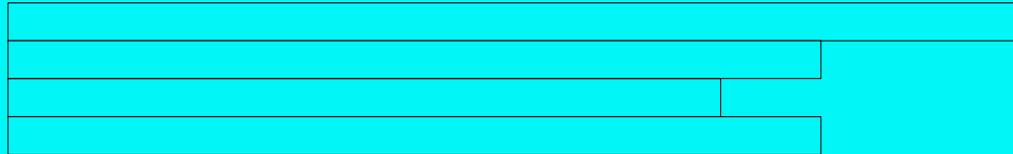
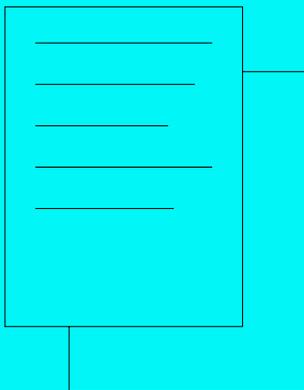


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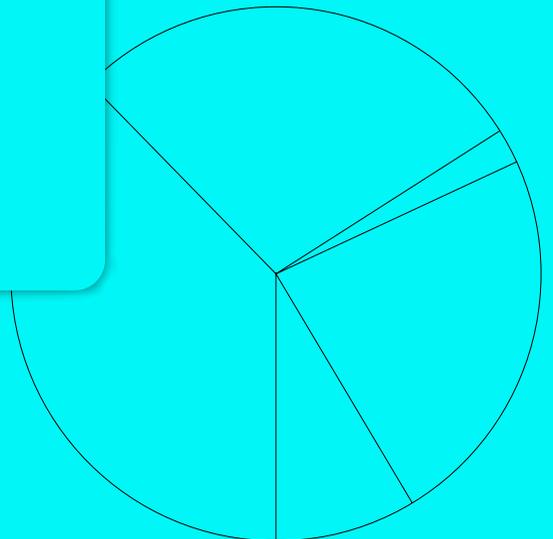
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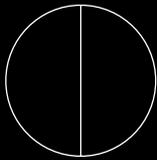


PROGRESS REPORT



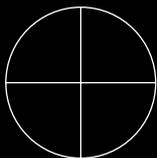
European
**MEDIA AND
INFORMATION**
Fund





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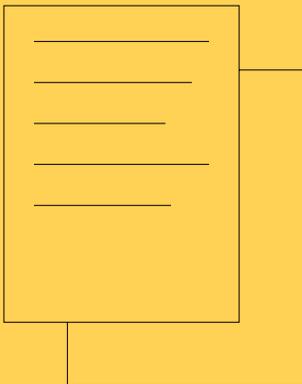
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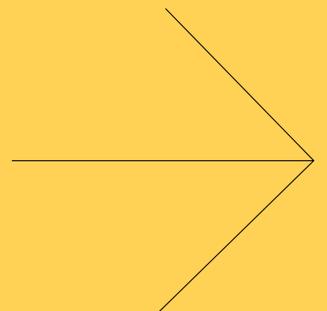
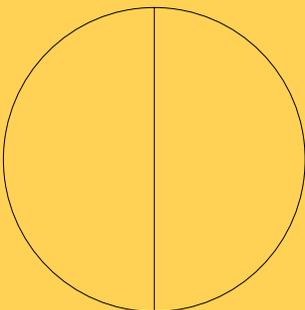
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**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
2021-2022**



MANAGEMENT *Report*





1

INTRODUCTION

Established as a partnership between the European University Institute (EUI) and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (CGF) in March 2021, the European Media and Information Fund (EMIF) is entrusted with the task of providing, under the scientific guidance of the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO), targeted financial support to fact-checking organisations, news media, research institutions, media literacy practitioners and civil society actors, for projects designed to foster a more trustworthy and resilient digital information ecosystem in Europe.

Successive waves of orchestrated disinformation campaigns, throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, have underscored the pressing need, in Europe, for a whole-of-society response to media manipulations and influence operations distorting the public discourse and eroding democratic values. The EMIF's mission is to address such a need, thereby contributing to the achievement of more general public policy goals and EU-wide actions to tackle disinformation.

This Management Report provides an overview of the activities deployed by the EMIF between 25 March 2021 and 24 March 2022.

As explained in detail in the following sections, the activities developed during the initial launch phase focused on the setting up of the EMIF's management and operational structures, as well as its general intervention framework. These activities included the definition and adoption of internal management rules to ensure compliance with applicable laws, the fairness and transparency of operations, independence and the absence of potential conflicts of interest in decision-making processes. Moreover, the Fund's annual budget was adopted, and a number of communication and dissemination initiatives, including the design and activation launching of the EMIF website, newsletters and information events, were carried out in order to build the EMIF's brand



and visibility. Furthermore, the EMIF published an implementation framework clarifying its guiding principles and scope of action.

In a second phase, the EMIF started its funding operations and, between October 2021 and January 2022, launched four Calls for Proposals, covering all its priority areas of intervention:

ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF FACT-CHECKING ✕

An open and permanent Call for this intervention area was published with a view to addressing, through successive funding rounds, the challenges currently faced by many fact-checking organisations in Europe, whose limited resources still hinder their ability to scale up or integrate new skills and technologies in their newsrooms and thereby increase the coverage, accuracy and timeliness of fact checks.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS ON DISINFORMATION ✕

A specific Call was published with a view to plugging the current knowledge gap regarding the scale and scope of disinformation in Europe. By boosting the production of focus reports and case-specific situation analyses, projects coming under this funding window are expected to provide deeper insights into concrete disinformation campaigns, different forms and techniques of media manipulation and their impact on target audiences.

ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MEDIA LITERACY ✕

In a digital information space where social media play an increasingly critical role, citizens need to be equipped with the necessary skills to fully understand the mechanisms that shape online interactions amongst users and thus be able to take part in the public discourse in a meaningful way. Media literacy skills, including the ability to think critically and assess the trustworthiness of information shared through social media, are therefore key in fostering civic behaviour in online environments. A specific Call for this intervention area is expected to catalyse best practices and stimulate new initiatives in this field.

RESEARCH - STUDIES AND SANDBOXES ✕

A Call for larger projects was issued in order to incentivise in-depth research and data-driven analyses, as well as the development and testing of new methodological approaches. The ultimate aim is to enhance scientific knowledge and public understanding around the disinformation phenomenon, explore and expose relevant systemic risks, evaluate policy responses, and identify effective countermeasures.

