



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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PRELIMINARY

2016 was a good and satisfying year. Our budget increased above 1 million euro since the first time of our existence. Our different juries approved a record number of projects as well: 135.315 euro for cross-border projects, 7.915 euro for the Fox-grants, 118.875 euro for cross-continental projects and 195.504 euro for the Fonds Pascal Decroos projects. All together they accounted for 457.609 euro for grants. We never received as much applications and we approved 153 projects and 364 journalists in total.

We also expanded internationally for the first time, with our postgraduate course International Research Journalism. From now on we have, next to our Belgian partner Thomas More Hogeschool in Mechelen, a new partner in The Netherlands: Fontys Hogeschool in Tilburg. With this set-up, we want to teach our students to work in a cross-border context. This year we have 19 students in the Netherlands and 18 students in Belgium.

I'm not exaggerating when I say that the European Investigative Journalism Conference / Dataharvest 2016 (EIJC) has grown substantially and that its impact has been extraordinary. Moving to Mechelen was a good decision. The small, but very cosy town seems ideal to meet and create new networks or maintain former ones.

For the first time the EIJC showed a break-even balance. The conference is unique because of her focus on innovation in journalism, the meetings between coders and journalists, the sense of experiment and the focus on networking. 323 journalists attended the conference in 2016, coming from 41 different countries, even outside of Europe.

Journalismfund.eu also tested new directions in 2016, namely those of facilitating investigative journalistic networks. We set up a partnership with the collective www.investigate-europe.eu and helped them with the financial issues, without being involved in the journalistic part. Maintaining a firewall between the journalists and the donors is in our opinion the right way of working.

In 2016 we had our organisation thoroughly reviewed by Kim Brice. According to her findings we spent 2016 upgrading our organisation. In 2017 we will be doing the same. 2017 will also be a year of building an organisation of which, unfortunately, the relevance in this European context is becoming clearer every day.

Ides Debruyne,
21 February 2017

MISSION

Journalismfund.eu vzw originated from the Pascal Decroos Fund for Investigative Journalism and is an independent non-profit organisation (VZW) established with the purpose of keeping the memory of the Flemish journalist Pascal Decroos alive and continuing his life's work by

- stimulating in-depth quality journalism in Europe;
- facilitating in-depth, cross-border quality journalism in Europe, stimulating, supporting and building a European public debate;
- stimulating networks of journalists across borders;
- creating the possibility for new talent to develop journalistic skills in practice;

whilst ensuring the independence of journalistic work.

1. STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION

1.1. MANAGEMENT

- Seat: 4b Rozenweg, 1731 Zellik (Belgium)
- Publication: 1998-05-21 N. 009338
- Number of the organisation: 9338/98
- ID number NIS: 15262553
- National number: 463312580
- NACE-BEL code: 9112
- Managing Director: Ides Debruyne (1 FTE – contract)
- Editor Europe: Brigitte Alfter (1 FTE – freelance)
- Communication: Lisa Akinyi May (1 FTE – contract)
- Financial Manager: Linda Berckmans (1 FTE – contract)
- Project Manager Journalismfund.eu: Trine Smistrup (4/5 FTE – freelance)
- Project Manager Fonds Pascal Decroos: Marjorie Blomme (1/2 FTE – freelance)
- Contact in the organisation: Ides Debruyne (+32 2 705 59 19)

