



Request for Applications (RFA): Grants for Investigative Reporting Projects

Open to: Applicants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Belarus

Closing Date: 15 January , 2021

Grant Amount: EUR 3500 for single organisation applications
EUR 7000 for joint cross-border applications

Project Name: Giving Voice, Driving Change - From the Borderland to the Steppes

Preference will be given to cross-border joint projects.

The Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) is currently accepting applications for the grants in investigative reporting within the project Giving Voice, Driving Change - from the Borderland to the Steppes.

The Project Giving Voice, Driving Change - from the Borderland to the Steppes supports democratic growth, good governance and human rights in Caucasus, Moldova, Ukraine and Central Asia by strengthening the ability of independent media and civil society organisations in and across the countries. It is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway.

One of the goals of the project is to enhance the voice of local civil society and journalists. This goal encompasses several objectives, including:

- Increase the flow of reliable and relevant information across the region;
- Enhance public consumption of locally produced high quality media reports;
- Enable journalists to produce a wide range of creative, engaging and balanced content.

Requirements

Applications are open to media outlets and investigative studios from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova who produce media content and have a platform (print, online, radio or TV) for its distribution.

Priority will be given to applications which explore topics relevant to the region and involve cooperation of journalists across the border.

These are the priority thematic areas, however, other proposals will also be carefully considered:

- **Armenia and Azerbaijan:** developments after the Karabakh War with the focus on human rights and displaced persons, post-conflict reconstruction and confidence building;
- **Georgia and Moldova:** Governance, disinformation and coronavirus pandemic;
- **Belarus:** Governance, human rights, coronavirus pandemic.

IWPR can provide some basic assistance for applicants in establishing cooperation with other organisations from across the eastern partnership countries.

The interested applicants should take note of the following minimum requirements:

- Organisations should be legally registered in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Belarus

(entities outside Belarus that directly cover the country can be eligible - subject for special consideration by the selection committee);

- Organisations should have experience in producing media content;
- Organisations should have a platform (print, online, radio or TV) for distribution of the produced investigative report;
- Organisations should be committed to best practices of international journalism standards and the principles of ethical journalism;
- Organisations should be able to demonstrate adequate staff capacity for content production and grant management.

Applications can be received from a single organisation or two organisations from different countries. Joint applications from two organisations from eligible countries for a cross-border investigation are encouraged.

Funding amount

Funding amount is EUR 3500 for single applications and EUR 7000 for joint applications. In case of joint applications, there are no restrictions on the distribution of the grant amount between the organisations. However, it should be based on coherent distribution of roles, functions and the budget. Grants are intended for covering the fees for journalists and salaries of the relevant staff, travel and other costs directly related to the delivery of the investigative project output.

The grant does not cover costs for purchase of equipment and overheads.

Timeframe

The investigative report should be released no later than **15 March, 2021**.

Deliverables

The applicant should deliver one investigative report in any format (print, multimedia, audio, video) and distribute it on all of its platforms, adequately featuring IWPR support.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by IWPR based on the set criteria as described in the below table. The organisations which will collect at least 70 points will be considered for funding. As the next stage, IWPR will invite the selected organisations to the interview to discuss the project in further detail and may request additional documentation to prove organisational capacity.

Nr.	Criteria	Maximum points
1.	<i>Adequate capacity of the organisation to produce high quality media content The application adequately describes the key roles for project implementation (15 points); The organization has demonstrated experience in producing high-quality media content with relevant examples (15 points);</i>	30
2.	<i>Value of the proposed project The proposed investigation is realistic to implement (10 points) The proposed project explores an issue of the public interest (10 points);</i>	40

	<i>The proposed project can initiate a public discussion or contribute to increased Government accountability (10 point); The proposed project is relevant for the societies in Eastern Partnership Countries (10 points);</i>	
3.	Adequate planning of Project Implementation <i>The project timeline is realistic (10 points) The project budget is realistic (10 points)</i>	20
4.	Demonstrated Regional Cooperation <i>The proposed Project involves cooperation among journalists across the Eastern partnership region (10 points)</i>	10
Maximum total technical scoring:		100

Application Process

Interested organisations should submit the filled in application form, budget form and CVs of all individuals engaged in the project to the Email: caucasusprogramme@iwpr.net

Those applying as a single organisation, should submit the forms for a single application, while those applying for the joint grant, should submit the application forms for joint applications.

Questions can be directed to ana@iwpr.net

Replies to questions will be provided by IWPR staff until **28 December, 2020**.

About IWPR

Institute for War and Peace Reporting (iwpr.net) is an international non for profit organisation with head offices in London and Washington DC. IWPR builds peace and democracy through free and fair media. It strengthens local media at the frontlines of conflict and change, working in three dozen countries and territories around the world. This includes establishing independent local media; training local reporters, editors and producers; supporting extensive in-depth reporting on human rights, good governance and related issues; disseminating professional reporting in developing countries and internationally; and strengthening communications capacity of local human rights, international justice and women's organisations.