Moreover, right after the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the EMIF swiftly reacted by issuing a special funding round in February 2022 within the “Boosting Fact-Checking Activities” Call for Proposals to support fact-checking projects responding to this unprecedented situation.

All these activities, which are described in greater detail in the present report, are meant to further EDMO’s broader mission by strengthening a Europe-wide multi-stakeholder community engaged in research, journalistic investigations and educational initiatives, such as the enhancement of citizens’ awareness about the dynamics and evolving threats of disinformation, in synergy with EDMO’s National Hubs.

Looking ahead, the EMIF will continue its fund-raising endeavours with a view to attracting additional and diversified contributions, such as sustaining its philanthropic aims and enhancing the impact of its future activities.





2

EMIF'S GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2.1 *EMIF's Core Structure*

The European Media and Information Fund was established by the European University Institute and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

The Management Committee is the Fund's decision-making body and comprises three members: a representative of the CGF, who chairs the Committee; an independent member appointed by the EUI; and an independent expert appointed jointly by the EUI and the CGF. The first two members were appointed during the reporting period, and the third representative was appointed in April 2022. The Management Committee establishes the Fund's action methods, validates all necessary measures to guide the Fund's activities, designates beneficiaries and determines potential partners.

The Fund is managed by the CGF, which ensures its day-to-day management and executes the decisions taken by the EMIF's Management Committee. A management support unit – the EMIF Unit – was created at the Foundation and operates under the supervision of the Chair of the Management Committee.

The formation is planned of a Steering Committee providing general guidance and oversight to the Management Committee, notably by overseeing the external independent review and evaluation of the Fund's activities. This Committee will be chaired by a representative of the EUI. It is composed of representatives of the EUI and the CGF, representatives of other Foundations recognised for their work on matters of importance for the news media sector, media and information liter-



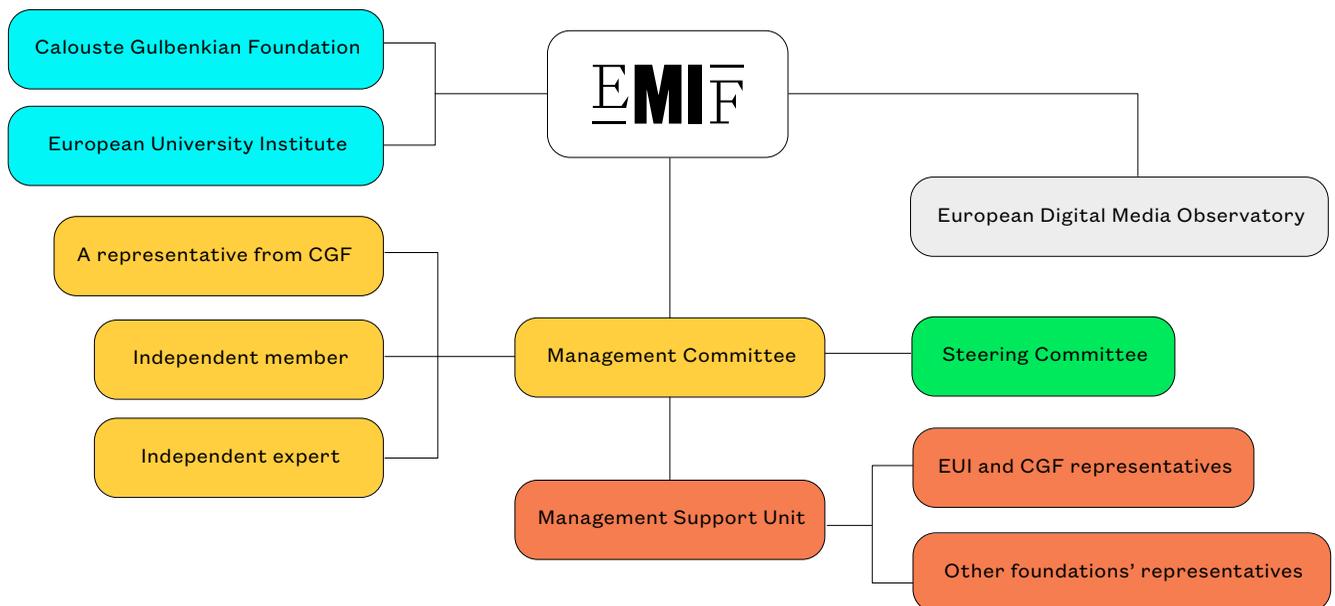
acy and societal resilience and/or EU policies, as well as other renowned experts. The Steering Committee had not yet been established at the end of the current reporting period.

The EUI is responsible for coordinating academic oversight and the dissemination of project findings to academics, specialists, policy-makers and the general public.

The European Digital Media Observatory acts as a scientific advisor to the EMIF. In March 2021, EDMO agreed to provide scientific advice to the Fund, on condition that it would be allowed to perform its role in complete independence from the Fund and its donors.

In particular, EDMO’s Scientific Focus provides a framework to guide the scientific priorities of the EMIF’s interventions in all relevant areas, with a view to addressing the phenomenon of online disinformation in Europe. Moreover, based on EDMO’s Scientific Focus, EDMO’s Advisory Board sets the scientific priorities for the EMIF’s interventions in funding “Multidisciplinary Investigations on Disinformation”, “Research – Studies & Sandboxes”, and “Actions in Support of Media Literacy”. The Chairs of EDMO’s Advisory Board and Executive Board are responsible for validating the Call texts ahead of publication. The EUI is not allowed to participate in Calls for Proposals organised by the Fund.

EDMO advises on the evaluation process and selects experts to serve as evaluators, ensuring complete independence and relevant competence for each of the EMIF’s intervention areas.





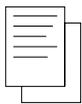
EMIF'S GOALS, PRIORITIES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT POLICY

The European Media and Information Fund pursues objectives of public interest and provides grants, awarded on a competitive basis, to research, fact-checking and news media organisations, as well as to not-for-profit organisations and other public interest-oriented bodies with a solid track record in research into disinformation, fact-checking, investigative journalism and media literacy.

The EMIF supports independent fact-checking and media literacy initiatives, thematic investigations and in-depth research projects to foster a more resilient and fact-based digital information ecosystem in Europe.

The EMIF conducts its funding activities in a way that is consistent with, and complementary to, EDMO's overall mission, which is to bring together a multidisciplinary community of fact-checkers, media literacy experts and academic researchers in order to foster a better understanding and analysis of disinformation, in collaboration with news media, civil society organisations and online platforms

The EMIF four priority areas of intervention are:



ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF FACT-CHECKING



To strengthen new and established, independent fact-checking organisations.



MULTIDISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS ON DISINFORMATION



To support activities designed to reduce the impact of disinformation, including in electoral processes.



RESEARCH - STUDIES & SANDBOXES



To fund academic research into media, disinformation, and information literacy across the region



ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MEDIA LITERACY



To strengthen media literacy initiatives and critical thinking across the region.

EMIF strives to have a balanced weight in the Fund-supported activities for these four areas.



KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE EMIF'S INTERVENTION

The key principles of the EMIF's funding mechanism are:

- + Attract and support innovative proposals with a multiplier effect (e.g., scalable approaches to disinformation detection, analysis, and exposure; networked knowledge exchanges; solid dissemination plans that foster information sharing and follow-on research).
- + Support activities in a manner that preserves the editorial and scientific independence of the beneficiaries. Projects should be focused on specific aims and expected outcomes.
- + Tailor the size of fundable projects to eligible beneficiaries' absorption capacity and operational abilities. The EMIF's funding operations will cater for small, medium, and larger projects.
- + Ensure a comprehensive geographic coverage (minimum of 12 Member States each year) while supporting projects that foster diversity and help build networks of specialists at national and EU levels. Given the diversity and specific vulnerabilities of national information environments, the EMIF shall fund a comprehensive and well-balanced portfolio of projects.
- + Provide for agile and flexible funding mechanisms to enable operations that keep pace with fast-evolving disinformation narratives and manipulation tactics and allow monitoring of events as they unfold.
- + Ensure comprehensive visibility and public awareness of the funded activities across all four intervention areas.





2.2 *EMIF's Constitution*

FOUNDING ORGANISATIONS

The European University Institute and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation are the founding organisations of the EMIF.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is a private and independent foundation created in 1956 by the last will and testament of Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian, a philanthropist of Armenian origin, who lived in Lisbon between 1942 and the year of his death in 1955.

Established in perpetuity, the Foundation's main purpose is to improve the quality of life through art, charity, science and education. The Foundation directs its activities from its headquarters in Lisbon and its delegations in Paris and London.

The European University Institute is an international post-graduate teaching and research institute based in Florence, Italy. It was founded in 1972 by the six original members of the then European Communities and today is supported by 23 contracting states from the European Union. The EUI offers PhD and Post-Doctoral programmes in Economics, Political and Social Sciences, History, and Law, and is home to the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and the School of Transnational Governance (STG).

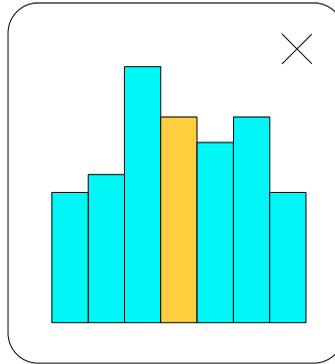
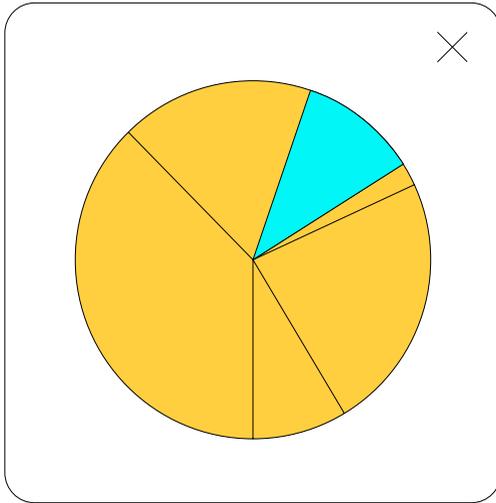
The EUI School of Transnational Governance was established in 2017 to provide excellent training on policymaking beyond the state. The School offers executive training to professionals and a master's degree in Transnational Governance, organises high-level policy dialogues and hosts Policy Leader Fellows and Young African Leader Fellows. The European Digital Media Observatory is based at the STG.

CONTRIBUTING ORGANISATIONS

The multi-donor European Media and Information Fund welcomes contributions from donors believing in its mission and subscribing to its principles of scientific autonomy and freedom.

The Fund accepted Google's inaugural contribution of €25,000,000 over five years. Google is not involved in decision-making and does not profit from the intellectual property of any ideas or projects financed through the Fund.





2.3 *Measures Ensuring Good Management Practices*

GOOD FAITH AND COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS

The governance of the Fund is regulated by Portuguese legislation. The Legal Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation oversees compliance of the documentation produced in connection with the Fund's activities, in accordance with the relevant legislation and the principles of good faith.

Segregation of duties at the management level is ensured by a division of responsibilities within the CGF, namely at the level of financial management. The Financial Department of the CGF is responsible for payments, disbursements and receivables. The EMIF Unit is responsible for providing support to the daily management of the fund, launching and managing Calls for Proposals, and managing the administrative processes relating to the submission, admissibility and evaluation of applications.

The EMIF treats its stakeholders with diligence, providing high standards of performance and full cooperation in order to achieve the best possible results.



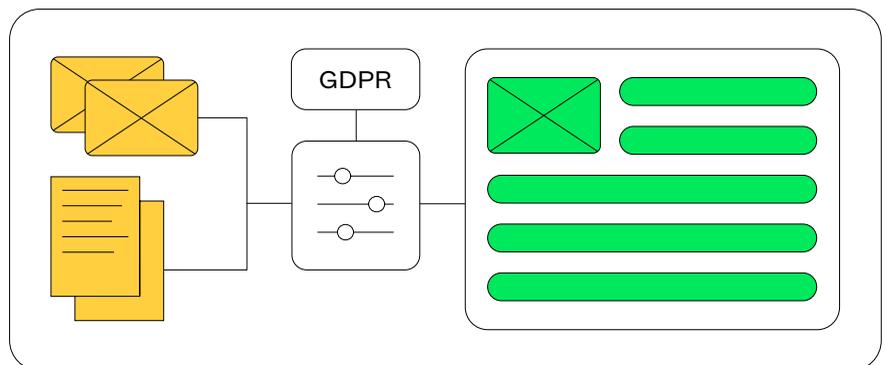


FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

The mechanisms defined for the management of the Calls for Proposals are designed to ensure equal treatment of all applicants and broad access to relevant information about the process.

Basing the submission, admissibility and evaluation procedures on a digital platform enables the EMIF to standardise how information is collected, treated and disseminated. This system also allows for full GDPR compliance.

The EMIF uses external experts to evaluate and score all applications, subject to Declarations of Interest. This ensures fair and equal treatment of all applicants and guarantees a segregation of duties. All information about the Fund is permanently available on its website.



