



European | **MEDIA AND INFORMATION** | Fund

Information Session on Open Calls

16 February 2022

4 OPEN CALLS

BOOSTING FACT- CHECKING ACTIVITIES

**Permanent call with 3
yearly funding rounds**

**First round closes on
2 March 2022**

MULTIDISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS ON DISINFORMATION

One call each year

**Current call open until
29 April 2022**

RESEARCH INTO MEDIA, DISINFORMATION AND INFORMATION LITERACY

One call each year

**Current call open until
29 April 2022**

MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY

One call each year





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29 April 2022**

COMMON PRINCIPLES

- Attracting proposals that are **innovative** (no “business-as-usual” projects) and have a multiplier effect.
- Eligible activities are defined in a manner that preserve the **editorial or scientific independence** of the beneficiaries
- Fundable projects are **tailored to the absorption capacity and operational abilities** of eligible beneficiaries (diversified operations to cater for small, medium and larger projects)
- Ensuring a **wide geographic coverage** (minimum 12 European countries each year), while supporting projects that foster diversity and help building networks of specialists at national and EU levels
- Providing for **agile and flexible funding mechanisms** to keep up the pace with fast-evolving disinformation narratives and manipulation tactics, and allow monitoring of events as they unfold
- Effectively **helping EDMO to raise public awareness** by populating its web portal with updated fact-checks, thematic situation reports, studies and media literacy material (non-exclusive licenses required from grantees)





BOOSTING FACT CHECKING ACTIVITIES

Rationale: Most fact-checking organisations have limited resources to scale-up or integrate new skills in newsrooms (e.g. data analysts), and still struggle to establish cooperative links across organisations to increase coverage and improve accuracy and timeliness of fact-checks

 Objectives	 Eligible Entities	 Project Size/Duration	 Eligible Activities
<p>Urgent Actions.</p> <p>To increase coverage, accuracy and speed of fact-checking activities by organisations that commit to produce regular flows of fact-checks in response to critical events or in topical areas of public interest, affecting one or more European countries</p> <p>Scale-up Projects</p> <p>To support free-lance collaborations within fact-checking newsrooms (with journalists, field experts, data analysts, etc.) and/or use of state-of-the-art technologies for content verification and media and social media monitoring</p>	<p>All legal entities employing fact-checkers, excluding State-controlled entities and profit-making organisations other than small-sized fact-checking and media organisations (up to 50 employees, and up to € 10 million turnover or € 10 million total balance sheet)</p> <p>Excluded entities may take part in the projects at their own costs or via sub-contracting</p> <p>No need to constitute a consortium. In case of consortia, news media organisations, including for-profit entities of any status or size, are eligible under certain conditions</p>	<p>Urgent Actions: grants up to € 55 K to projects with a max duration of 6 months</p> <p>Scale-up Projects: grants up to € 80 K to projects with a max duration of 12 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Journalistic investigations and fact-checking activities, ◦ Production of original content in the form of articles (fact-checks), ◦ Awareness and dissemination actions, including conferences, seminars, events, ◦ Actions aiming at the creation and improvement of networks, ◦ Exchanges of good practices and uptake of innovative technologies ◦ Additional human resources in newsrooms and usage of innovative tools





MULTIDISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS

Rationale: Need to plug the existing knowledge gap on the scale and scope of disinformation in Europe by supporting the production of situation analyses using trans-disciplinary approaches (Focus Reports) in line with EDMO's Research Agenda, and with a view to strengthening a EU-relevant evidence-base about the dynamics and

 Objectives	 Eligible Entities	 Project Size/Duration	 Eligible Activities
<p>“Follow-the Money” Investigations: focus on the mechanisms that enable the monetisation of online disinformation, including the role of advertising platforms, influencers and other funding channels.</p> <p>Media literacy Reports: focus on mapping concrete media literacy initiatives in Europe, describing their actions and methodological approaches, and evaluating their impact.</p> <p>Threat Analyses: focus on the tactics and techniques commonly applied by purveyors of disinformation to manipulate information and artificially amplify its reach and speed of propagation online</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Non-profit organisations, including public service media; ◦ Universities; ◦ Educational institutions; ◦ Research centres; ◦ Non-governmental organisations; ◦ Media Literacy organisations ◦ For-profit fact-checkers, news media organisations and technology providers of any status and size, on certain conditions <p>Obligation to constitute a consortium</p> <p>Excluded entities may take part in the projects at their own costs or via sub-contracting</p>	<p>Projects applying to this Call should have a maximum duration of 12 months and can benefit from a grant of up to € 130 000.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Acquisition and analysis of existing research, fact-checking materials and datasets; ◦ Production, distribution and adaptation in different languages of reports and analyses; ◦ Awareness-raising actions, including conferences, seminars, and events, and dissemination activities; ◦ Usage of relevant innovative tools; ◦ Social media campaigns; ◦ Creation and improvement of networks and exchanges of good practices





