draw up long-term development plans, including finding potential financial sources that can meet the demands of independent journalism, making it independent and objective. There are also plans to train staff on the latest technological capabilities and potentially increase the number of people involved in content creation.

GRANT: € 40,000

ONLINE: <https://www.jelgavniekiem.lv/> <https://www.novaja.lv/index.html>

The new era of Zasavje News

Slovenia's smallest and most underdeveloped region lacks adequate information services. Its population is elderly and poorly educated. We aim to reach readers age 60+ by redesigning our website to make it more accessible and user-friendly. We plan to add features for the visually impaired, making ZON.si more inclusive to the vulnerable. We will also develop a modern app compatible with all new and all old devices, targeting users aged 15-30. We will add different features and for the first time, establishing a direct link (chat) so the public can collaborate with and

make suggestions to our journalist. Workshops will enable the elderly to learn how to use websites and apps and we will add some modern features for young people. We follow a circular economy, focusing exclusively on digital content and making our site sustainable by adding more advertising space.

GRANT: € 23,150

ONLINE: <https://zon.si/>

Lublin more transparent

We plan to strengthen our financial independence by fundraising. We will introduce several improvements to the portal (easier commenting, text reader, live reports, accessibility for people with disabilities). We will engage readers to act (newsletter, anonymous reporting). We will strengthen the editorial office by purchasing equipment.

Target group

This project will benefit the inhabitants of Lublin and the surrounding area of the Lublin Voivodeship, who have no access to local, independent media, i.e. they are unable to effectively keep checks on politicians, especially in the pre-election period. People interested in what is happening in the city, region and local politics are usually young or middle-aged people, small entrepreneurs or freelancers.

Indirect recipients will be residents of Lublin interested in what is happening in the city, from local politics to the activities of officials. We estimate that during the project, 60 people will contact us asking for publicity, intervention or to report a local problem.

GRANT: € 27,698

ONLINE: <https://jawnylublin.pl/>

Audio dispatch: navigating the paths of information

The project converts written articles into dynamic audio content using text-to-speech technology. Our website and our news app will have an easily accessible audio section, as well as sections designed especially for mobile phones. We'll create a daily summary of top stories for time-strapped professionals on the move, so they can choose exactly the news or analysis they want to hear. Additionally, our weekly podcast will offer in-depth analysis and commentary.

GRANT: € 30,166

ONLINE: <https://www.monitorulbt.ro/>

What letter? Newsletter!

Creating a newsletter programme is a great way to secure another distribution channel for the original content created by our editorial team. Nowadays, almost 80% of visitors come from social media platforms, and we would like to raise the number of direct visitors, by creating a great newsletter. This way we can secure another channel of content distribution, in order to lower the effect of the social media algorithms. The aim of the project is to create another product for our readers, a product which can be successful only if it provides great content. Producing better content will require hiring a new journalist with experience for the team. With this new hire we will be able to cover a bigger geographical area, while still focusing on the local content.

GRANT: € 24,060

ONLINE: <https://uh.ro/>

Got news for us

The project aims to create a new tool for our website with the feel and look of a chat box, which will allow a new way to obtain relevant content for readers, increasing engagement with audiences specifically from news desert regions, verifying the relevance of the information obtained, combatting misinformation and improving the newsroom workflow, reducing time spent searching for information. One of the main advantages of the tool is that it creates a new way to obtain verified news content. With this tool, a semi-automated chatbot, users can submit content and/or verify the accuracy of information regarding where they live.

When accessing the tool, a chatbot will ask the user whether they wish to submit information and/or verify its veracity. With the questions asked by the chatbot, such as 'news location', 'time', 'description', or whether the user has photographs and/or videos related to the topic, the editorial team obtains sufficient elements to decide if they are receiving relevant content that can be published, after verification from the journalists with official sources. This functionality creates a new source of information and opens a 'door' to the population that has no direct access to media outlets where they live. It's a win-win kind of situation, because the newsroom is able to receive more information from municipalities where there are no journalists, and the public gains direct contact with a newsroom about what's happening in the area.

The tool will also have an information verification aspect. Users can use the tool to validate the information they submit. Based on a simple categorisation system, controlled by the team that receives the submissions, they are classified into four categories: 'for publication', 'for in-depth work', 'refused' or 'false information', with the user notified of the result of submission. This functionality thus plays an important role in combating misinformation, fake news and rumours.