INDEPENDENCE AND ABSENCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

The EMIF’s decision-making processes rely on the independence of the several bodies within the Fund and an adequate segregation of duties.

The Management Committee of the European Media and Information Fund functions according to its established and approved internal rules.

Decisions are taken at the level of the EMIF’s Management Committee, and the EMIF Unit at the CGF provides the secretariat and executes these decisions.

Decisions are independent of any outside influence, including that of the donors. Donors do not participate in the Fund’s governance, nor do they have the right to appoint any person to the Fund’s Steering Committee or Management Committee; donors do not have any role in the setting up of research priorities, nor do they have any role in the setting up of Selection Committees or the implementation of projects;



donors will not benefit from the intellectual property of any ideas or projects to be funded through the Fund; the EMIF does not offer services to donors (e.g., the outsourcing of philanthropic services); donors commit to multi-year contributions, thus protecting the independence of the Fund in the long term.

The EUI prioritises the European Digital Media Observatory in the selection of independent experts to serve as evaluators of projects submitted under the EMIF's Calls for Proposals. EDMO will assume responsibility for evaluating the outcomes of the projects.

A strict conflict of interest policy is observed. A Declaration of Interest binds all members of the Management Committee and the staff of the EMIF Unit.





3

EMIF'S ACTIVITIES

3.1 *Activities Relating to the Fund's Establishment and Operation*

ACTIVITIES OF THE EMIF'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND EDMO

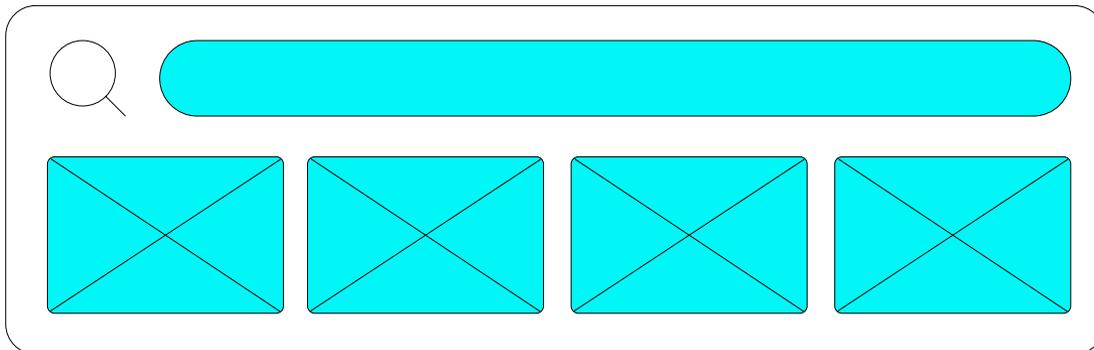
In 2021/2022, EDMO, acting as a scientific advisory body for EMIF's Management Committee:

- + Advised on core aspects of the design and development of the EMIF's Implementation Framework
- + Released *EDMO's Scientific Focus*, and the document was published on the Fund's website



+ Developed *EDMO Advisory Board Guidance on Scientific priorities for 2022 EMIF calls in Priority Areas 2, 3 and 4* and the document was published on the Fund's website

+ Established a roster of experts to potentially serve as external evaluators for the EMIF's Calls for Proposals



The EDMO Advisory Board converged around the idea that the scientific focus and the research topics for the different areas should be kept broad in scope for the first funding round to allow for flexibility and enable applicants to propose themselves what they consider the most relevant aspects of EDMO's Scientific Focus, taking into account the specificities of their information environment and without frustrating creativity.

The Fund's Management Committee:

+ Developed and put into effect the Implementation Framework of the Fund, in coordination with EDMO

+ Wrote and implemented the internal rules of the Management Committee

+ Approved the Fund's annual budget

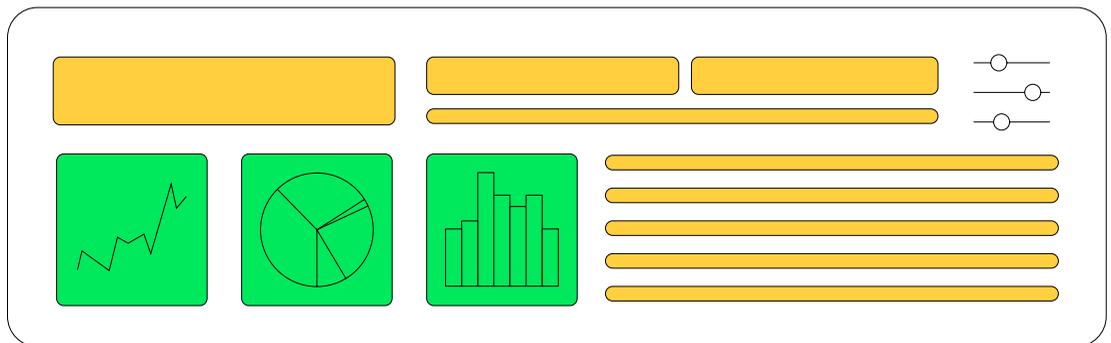




+ Commissioned, decided on, and implemented the visual image of the Fund to be used in all elements of communication

+ Helped to elaborate, and subsequently approved, the texts of four Calls, as well as a special funding round within the “Boosting Fact-checking Activities in Europe” Call for Proposals responding to specific needs stemming from the Russia-Ukraine conflict

+ Selected, from the roster of experts established by EDMO, those who would serve as external evaluators for the Fund’s currently open Calls. When applicable, the Selection Committees are validated by the Chairs of EDMO’s Advisory Board and Executive Board.



OPERATING MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

As the manager of the EMIF, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation makes all its experience and expertise available to advise the Fund’s bodies in their deliberations and decisions, in particular regarding the Fund’s manner of action, the selection of beneficiaries, the monitoring of initiatives and projects supported by the Fund, and the search for experts and associates, etc.

In order to guarantee the Fund’s internal management, the CGF:

+ Established a team of three people to provide support to the Management Committee and work under the supervision of the Chair of the Management Committee



- + Established an internal network of support services within the Foundation, assisting with technology, marketing, communication, finances and accountancy
- + Established the EMIF website, with functionalities relating to the presentation and description of the Fund, the announcement of Calls, the posting of news and the announcement of events, as well as providing forms to be filled in for different purposes and making relevant information available for the establishment of partnerships
- + Developed the electronic platform for the submission, reception, admissibility, and evaluation of applications to the Fund
- + Established a dedicated email account for information requests, to be responded to within two workdays
- + Established a dedicated telephone line for information requests
- + Provided support to the writing of the Call texts, as well as to the definition of efficient management procedures for all Calls
- + Contributed to the drafting and development of the EMIF's fundamental documents, such as the Management Committee's internal rules
- + Managed the Fund's financial component, contracting and making payments to external organisations





3.2 *Communication and Dissemination*

To support the EMIF’s goal of attracting high-quality grant applications, the Fund invested in building its brand and reinforcing its visibility. This was done during the reporting period, through the founding organisations’ websites, newsletters, events and social media.