1.2. ORGANISATION

- *1.2.1. General Assembly*

1. Alfter Brigitte (Copenhagen)
2. Castelein Bart (Nieuwkapelle)
3. Coessens Wim (Ghent)
4. Scott Crosby-Kemmlers (Brussels)
5. Nick Davies (UK)
6. Debruyne Ides (Ghent)
7. Decroos Ann-Sophie (Diepenbeek)
8. Decroos Isabel (Ostend)
9. Decroos Paul (Ostend)
10. Decroos Tom (Brussels)
11. Dekeyzer Lieve (Zellik)
12. De Maeyer Anne (Meise)
13. Depuydt Piet (Ghent)
14. Desterbecq Anne-Mie (Ostend)
15. Fort Anne (Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe)
16. Heirbaut Rob (Sint-Joris-Weert)
17. Pauwels Caroline (Brussels)
18. Pollet Joris (Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe)
19. Poppe Ludo (Keerbergen)
20. Soen Ann (Ostend)
21. Vandenberghe Kurt (Zellik)
22. Van Hee Jacques (Meise)
23. Van Lierop Ton (Brussels)
24. Van Wichelen Koen (Vilvoorde)
25. Voeten Teun (Brussels)

26. Vogels Annik (Keerbergen)

27. Hans Wolters (Brussels)

The General Assembly convened once in 2016.

22nd February 2016:

- Approval of the annual report and account of 2015, and the budget for 2016
- Update General Assembly members' list
- Update Board of Director members' list

- *1.2.2. Board of Directors*

1. Coessens Wim (Ghent)
2. Crosby Scott (Brussels)
3. Davies Nick (London)
4. Depuydt Piet (Ghent) – secretary
5. Gruhnwald Sylke (Zurich) - chair
6. Pauwels Caroline (Brussels) - vice-chair
7. Pollet Joris (Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe)
8. Vandenberghe Kurt (Zellik) - treasurer
9. Van der Kaa Hille (Tilburg)
10. Van Hee Jacques (Meise)
11. Van Lierop Ton (Brussels)
12. Wolters Hans (Brussels)

- *1.2.3. Daily Board*

- Alfter Brigitte (Copenhagen)
- Debruyne Ides (Ghent)
- Depuydt Piet (Ghent)
- Gruhnwald Sylke (Zürich)
- Vandenberghe Kurt (Zellik)
- Van Lierop Ton (Brussels)

The Daily Board conferred very regularly, but only via email. It mostly concerns topics that required swift decisions. The Daily Board mostly acts as a sounding board for the management team. In the end, every topic must be decided by the Board of Directors.

- *1.2.4. Jury*

The evaluation of the applications is done by an independent jury. There are separate juries for the European cross-border grants and the Flemish Pascal Decroos Fund grants.

The European cross-border jury consists of four experienced personalities knowledgeable in the field of journalism and media. To guarantee its independence, the jury is anonymous. Membership is rotating,

and once a member steps out of the jury, her or his name is made known. In 2016 one jury member was replaced.

The jury members meet via teleconference. Former jury members are:

- David Leigh (UK) (2009-2011)
- Nils Mulvad (DK) (2009-2013)
- Hans-Martin Tillack (DE) (2009-2013)
- Tiit Hennoste (EE) (2009-2015)

The Pascal Decroos Fund jury consists of four media experts who are not affiliated with any specific newsroom or medium. Three jury members have thorough journalistic experience and one has another relevant background. Membership is rotating: every two years, two jury members are replaced, which means that each member stays in the jury for four years in total. The fact that the names of the jury members are not made known, guarantees their maximal independence.

All former jury members of the Pascal Decroos Fund grant programme:

- Hugo De Ridder and Karel Anthierens (1998-2001)
- Paul Muys and Dirk Voorhoof (1998-2003)
- Walter Zinzen and Derk-Jan Eppink (2001-2005)
- Daniel Biltereyst and Geert Sciot (2003-2007)
- Kris Smet and Carl De Keyser (2005-2009)
- Trees Verleyen and Josse Abrahams (2007-2011)
- Liesbet Walckiers and Dorian van der Brempt (2009-2013)
- Michaël Opgenhaffen and Tessa Vermeiren (2011-2015)

• *1.2.5. International Advisory Board*

The international advisory board advises Journalismfund.eu vzw with regards to the EIJC (names, subjects, communication in their networks...) and the list of names for new cross-border working grant jury members. The advisory board was only consulted electronically in 2015; it did not convene. The majority of the advisory board members are part of an investigative journalism centre or network in their own country.