RESEARCH INTO MEDIA AND DISINFORMATION

Rationale: Need to enhance public understanding of the disinformation phenomenon in all its facets, explore and expose new systemic risks of the online information ecosystem and evaluate policy responses, while identifying possible innovative paths for effective countermeasures.

 Objectives	 Eligible Entities	 Project Size/Duration	 Eligible Activities
<p>Relevant research topics. Applicants are invited to present proposals :</p> <p>addressing on one or more of the research areas listed in EDMO's Scientific Focus, taking into account the specific information environment in the targeted geography</p> <p>combining perspectives from different disciplines and deploy new scientific methodologies,</p> <p>laying out standards for better understanding social harms linked to disinformation,</p> <p>applying innovative analytical approaches and remedial measures within relevant testing environments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Non-profit organisations, including public service media; ◦ Universities; ◦ Educational institutions; ◦ Research centres; ◦ Non-governmental organisations; ◦ For-profit fact-checkers, news media organisations and technology providers of any status and size, on certain conditions <p>Obligation to constitute a consortium</p> <p>Excluded entities may take part in the projects at their own costs or via sub-contracting</p>	<p>Projects applying to this Call should have a maximum duration of 18 months and can benefit from a grant of up to € 400 000.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Research activities, including data collection and analytics; ◦ Production of original content in the form of studies, analyses, mapping projects; ◦ Creation and use of testing environments (sandboxes) to experiment with relevant solutions to counter disinformation; ◦ Creation and improvement of networks and exchanges of good practices; ◦ Usage of innovative tools to improve the analysis of systemic risks within specific media ecosystems; ◦ Awareness-raising and dissemination actions, including conferences, seminars, events

MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY

Rationale: Need to to enhance public understanding of the disinformation phenomenon in all its facets, explore and expose new systemic risks of the online information ecosystem and evaluate policy responses, while identifying possible innovative paths for effective countermeasures.

 Objectives	 Eligible Entities	 Project Size/Duration	 Eligible Activities
<p>Media Literacy initiatives grounded on innovative approaches, building on best practices, or scaling up previous experiences with successful track-record. This includes:</p> <p>the design of replicable trainings for school teachers and/or educators active in out-of-school contexts (“training-the-trainers”)</p> <p>the development of multi-lingual materials targeted at specific age, linguistic and/or cultural groups,</p> <p>the development of strategies and tools to help social media users to identify disinformation, promote the use of fact-checking services and reporting,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Non-profit organisations, including public service media; ◦ Media Literacy organisations ◦ Universities; ◦ Educational institutions; ◦ Research centres; ◦ Non-governmental organisations; ◦ For-profit fact-checkers, news media organisations and technology providers of any status and size, on certain conditions <p>Obligation to constitute a consortium</p> <p>Excluded entities may take part in the projects at their own costs or via sub-contracting</p>	<p>Projects applying to this Call should have a maximum duration of 18 months and can benefit from a grant of up to € 400 000.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Production, distribution and adaptation to different linguistic and cultural contexts of original educational materials; ◦ Training activities, as well as awareness-raising actions, including conferences, seminars, events; ◦ Development of innovative tools fostering a critical use of digital media; ◦ Identification of best practices and efficient dissemination activities; ◦ Promotion of social media campaigns; ◦ Creation and improvement of networks and uptake of innovative methodologies

GENERAL GUIDANCE

Applicants should **carefully consider which call fits best their profile**: Simultaneous applications to several calls are not allowed (NB: specific rules apply to fact-checking projects)

Before submitting a proposal, applicants should thoroughly check **all the relevant standards**, namely:

- Eligibility criteria
- Operational capacity
- Financial capacity
- Exclusion criteria

Selection criteria are specific to each call, but are grouped under four common categories:

- Relevance
- Quality of content and activities
- Project management
- Dissemination