The Fund relied mainly on the channels of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the European University Institute, the EUI School of Transnational Governance and EDMO.

EUI, the EUI School of Transnational Governance and EDMO repeatedly flagged the open Calls in its internal and external newsletters and on its organic social media channels, focusing on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

The arrival of a dedicated communications and stakeholders’ officer, who will help streamline various outreach activities, is planned for 2022. With this person’s arrival, the Fund will establish its own (social media) channels, developing specific goals and using its available resources to prioritise the building of its own identity.

EMIF WEBSITE

The EMIF website emifund.eu was launched on 4 October 2021. By 31 March 2022, there had already been 72,133 sessions registered and 125,797 page views, while the webpage featuring its Calls was the second most visited page. Below, we present the number of sessions over time and the number of sessions per EMIF target country.

MONTHLY SESSIONS 2021/2022



SESSIONS PER EMIF TARGET COUNTRY



**EMIF NEWSLETTERS**

Since its inception, the Fund has actively used an opt-in mail list as its communication model. Before the website launch, interested parties were invited to register if they wished to receive updates on the Fund's activities at the first stage of its operations. Once the website was launched, a newsletter subscription option was immediately made available. The newsletters sent out so far have been dedicated to announcing the opening of funding Calls and are related to the EMIF events.

Statistics on engagement through newsletters are presented below.

MONTHLY SESSIONS 2021/2022

	2021	2022
Campaigns	3	6
Emails Delivered/Campaign	676	614
Opens/Newsletter	404	361
Open Rate	60%	62%
Clicks/Newsletter	559	690
Click Rate	28%	20%

INFORMATION SESSION ON OPEN CALLS

The European Media and Information Fund held its first Information Session on Open Calls on 16 February 2022.

The session included the presentation of the Fund by Luís Madureira Pires, the Chair of the EMIF's Management Committee, and Paolo Cesarini, a member of the Management Committee, and an extended session of Q&A.

A total of 190 people from 29 countries attended the session.

One hundred and thirty-four questions were asked, 29 of which were answered live. Unanswered questions were used to develop FAQs published on the EMIF website.



PARTNERSHIP SEARCH DIRECTORY

Following the Information Session on Open Calls, in order to foster knowledge-sharing and facilitate the creation of European networks in the ecosystem of fact-checking, debunking disinformation and research, the EMIF initiated the development of a directory of entities to be shared on the Fund's website.

EVENTS PROMOTED BY EXTERNAL ENTITIES



EVENT FIGHTING MISINFORMATION ONLINE

An event called "Fighting Misinformation Online", hosted by the European University Institute, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Google and YouTube, took place on 5 October 2021. This event was an opportunity for attendees to learn more about the European Media and Information Fund through the comments of several speakers. Elevating authoritative information and tackling all forms of misinformation is a critical issue, and collaboration between academics, policymakers, publishers and technology is a key factor. At this event, governments, educators, NGOs, tech companies and news organisations came from Europe to share their ideas and knowledge.



'LUNCH AND LEARN' SESSION OF MEDIA LITERACY IRELAND

The Chair of the EMIF's Management Committee was invited to be a speaker at the online "Lunch and Learn" session of the organisation Media Literacy Ireland on 14 March 2022. The session included the presentation of the Fund and a Q&A session.



OTHER PARTICIPATIONS

The EMIF was represented at the 27th Edition of the Lisbon Forum 2021, an initiative of the Council of Europe and the North-South Centre, on 9 and 10 December 2021. On this occasion, decision-makers, issues experts, activists, organisations and institutions from around the world gathered in Lisbon and online to discuss the urgent need to support intercultural dialogue to counter disinformation, misinformation and hate speech.



"PROFESSIONALIZING STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS TO TACKLE SOCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGES"

A member of the EMIF's Management Committee was invited by the Club of Venice to be a speaker at its 5th Stratcom Seminar, on 30 and 31 March, in London, which was devoted to disinformation in the context of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. This provided an opportunity to raise awareness about the EMIF and its mission.



ADVERTISING

The EMIF’s communication strategy featured a considerable awareness and traffic-generation component with advertising in Politico and social media campaigns on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook/Instagram.

The Politico campaign ran between 15 January and 28 February 2022 and included various elements: Interscroller ads generated 200,000 impressions and 658 clicks, while a one-week Tech newsletter sponsorship generated a total of 489 clicks, and the newsletter banners resulted in 100,000 impressions and 71 clicks.

Social media campaigns ran during the period of 1 February to 2 March and performed as follows: LinkedIn – 137,343 post views and 317 clicks; Twitter – 691,753 post views and 390,960 clicks; Facebook/Instagram: 2,602 clicks.

POLITICO CAMPAIGN

15 Jan – 28 Feb 2022

Views/Clicks

Interscroller Ads

One-week
Tech newsletter
sponsorship

Newsletter banners



200K

100K



658

458

71

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

1 Feb – 2 Mar 2022: Post views

Views/Clicks

Linkedin

Twitter

Facebook / Instagram



137,343

691,753

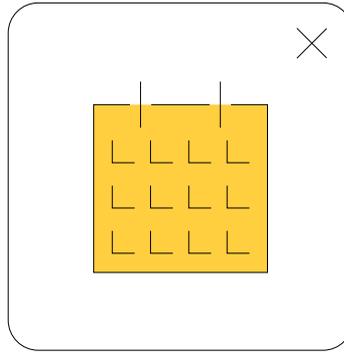
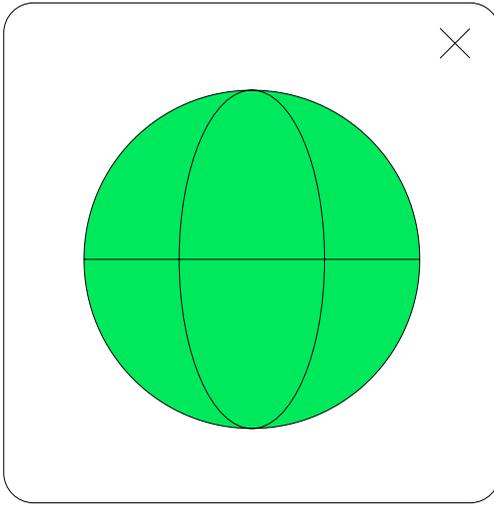


317

390,960

2,602





3.3 *Fundraising*

Google provided the first donation to the EMIF, enabling the Fund to begin its activities.