GRANT: € 23,000

ONLINE: <https://www.sulinformacao.pt/>

Eliminating the news desert in Plock county by creating an innovative local news platform

The project also involves building a participation platform for informationally excluded residents, which will enable the local community to be activated by creating a zone for citizen authors (Community Leaders Zone).

As part of the project, we want to challenge problems and eliminate the information desert in a community inhabited by 90 thousand people. We will build a media platform with information important for the local community, which will be based on two main foundations. The first is an information sub-portal dedicated to the community, containing quality local information prepared by a professional journalistic team. The platform will discuss important social topics, including issues relating to refugees, ecology and attitudes of tolerance and social understanding. We will also promote pro-democratic and pro-participatory attitudes here. The second aspect is a citizen journalist/influencer zone (Community Leaders Zone). This special zone will be created within the information sub-portal, where information and articles prepared by citizen journalists, local leaders and influencers from the information desert area will be posted. The zone will be animated by a dedicated Community Manager. An additional element will be a closed Facebook group, available only to citizen authors.

Before launching the sub-portal and Community Leader Zone, a series of detailed focus studies will be carried out in the area of the news desert, which will allow for the collection of data on the needs of the local community and the effective development of an information strategy. The strategy itself will include, among other things, an editorial plan, a plan for building a community around the information product, rules for obtaining and publishing content from citizen journalists, as well as topics related to the promotion of the project and technical issues, and last but not least, sustainable development of the product after the completion of the project.

We are convinced that the implementation of the project in the plock district will bring huge benefits to the local community and will enable the construction of a sustainable model of local news in this type of area.

GRANT: € 38,250

ONLINE: <https://portalplock.pl/>

Participatory journalism for the peripheries and community building

Through a series of workshops, participants will have the opportunity to learn the principles of journalistic work and try them out in practice. The project targets the general public with a special focus on students, seniors and minorities, such as representatives of the Roma community, so that each of these publicly underrepresented groups has a voice.

Over the next six months, a series of workshops called the Journalism Simulator will be held for a group of people interested in journalism. Under the guidance of professional journalists, participants will gain an insight into creating content for news media, learn the principles of journalistic work and, most importantly, try out the job in practice. Media training with a focus on disinformation will also be an integral part of the workshops. The outcome of the project is an increase in the number of regular contributors to the NB website, better coverage of events in the region, as well as promoting active citizenship. The second part of the project is community building, which aims to connect the NB website with cultural actors, organisers of sports and community events, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders in order to create lasting cooperation. This will increase the visibility of NB and its readership.

GRANT: € 30,000

ONLINE: <https://nase.broumovsko.cz/>

Enhancing democratic dialogue in Mostecko

This project could benefit almost any resident of the region who is interested in independent opinions and analyses that do not directly serve local interest groups. A special group of users is the local Romani population, whose problems in this region have been the focus of Alarm's editorial staff for a long and continuous period.

The local branch of Alarm aims to regularly cover all the pressing issues of the region, with an emphasis on topics that we have been addressing for a long time, especially the living standards of the most vulnerable segments of society, combating discrimination and enhancing the social life of marginalised groups, social and economic inequalities, the housing crisis, the climate crisis and the just transition of areas historically dependent on mining. The Mostecko micro-region is unique in that all these crises intersect there. It is for this reason that it will be a suitable test area for our longer-term project and will also illustrate the differences between reporting on these topics from the national capital and how this work will be transformed by a constant editorial presence in the region.

Independent reporting on local issues and local government policy, with the ambition of highlighting the problematic aspects of government policy, is virtually non-existent in the region. For this reason, it is important that quality journalism, operating in the public interest, is systematically extended to these areas.

GRANT: € 25,000

ONLINE: <https://a2larm.cz/>

7Montes — value local identity and community networks in Trás-os-Montes

Following the national-level success of the existing 7MARGENS publication, this public will now be served with a free news service focused on understanding and framing events from an identity-

building perspective. This will ensure the delivery of the same unique proposal of free, high-quality content, a sense of belonging to the project and reader-based donations, in this local region.

Another huge existing gap for users, is the inability of the news to travel the last mile to reach isolated communities due to the limitations or costs of physical newspapers or digital direct interactions. This project will solve this gap by using human relationship networks to share easily accessible audio content or texts. To do this, our news and audio content will have versions ready for more basic digital devices, for example, able to be shared as a WhatsApp or audio messages, as well as text messages for non-smartphones.

GRANT: € 30,000

ONLINE: <https://setemargens.com/>

Building a local network

Creating a network of local journalists who conduct in-depth, fearless investigations will empower citizens in small communities to become more involved at all levels of society. Local communities living in media deserts are the main beneficiaries. Local areas are haunted these days by fake news and misinformation, so it is of prime importance to provide a credible source to gain the attention of those seeking valid information.

