



BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

European Development Journalism Grants

Call for Proposals

In a nutshell

The European Development Journalism Grants support high-profile journalistic media organisations - or coalitions of those - that serve audiences in France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, or the UK with amounts up to €120,000 per grant.

The programme looks for year-long reporting projects about global development topics. These can be implemented online, in broadcasting, or print (or a mix thereof), and must be published in regular instalments. This grant programme is designed to boost sustainable and impactful journalistic coverage of global development in order to increase public awareness and salience of the topic in the long run.

The programme also strives to enhance the capacity and motivation of newsrooms to address global development on a regular basis.

In more detail

To make the grant award decisions, we look at two tiers of criteria:

First, the minimum requirements (eligibility criteria) that all applications must meet in order to be considered in the first place. These are formal preconditions, namely the definition of who can apply, as well as the geographic scope and format of the project. Please note that every application must satisfy all of them (within the margins described below).

Second, the distinguishing characteristics (selection criteria) that help us decide which projects eventually to award with a grant. These are supposed to help you demonstrate why your proposal is special and should be funded. Please note that they are not mandatory and there is no need to tick off all of them - a good proposal may well show particular strength in one or a few aspects.

Eligibility criteria

We will check all applications against these mandatory conditions:

- The project involves at least one media organisation with audiences in France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, or the UK.
- The applicant - or, in the case of consortia, the lead applicant - is an opinion-forming news or broader journalism organisation with a track record of accurate, fair, and

- responsible quality reporting. In other words: major international, national or metropolitan news outlets or magazines in print, broadcast, and/or online. Investigative newsrooms and widely-read sector-specific outlets focusing on development, foreign policy, foreign trade and investment, health, and political communication are also eligible - ideally, however, in cooperation with a major general-interest news organisation (see selection criteria).
- The project focuses on one or more Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as [defined by the United Nations](#) and/or their development relations with key European donor countries; other countries may be used for further illustration or comparison.
 - The project addresses one or several of the first six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely:
 - [Goal 1: No Poverty;](#)
 - [Goal 2: Zero Hunger;](#)
 - [Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being;](#)
 - [Goal 4: Quality Education;](#)
 - [Goal 5: Gender Equality;](#)
 - [Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.](#)
 - The project delivers regular new instalments, that are thematically connected, over a period of 12 months (after up to three months of ramping up) in any format or mix of formats. This means that we are, for instance, looking for in-depth, multi-angle reporting of a single topic or topical cluster, or for consistent coverage of a cross-cutting issue. For inspiration, [these](#) are our previous publisher grant projects.
 - New instalments of the coverage must be published in such a way that the audience easily recognises that they belong to a series, i.e., generally in short intervals and with a specific tagline, hashtag, logo, layout, or design.

We also expect applicants to demonstrate that the projects benefit from their organisation's full ownership. This is to make sure that the coverage has full editorial support during its entire run and is considered a flagship project - complete with the requisite "above the fold" placement and accompanying promotion.

We do not accept applications from organisations that already receive direct development reporting grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. State-owned or directly government-controlled entities are also not eligible for funding.

Selection criteria

We welcome applications by coalitions of outlets, for instance between media in different countries, or between a major general-interest news organisation and a smaller outlet with a specific expertise and audience.

We also encourage partnerships with news organisations or freelancers in LDCs.

Moreover, we understand the benefit to audiences of solutions-oriented, constructive approaches to journalism. This is a type of coverage that not merely investigates and calls out what is wrong, but that analyses what is - and could be - done right, and critically examines remedial actions.

Other aspects (once again: neither mandatory nor exhaustive) we are looking for include:

- 1) Editorial quality: Does the project emphasise under-reported topics? Does it go beyond the surface of the story and cover all the nuances of reality rather than replicate stereotypes? Does it assume a fresh perspective or come in a particularly compelling format? Is it sensitive to positions of privilege and global north-south power dynamics?
- 2) Audience engagement: Does the project have a particularly convincing concept to connect with the audience and involve it in the reporting? Is it perhaps based on relations with a specific community to begin with ([Engaged Journalism](#))? Or does it have a clever promotion strategy to draw in otherwise under-served members of the public?
- 3) Diversity and professional development: Quality reporting benefits from a varied team composition that reflects different perspectives on the topic, incorporates a broad scope of competences and knowledge, and allows peer learning. Diversity helps avoid patronising "[parachute journalism](#)" and supports a more realistic and inclusive coverage.

Finally, we invite you to syndicate your content. Please think of ways you can share your products with other outlets - obviously without compromising exclusivity in your publication's own market.

Copyright and distribution

Once the projects have been published, they will be further distributed via the [Journalism Grants website](#).

Stories are allowed to add advertisements and yet they must be published under a universal open access policy, therefore they cannot be published behind paywalls and have to be freely accessible to a national or a global online audience. Publication under a Creative Commons License is encouraged in order to allow for global and free access. All original data generated or collected must be made reusable for other stories and investigations.

Further information

In this round, we envisage to award up to eight grants. There will be a second call for proposals in the second half of 2021.

The grant takes the form of a stipend that may be used for direct costs which are related to creating, promoting, producing and editing the journalistic pieces. This includes, for example, a proportional share of the responsible editor's salary, the cost of staff and freelance journalists reporting for the project, travel and accommodation costs for field trips, expenses for local fixers and stringers, photo- and videographers, graphic designers, data specialists etc., depending on what is necessary and appropriate for the project.

The grant programme provides funds to enable media organisations to cover development issues and not to receive money for already published work. Please also note that we do not fund short-form news.

Grantees are accountable for all expenses, which must be justified reasonably and cannot be used for general overhead or expenses for other thematic sections of the publication. At the end of the project, grantees will need to account for all expenses by providing a financial report. Grants are not consideration for a supply and are a non-business activity that falls outside the scope of VAT. The grantee commits to submitting to the EJC monthly progress reports, quarterly metrics and impact narrative reports, and two financial reports at mid-term and after the end of the project.