The Fund—open to multiple donors by design—aims at creating a diverse funding base, involving actors from private, philanthropic and public sectors who are supportive of a more resilient, fact-based digital information European ecosystem.

Donors need to subscribe to the Fund's principles of scientific autonomy and freedom and are not – nor will they be – involved in the Fund's management.

Discussions took place with several platforms about new contributions to the Fund's work areas in the reporting period.

Looking at the future, with full respect for the principles of scientific autonomy and freedom, the Fund may broaden its geographical scope, develop new areas of intervention, and support specific topics in collaboration with interested organisations.





4

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS: PREPARATION, LAUNCH AND MANAGEMENT

The European Media and Information Fund makes funding available through open Calls for Proposals. The total Fund allocation is €25,000,000, which is to be distributed across 32 eligible countries to an estimated total number of 129 projects.

In the reporting period of 2021/22, four Calls were launched for proposals corresponding to the Fund's four areas of intervention. The opening of the four Calls and the closing of the first round of the Call "Boosting Fact-checking Activities in Europe" took place on the planned dates.

The preparation of the Calls for Proposals included:

- + Defining the content and writing the Call texts
- + Defining the content of the application form, developing the application form, and developing the electronic platform for the submission of applications
- + Preparing the webpages for the Calls, populating them with relevant content, and linking them to the application form
- + Defining and implementing the strategy for the dissemination of information on the Calls



- + Establishing means of communication (email address and telephone) for answering questions.

4.1 *Boosting Fact-checking Activities in Europe*

The Call for Proposals “Boosting Fact-Checking Activities in Europe” is permanently open, with cut-off dates every four months, until June 2025. The Call opened on 2 November 2021.

This Call’s total indicative allocation is €4,350,000. Each round within this Call has an indicative budget of €435,000.

This Call aims at strengthening the European fact-checking ecosystem by focusing on two priority actions:

A – URGENT ACTIONS

Projects designed to increase the coverage, depth and speed of fact-checking activities by organisations that commit to producing regular flows of fact-checks.

Maximum Grant Amount per project: €55,000
Maximum Duration per project: 6 months



B – SCALE-UP PROJECTS

Freelance collaborations within newsrooms and/or the integration of state-of-the-art technologies for content verification and media and social media monitoring.

Maximum Grant: €80,000
Maximum Duration: 12 months



FIRST FUNDING ROUND

The first round of this Call started on 2 November 2021, and its cut-off date was 2 March 2022.

Twenty applications were received with a total funding request of €1,389,461.03.

The lead applicants are based in 14 different countries, including two applications received from each of the following countries: Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom. One application was received from Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia and Switzerland.





Eleven of the applications were submitted in the priority action of “Urgent Actions”, with nine applications being made in the priority action of “Scale-up Projects”.

During March 2022, these proposals were submitted to an initial admissibility check. Thirteen applications were admitted, and seven were considered inadmissible. The 13 admitted applications proceeded to the evaluation stage, where a multinational team of independent evaluators will analyse them. Of the seven inadmissible applications, two appealed the decision. After thorough consideration from the Management Committee, and following the technical recommendation of the EMIF Unit, both appeals were denied.



SPECIAL FUNDING ROUND: URGENT ACTIONS - UKRAINE

On 25 February 2022, the EMIF published an update to its Call “Boosting Fact-checking Activities in Europe” to elicit fact-checking projects addressing the increasingly complex Russia-Ukraine conflict at a time when military actions are being sustained by large-scale, coordinated, state-controlled disinformation campaigns and influence operations targeting both the Russian population and the public opinion in neighbouring countries, the European Union and beyond.

Considering this situation, on 4 March 2022, the EMIF opened a Special Funding Round for Urgent Actions within this Call, with the deadline for applications being set for 29 April 2022.

The total indicative allocation for this special round is €217,000.

All rules applicable to the priority action of Urgent Actions also apply to this special funding round, except the one relating to geographical coverage, with it being possible to implement projects in Ukraine.

SECOND FUNDING ROUND

The second funding round started immediately after the first cut-off date (2 March 2022) and remained open until 30 June 2022.



4.2 *Multidisciplinary Investigations on Disinformation in Europe*

The Call for Proposals “Multidisciplinary Investigations into Disinformation in Europe” opened on 1 February 2022 and closed on 29 April 2022. This Call’s total indicative allocation is €1,800,000.

This Call seeks to address the existing gaps in knowledge regarding the scale and scope of disinformation in Europe and thus gain a better understanding of the policies implemented to counter it.

Maximum Grant Amount per project: €130,000

Maximum Duration per project: 12 months

4.3 *Supporting Research into Media, Disinformation and Information Literacy Across Europe*

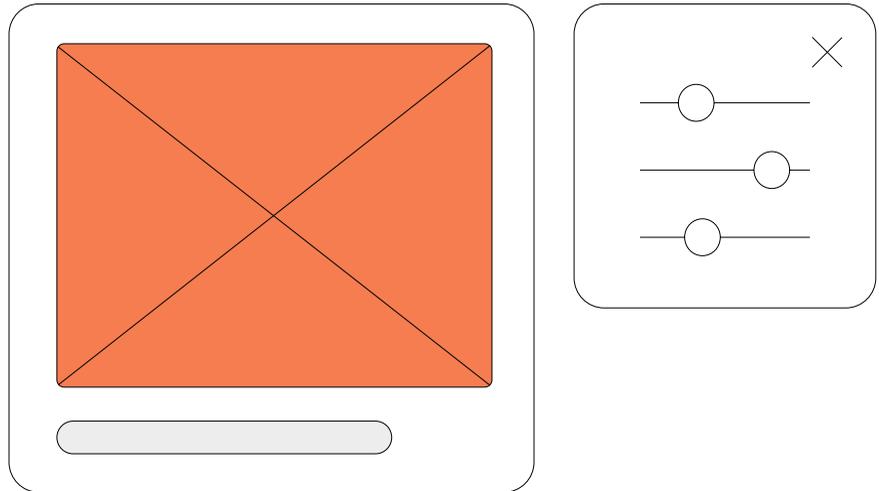
The Call for Proposals “Supporting Research into Media, Disinformation and Information Literacy Across Europe” opened on 1 February 2022 and closed on 29 April 2022. This Call’s total indicative allocation is €1,800,000.