- **Sheila Ahern** is an Irish TV reporter and director of the [Mary Rafter Fund](#).
- **Tanja van Bergen** is a Dutch journalism lecturer and director of the Dutch-Flemish association of investigative journalists [VVOJ](#).
- **Stefan Candea** is a freelance investigative journalist from Romania and co-founder of the [Romanian Centre for Investigative Journalism](#).
- **Wojtek Ciesla** is a Polish journalist working with Newsweek Poland. He also is among the founding fathers of the Polish [Fundacja Reporterow](#), which tries to stimulate investigative journalism in Poland and neighbouring countries.
- **Jan Gunnar Furuly** is a Norwegian journalist working at daily newspaper Aftenposten. He is also the chairperson of the Foundation for investigative journalism [SKUP](#).
- **Stephen Grey** is a special reporter at Reuters in the UK with a long experience as independent and staff writer, in international reporting and as a Brussels correspondent.



- **Anne Haubek** is a co-founder of [Scoop](#), a network supporting investigative journalism in Eastern European countries. She works as an editor and hosts a weekly [radio show on European politics](#) at the Danish Broadcasting Corporation.
 - **Christo Hird** is the managing editor of the [London Bureau for Investigative Journalism](#).
 - **Sanita Jemberga** is a Latvian investigative journalist who has been working for the written press and for TV since 1996. In 2014 she joined [Re:Baltica](#), the Baltic Center for Investigative Journalism.
 - **Eva Jung** is an investigative journalist with the Danish newspaper Berlingske and vice chair of The Danish Association for Investigative Journalism (FUJ).
 - **Nicolas Kayser-Bril** is a French journalist based in Berlin and the co-founder of Journalism++.
 - **Minna Knus-Galán** is a Finnish investigative journalist working for Finnish Public Broadcaster Yle. She was given the Finnish Journalist of the Year Award 2014.
 - **Sasa Lekovic** is the founder and director of the Investigative Journalism Center in Zagreb, Croatia. He is a freelance reporter and investigative reporting trainer.
 - **András Löke** is a Hungarian journalist working with hyperlocal news in Budapest. He also works with the [Soma Foundation](#), which gives annual awards for investigative journalism.
 - **Ilona Moricz** is the director of the [Centre for Independent Journalism](#) in Hungary.
 - **Xhelal Neziri** is a Macedonian journalist and co-founder of [Scoop Macedonia](#).
 - **David Schraven** is a German investigative journalist and publisher of CORRECT!V, Germany's first non-profit newsroom.
 - **Anne Skjerning** is a freelance journalist and board member of the Danish association for investigative journalism [FUJ](#).
 - **Margo Smit** is the director of the Dutch-Flemish association for investigative journalism [VVOJ](#). She teaches journalism at the university of Groningen in the Netherlands.
 - **Julia Stein**, chairwoman of German Netzwerk Recherche.
 - **Martin Stoll** works with the investigative desks of *Sonntagszeitung* and *Le Matin Dimanche*. He is vice-chair of [Investigativ.ch](#) and chair of [Öffentlichkeitsgesetz.ch](#).
 - **Serena Tinari** is an Italian investigative journalist working from Switzerland. She is a member of the [Swiss Investigative Reporters' Network](#), [IRE](#) and [ICIJ](#).
 - **Stanimir Vaglenov** is the founder of [Bulgarian Center for investigative journalism](#). He works for the daily newspaper 24 Casa in Sofia, Bulgaria.
 - **Tarmo Vahter** is deputy-editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper [Eesti Ekspress](#) in Tallinn, Estonia. [Mail](#).
 - **Zaklina Zafirova** is a Macedonian journalist and co-founder of [Scoop Macedonia](#).
- *1.2.6. Donors*

Journalismfund.eu is supported by a large group of sympathisers of the Fonds Pascal Decroos. In 2016 Journalismfund.eu received donations from individuals for a total amount of €10.708,32.