We will form joint teams of local journalists and students and will produce investigations for local and national audiences at our standards. We will train the students and the selected journalists and we will offer them our knowledge, tools, database access, lawyers, fact-checking and editing. We will organise regular, ongoing consultations with civil society to understand the most pressing issues in their communities.

GRANT: € 30,000

ONLINE: <https://www.riseproject.ro/>

We invest in democracy

The project aims to grant a financial boost to an independent title which is facing several difficulties in the current challenging market situation (inflation, continuing price rises for paper and printing, rising costs of transportation and distribution). A web platform will give us a chance to generate additional revenues from advertising, publication of sponsored materials and the sale of e-editions. Declining revenues from the sales of the paper edition are not sufficient to develop our online platform. Meanwhile, *Tygodnik Siedlecki* and its website are proud to provide the local communities with news that presents an unbiased view of reality (and this is rarely the case in our region). We want and feel obliged to provide young people with access to a resilient online community because they are becoming less and less likely to use the paper version of the newspaper. We have to grant them access to a timely, constant and reliable source of information. Funding will enable us to recruit a WordPress specialist who will deal with many of the ongoing problems, upgrading and optimising. The website has been adapted to work on WordPress environment very recently.

GRANT: € 7,750

ONLINE: <https://www.tygodniksiedlecki.com/>

Accessible and unbiased news for the marginalised local communities and news deserts in the Ruse region

The measures aimed to improve the technical state of the website www.briag.bg will significantly contribute to increasing the audience in the communities, members of which usually do not actively engage with media content.

The project 'Accessible, reliable and unbiased content for the audience of Briag Media Group EOOD in marginalised local communities and news deserts' aims to provide quality media services for the people of the communities who often encounter difficulties in accessing news and information. Specific activities and results: Activity 1: research and analysis; Activity 2: website platform improvement; Activity 3: training and support for journalist staff. The results will be measured by specific metrics — reading figures, engagement and audience feedback. The project will use digital marketing and search engine optimisation to increase the reach of the information to a wider audience. The project's sustainability will be ensured through flexible funding, partnerships and audience retention.

GRANT: € 25,700

ONLINE: <https://www.briag.bg/>

Local news to every village!

With the upgrade of Ovtar24.si, we aim to broaden our readership and improve the service we provide to our audience, including readers, listeners, and viewers. By introducing new features and concepts, we intend to enhance media literacy through our discussion events. We will also foster participation in local events with the *My News* web interface, giving a voice to those who have been underrepresented. At the same time, this interface will offer us deeper insights into local events in Slovenske Gorice. To achieve our goals, we will produce video content and podcasts to reach a wider audience and encourage critical thinking. Our platform will address local issues and share inspirational stories often overlooked by mainstream media. The *My News* web interface will promote active citizenship, allowing readers to contribute to local journalism, leading to better-informed and engaged readers. Through public debates, we aim to stimulate critical thinking about media, media literacy, and community involvement. These efforts will enhance Ovtar24.si's reputation as a source of quality and up-to-date media information.

GRANT: € 40,000

ONLINE: <https://www.ovtar24.si/>

Okraj — investigative and analytical newsroom in the Moravian-Silesian region

With expertise in innovative formats like data journalism, OSINT or podcasts, we will enrich our offerings for those who live in the Moravian-Silesian region and possess a genuine interest in their local surroundings and a strong desire to foster positive change within the region.

We are a collective of experienced journalists who have extensively covered regional concerns at a national level over the years. With a common background in this locality, we collectively recognise the pronounced demand for high-calibre investigative and analytical journalism. This shared recognition has propelled us towards a shared objective: the establishment of a regional newsroom in the Moravian-Silesian region, which is one of the largest and most important regions in the country, it is an economic, political and industrial centre.

Despite that, the local population is poorly informed and the powerful are hardly controlled by the watchdogs of democracy, journalists. There is a noticeable gap in terms of quality investigative and analytical regional media. This deficiency hinders systematic and nuanced investigation of the region's many problems, and thus prevents the visibility that is necessary for local civil society to effectively address and solve these problems. In direct response to this gap, the establishment of the non-profit newsroom, Okraj, emerges as a transformative prospect. Okraj aspires to extend high-quality, autonomous journalism to both the region and its inhabitants.

GRANT: € 38,000

ONLINE: <https://www.okraj.cz/>