This Call aims at supporting broad and profound scientific studies on the disinformation phenomenon, encompassing its causes, societal impacts and possible responses.

Maximum Grant Amount per project: €400,000

Maximum Duration per project: 18 months





4.4 *Media and Information Literacy for Citizens Empowerment*

The Call for Proposals “Media and Information Literacy for Citizens Empowerment” opened on 1 February 2022 and closed on 29 April 2022. This Call’s total indicative allocation is €1,800,000.

The key aim of this Call is to support initiatives that enhance digital media and information literacy skills in Europe.

Maximum Grant Amount per project: €400,000

Maximum Duration per project: 18 months



4.5 *Future Calls and Funding Rounds*

CALL FOR PROPOSALS	April 2022 – March 2023	
	Open	Close
Boosting Fact-checking Activities in Europe		
Special Round – Ukraine	(4 March 2022)	29 April 2022
2 nd Round	(2 March 2022)	30 June 2022
3 rd Round	30 June 2022	31 October 2022
4 th Round	31 October 2022	28 February 2023
5 th Round	28 February 2023	(30 June 2023)
Multidisciplinary Investigations on Disinformation in Europe		
1 st Call	(1 February 2022)	29 April 2022
2 nd Call	January 2023	Q2 2023
Supporting Research into Media, Disinformation and Information Literacy Across Europe		
1 st Call	(1 February 2022)	29 April 2022
2 nd Call	January 2023	Q2 2023
Media and Information Literacy for Citizens Empowerment		
1 st Call	(1 February 2022)	29 April 2022
2 nd Call	January 2023	Q2 2023





5

RESULTS AND IMPACTS

PROJECTS

As of the end of the reporting period, applications were closed for the First Funding Round of Boosting Fact-Checking Activities in Europe.

FIRST FUNDING ROUND RESULTS

The first 20 applications received by the EMIF in this funding round were evaluated by three independent experts appointed and contracted by the EUI.

The Management Committee approved the evaluation results on 31 May 2022 with four projects being approved under “Urgent Actions” and three under “Scale-up Projects”

The total funding for the seven proposals amounts to €413,665.33 (with the funding per proposal ranging from €35,636.20 to €79,999) and will be developed during periods lasting from 4 to 12 months.

The thematic range of the funded projects includes climate change, elections-related fact-checking and foreign interference, and public health, as well as fact-checking on social media platforms and for radio audiences.

The entities supported include non-profit research and investigative journalism centres, foundations, a public broadcaster, fact-checkers and media companies.

Two projects will be implemented by partnerships consisting of two members each, while the other five are run by individual entities.

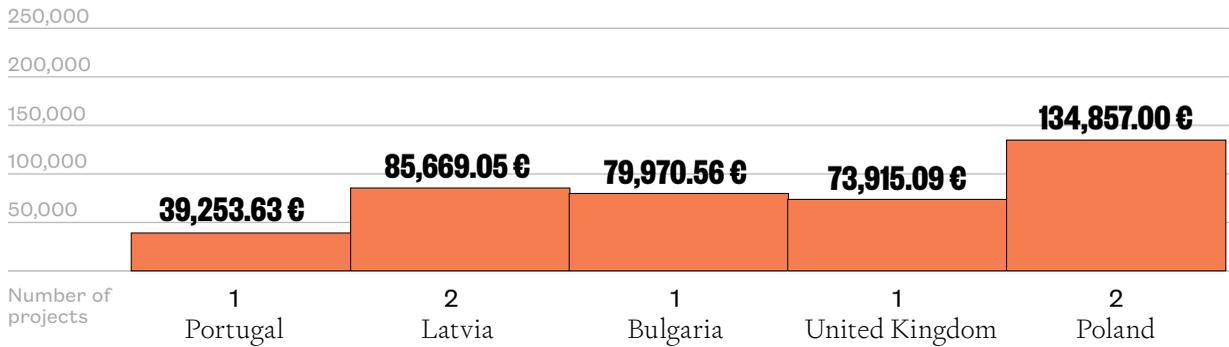
The approved projects will cover multiple linguistic communities and are based in five countries: Latvia, Poland, Bulgaria, Portugal and the United Kingdom.



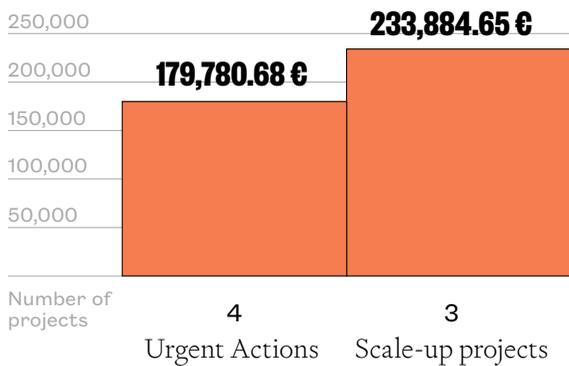


THE EMIF IN NUMBERS

Projects supported and Funding by geographical distribution



Projects supported and Funding by Intervention area



Urgent Actions

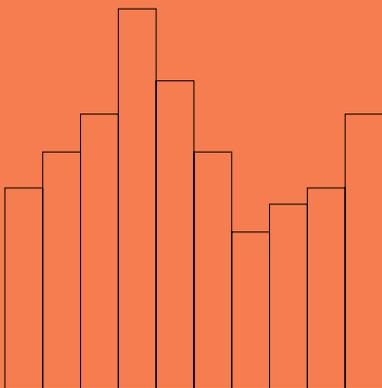
- FACTUAL | Fact-Checking Climate Changes
- Scaled-up fact-checking before Latvian parliamentary elections in October 2022
- Fighting the hybrid war in Latvia
- Quick-reaction-Fact-checking on TikTok and popular social media

Scale-up projects

- Piloting #Radio-FACT-Checks for a More Trustworthy Media Landscape (#FACT)
- Better information for better health - clinical fact checker
- Scale-up of fact-checking activity of OKO.Press online portal

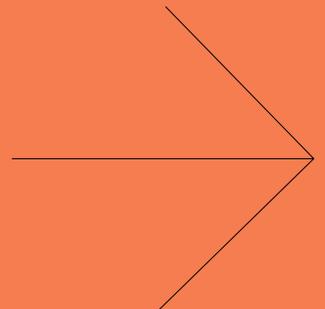
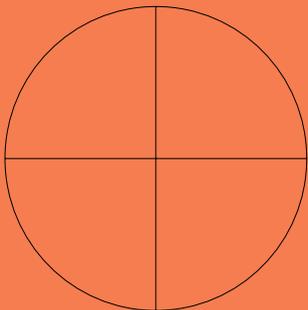


