



# EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATIONS

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#DigitalEU

In December 2020, the Commission presented two policy roadmaps to support media and democracy: the [European Democracy Action Plan \(EDAP\)](#) and the [Media and Audiovisual Action Plan \(MAAP\)](#). The MAAP included a [News Initiative](#), bringing all support actions for the news media sectors under a common banner. These sectors receive increased attention in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



Media Freedom  
and Pluralism



Collaboration  
and innovation



Media  
resilience



Access to  
information on  
EU Affairs



Engaging with  
the media  
sector

## Funding opportunities

The European Union wants to **promote a free, diverse and pluralistic media environment** and to **contribute to the viability of professional journalism and media**. EU financial support for news media organisations amounts to roughly **€50 million per year**, leaving aside support to research projects and efforts to reduce disinformation.

The EU actions usually call for **projects addressing challenges common to EU Member States** (e.g. increasing the economic resilience of news media, addressing news deserts, etc) or that **enhance media pluralism and public debate** (e.g. investigative journalism, community media, media for migrants, independent coverage of EU affairs, etc).

“Projects” are initiatives working on **editorial aspects** (e.g. joint news reporting) or **business aspects** (testing business models, sharing best practices, etc.). They are usually managed by media consortia.

Beneficiaries retain **full editorial independence** in all grants signed with the European Commission.



The tables below show examples of calls launched and the awarded projects. These funding opportunities come from different instruments, such as established EU programmes and budget lines (Creative Europe, Multimedia Actions, Horizon Europe), as well as yearly Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions at the request of the European Parliament. They usually take the form of **open calls for proposals**, resulting in grants that last on average 1 to 2 years.



## PROTECTING MEDIA FREEDOM AND PLURALISM

Funding support	Programme	Budget	Awarded project
Media Pluralism Monitor	Creative Europe	€ 1.1 million	<a href="#">European University Institute Florence</a>
Rapid response mechanism to violations of press and media freedom	Creative Europe	€ 3.1 million	The <a href="#">European Centre for Press and Media Freedom</a>
Press and media councils in the digital age	Creative Europe	€ 1 million	Consortium led by <a href="#">Fundación Blanquerna</a>
Journalism Partnerships: pluralism	Creative Europe	€ 7 million (2023) € 5 million (2024)	<a href="#">Four projects supported</a> (2023) 2024 call under evaluation
Supporting local and regional news media in face of emerging news deserts	Pilot Project	€ 2 million	<a href="#">Local Media for Democracy</a> led by the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)
European Union – media freedom hub (Free Media Hub EAST)	Pilot project	€ 3 million	<a href="#">Consortium led by the Prague Civil Society Centre</a>
European Festival of Journalism and Media Information Literacy	Pilot project	€ 0.8 million	<a href="#">Voices</a>



## COLLABORATION, INNOVATION

## & MEDIA RESILIENCE



Funding support	Programme	Budget	Current beneficiary
Journalism Partnerships: collaborations	Creative Europe	€ 5 million (2023) € 6 million (2024)	<a href="#">Four projects supported</a> (2023) 2024 call under evaluation
Media Innovation	Horizon Europe	€ 26 million	<a href="#">Four projects supported</a>
A data space for media	Digital Europe	€ 8 million	<a href="#">A consortium led by Innovalia</a>
European media platforms	Preparatory Action	€ 6 million (2022) € 6 million (2023)	<a href="#">Three projects supported</a> (2022) 2023 call under evaluation
Citizen-facing European TV and Video News Portal	Pilot Project	€ 2.5 million	Under evaluation



## ACCESS TO INFORMATION INCLUDING ON EU AFFAIRS

Funding support	Programme	Budget	Current beneficiary
Coverage of EU affairs through a radio network	Multimedia Actions	€ 4.4 million	<a href="#">Euranet Plus</a>
European Media Hubs	Multimedia Actions	€ 8 million	<a href="#">Three projects supported</a> (2023)
Media representation and inclusion for refugees and migrants	Pilot project	€ 0,5 million	<a href="#">MigraVoice</a>
Media Literacy	Creative Europe	€ 2 million (yearly)	<a href="#">Seven projects supported</a> (2023) 2024 call under evaluation
A new online media offer for young Europeans	Preparatory Action	€ 9 million (yearly)	<a href="#">Four consortia supported</a> (2022) 2023 call under evaluation
Pan-European audiovisual reporting	Multimedia Actions	€ 11 million (2024)	2024 call under evaluation
Information measures relating to the EU Cohesion policy	Information Measures for the EU Cohesion Policy Programme	€ 7 million	2023 call under evaluation



## Open and upcoming calls in 2024

- [Media Ownership Monitoring System](#) (€0,5 million)
- [EU audio reporting](#) (€4.5 million)
- [EU digital reporting](#) (€5 million)
- Technical means to provide Russian households with trustworthy information (€2,6 million, publication expected in Q2 2024)
- A European public sphere: a new online media offer for young Europeans (€ 9 million, publication expected in Q4 2024)
- European Festival of Journalism and Media Freedom (€3 million, publication expected in Q4 2024)
- Information measures for the EU Cohesion policy (€3.5 million publication expected in Q4 2024)
- The European Union – the media freedom hub (€ 2,9 million, publication expected in Q1 2025)

In addition to the initiatives presented in this document, the Commission has put in place a [wide variety of actions](#) to fight disinformation and will support information measures of the EU cohesion policy for 2024 (information will be published in Q4 2024).

## Related content

- + [Discover the EU's News initiative](#)
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