



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 since 2021. 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	Current project/consortium
Media Pluralism Monitor	Creative Europe	€ 2.2 million	European University Institute Florence
Rapid response mechanism to violations of press and media freedom	Creative Europe	€ 3.1 million	The European Centre for Press and Media Freedom
Press and media councils in the digital age	Creative Europe	€ 1 million	Consortium led by Fundacion Blanquerna
Journalism Partnerships: pluralism (2023)	Creative Europe	€ 5 million	Under evaluation
Media Ownership Monitoring System	Pilot Project	€ 0,5 million	Consortium led by the Paris-Lodron Universität Salzburg
Supporting local and regional news media in face of emerging news deserts	Pilot Project	€ 2 million	Local Media for Democracy led by the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)
Cross-border investigative journalism	Pilot Project	€ 1.8 million	Investigative journalism for EU
European Union – media freedom hub	Pilot project	€ 3 million	Consortium led by the Prague Civil Society Centre
European Festival of Journalism and Media Information literacy	Pilot project	€ 1 million	Under evaluation



COLLABORATION, INNOVATION

& MEDIA RESILIENCE



Funding support	Programme	Budget	Current beneficiary
Journalism Partnerships: collaborations (2021 and 2022)	Creative Europe	€ 8 million (2021) € 14 million (2022)	Seven projects (2021) and 12 projects awarded (2022) supporting sector-wide, cross-border collaboration.
Journalism Partnerships: collaborations (2023)	Creative Europe	€ 5 million	Under evaluation
Media Innovation	Horizon Europe	€ 26 million	Four projects addressing data and new media applications.
A data space for media	Digital Europe	€ 8 million	Under evaluation
European media platforms (2022)	Preparatory Action	€ 6 million	Three projects setting up or improving media platforms.



ACCESS TO INFORMATION INCLUDING ON EU AFFAIRS

Funding support	Programme	Budget	Current beneficiary
Pan-EU TV Programming in multiple languages	Multimedia Actions	€ 14.5 million	Euronews
Coverage of EU affairs through a radio network	Multimedia Actions	€ 4.4 million	Euranet Plus
Data-driven news on EU affairs	Multimedia Actions	€ 1.4 million	European Data Journalism Network & European Data News Hub
Multilingual content across European platforms	Multimedia Actions	€ 1.76 million	The European newsroom of press agencies
Media literacy	Creative Europe	€ 2 million (2022) € 2 million (2023)	Six projects (2022). 2023 call under evaluation
A new online media offer for young Europeans (2022)	Preparatory Action	€ 9 million	Four consortia explain current affairs for youth
Representation and inclusion for refugees and migrants	Pilot project	€ 0,5 million	Under evaluation

Open and upcoming calls in 2023

- [European Media Hubs](#) (€ 8 million, open until 25 September 2023)
- [European Media Platforms 2023](#) (€ 6 million, open until 18 October 2023)
- [Citizen-facing tv and video news portal for streaming, search and translation by public and private media](#) (€ 2,5 million, open until 30 September 2023)
- A European public sphere: a new online media offer for young Europeans (€ 9 million, launch expected in September)
- Information measures on cohesion policy (new call expected in October)

In addition to the initiatives presented in this document, the Commission has put in place a [wide variety of actions](#) to fight disinformation.

Related content

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