**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
2021-2022**



FINANCIAL

Statements





1

BALANCE SHEET

As of 24 March 2022, the current financial position is as follows:

	24/03/2022
1. Assets - Cash at bank an in hand	€ 3,436,148.37
2. Assets - Debtors	€ 21,250,000.00
2.1 Debtors due within the year	€ 6,250,000.00
2.2 Debtors due after the year	€ 15,000,000.00
Total assets	€ 24,686,148.37
3. Equity	€ 24,686,148.37
3.1 Contributions	€ 24,686,148.37
3.2 Profit/Loss for financial year	- €
Total equity and liabilities	€ 24,686,148.37



INCOME STATEMENT

2

As of 24 March 2022, the income statement is as follows:

	Note	24/03/2022	Budget	Difference
Contributions		€ 313,851.63	€ 540,556.25	
Operating income		€ 313,851.63	€ 540,556.25	€ 226,704.62
Grants Disbursed - Area 1	1	- €	- €	- €
Grants Disbursed - Area 2	1	- €	- €	- €
Grants Disbursed - Area 3	1	- €	- €	- €
Grants Disbursed - Area 4	1	- €	- €	- €
European University Institute	2	€ 76,881.00	€ 262,656.25	€ 185,775.25
Calouste Gulbekian Foundation	3	€ 157,450.63	€ 198,900.00	€ 41,449.37
Management Committee Expenses ⁽¹⁾	4	€ 79,520.00	€ 79,000.00	€ -520.00
Profit/Loss for financial year		- €	- €	

(1) The expenses with the Chairman of the Management Committee were transferred from CGF expenses to MC expenses.



3

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 There were no grants disbursed as of 24 March 2022 because the first funding round for the “Boosting Fact-Checking Activities in Europe” Call for Proposals closed on 2 March and was already in the Evaluation Phase at the end of the reporting period.

2 The European University Institute’s Expenses for the current year (€76,881.00) were significantly below the estimated budget due to the fact that this was the initial phase of the Fund, so that the surplus will be spent in forthcoming financial years.

3 In the case of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation’s Expenses, the surplus was due to this being the initial phase of the Fund. This surplus will be spent in forthcoming financial years.

4 The Management Committee’s Expenses totalled €79,520.00, relating to the expenses incurred with the Chair of the Management Committee, appointed by the CGF, and the Member appointed to the Management Committee by the European University Institute.





ANNEXES

*“Boosting Fact-Checking
Activities in Europe”
Call for Proposals,
First Funding Round*



URGENT ACTIONS

Name of Lead Applicant	Inevitable and Fundamental, Limited Society
Partner Applicant	NA
Period	01/03/2022 – 31/08/2022 (6 months)
Amount	39,253.63 €
Country	Portugal
Title of the Project	FACTUAL Fact-Checking Climate Changes
Short summary	The project seeks to address issues relating to misinformation and disinformation about matters linked to the environment and climate change. It aims to achieve its purpose through fact-checking, as well as through media literacy initiatives, targeting younger audiences in particular.

Name of Lead Applicant	The Baltic Center For Investigative Journalism “Re:Baltica”
Partner Applicant	NA
Period	01/07/2022 – 31/10/2022 (4 months)
Amount	50,032.85 €
Country	Latvia
Title of the Project	Scaled-Up Fact-Checking Before Latvian Parliamentary Elections in October 2022
Short summary	The project will focus on monitoring social networks and the fact-checking of debates before the Latvian parliamentary elections in October 2022. It will verify the outcomes of the previous promises and examine the track records of the main contenders, distributing the findings in a visually attractive format that is friendly to social networks.

Name of Lead Applicant	JSC Delfi
Partner Applicant	Centre for East European Policy Studies
Period	01/08/2022 – 31/01/2023 (6 months)
Amount	35,636.20 €
Country	Latvia
Title of the Project	Fighting the Hybrid War in Latvia
Short Summary	This project aims at reducing the impact of disinformation campaigns by bringing reliable news and information to target audiences in Latvia and Europe, increasing the fact-checking capacity and thus contributing to a trustworthy media environment in Europe, reaching new critical audiences (Russian language community and wider Europe).

Name of Lead Applicant	Foundation “Counteracting Disinformation”
Partner Applicant	NA
Period	01/09/2022 – 28/02/2023 (6 months)
Amount	54,858.00 €
Country	Poland
Title of the Project	Quick-reaction-Fact-checking on TikTok and popular social media
Short Summary	This project addresses the fake content that appears on TikTok and often overlaps with that on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube, by creating a specialised team of experts to combat disinformation across all of these platforms.

**SCALE-UP PROJECTS**

Name of Lead Applicant	European Institute Foundation
Partner Applicant	Bulgarian National Radio
Period	01/09/2022 – 31/08/2023 (12 months)
Amount	79,970.56 €
Country	Bulgaria
Title of the Project	Piloting #Radio-FACT-Checks for a More Trustworthy Media Landscape (#FACT)
Short Summary	Together with its partner, BNR will build the capacity of local-level fact-checkers and rigorously produce fact-checked content, supported by new tech tools. Through thematic radio rubrics, diverse audiences – including vulnerable groups – will be engaged in on-air and online conversations on disinformation and malign foreign narratives.

Name of Lead Applicant	Foundation Centre for Civic Monitoring OKO
Partner Applicant	NA
Period	01/07/2022 – 30/06/2023 (12 months)
Amount	79,999.00 €
Country	Poland
Title of the Project	Scale-up of Fact-Checking Activity of OKO.Press Online Portal
Short Summary	The project will expand fact-checking activities of OKO.Press, an independent Polish civic medium. The project aims at providing the audience with regular weekly publications by implementing new formats: cross-sectional publications and tools for fact-checking. Together with the development of technological facilities, this will support audience development and engagement.

Name of Lead Applicant	Full Fact
Partner Applicant	NA
Period	01/07/2022 – 30/06/2023 (12 months)
Amount	73,915.09 €
Country	United Kingdom
Title of the Project	Better Information for Better Health – Clinical Fact Checker
Short Summary	Full Fact is adding a health specialist to its fact-checking team to improve the way we combat health misinformation in the UK. Over the next year, the new fact checker will monitor and fact-check claims relating to clinical health, and inform targeted interventions to counter dangerous claims.

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