2. ACTIVITIES I – WORKING GRANTS

2.1. PROJECT EUROPEAN GRANTS

- *2.1.1. Objective*

Political decisions are made across borders. Business and trade go across borders. Criminals establish networks to run their activities in various countries. If journalists want to match this power, cross-border cooperation is vital, for research as well as for publication.

Journalismfund.eu supports teams of journalists from several countries, who mostly work out of each their country on a common story. In that way they combine their research competences and safeguard publication in several countries, which is considered important in order to address the various European audiences and achieve impact for the journalistic stories.

The aid takes the form of grants to individual journalists. They must demonstrate that their project is unusually costly or time-consuming in such a way that the normal support of editors or publishers is not sufficient for the project. The projects must exceed regular reporting, daily journalism or correspondence. The subject or theme must be European or have a cross-border perspective.

- *2.1.2. Applications*

For its European cross-border grant programme, Journalismfund.eu organised four application rounds in 2016: two in March, one in June and one in October. 42 applications were submitted by a total of 144 applicants.

11 applications, submitted by 49 applicants in total, were approved.

The total sum applied for in 2016 was €351,996. The jury granted €135,315.

- *2.1.3. Profile of the applicants*

Applicants

The 42 applications were submitted by 144 journalists in total. Most applications came from journalists from Germany (21), followed by Italy (18). The Netherlands (11) and France (8) followed in third and fourth place. As far as the gender of the applying journalists is concerned, 93 applicants (65%) were male, 51 (35%) female.

Grantees

A total of 59 applicants spread across 13 teams saw their application approved. Most grantees are from Italy (9), followed by Germany (6), France and the UK (both 5), and Denmark and the Netherlands (both 4). 42 (71%) grantees are male; 17 (29%) are female. The jury only applies journalistic criteria for the selection.

- *2.1.4. Overview of the applications published in 2016*

To the Bone

- What are all those E numbers doing in the kitchens of our restaurants? An investigation into molecular gastronomy and the food additives industry in our modernist cuisine.
- Team of a Dutch and a German journalist.
- Working grant of €9,500 allocated on 5th December 2013.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/tothebone>

Skype Village in Ukraine

- Imagine a little town in rural Ukraine, with potholed roads, decayed public buildings, ill-looking gas pipes. And its broadband Internet. A few years ago, broadband Internet brought a second life to families in villages like that.
- Team of a French, a Ukrainian, an Austrian and a Dutch journalist.
- Working grant of €3,010 allocated on 16th December 2013.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/skypevillages>

Insane Prices

- There are important disparities in the price of cancer medicines within the 28 EU member States. New cancer drugs are incredibly expensive for patients in some Eastern member states or simply not available because of shortages.
- Team of a German, a Bulgarian, a Romanian, a Belgian, a Latvian and two Greek journalists.
- Working grant of €6,575 allocated on 13th February 2015.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/insaneprices>

Turkish Puppets

- DITIB is a cultural-religious organisation for Turks in Europe. Or so it claims. In reality, it is a political body whose strings are pulled directly by Ankara. DITIB serves to promote the Turkish ruling party AKP in Europe and to push Turk-Europeans to toe the line dictated by Erdogan.
- Team of a French and a Belgian-Turkish journalist.
- Working grant of €5,860 allocated on 4th August 2015.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/turkishpuppets>

Kaliningrad, Invisible Battleground

- The case of the Russian province Kaliningrad has been causing a war of nerves between East and West. Reports about re-militarisation and information warfare are reminiscent of a Cold War 2.0. Is Europe turning back to a bipolar logic?
- Team of a French and two German journalists.
- Working grant of €4,950 allocated on 12th July 2015.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/kaliningrad>

Refugees: The Risks of Using Language as a Passport

- After crossing seas and walls, some asylum seeker arriving in Europe have to cross one more wired fence: one made of words.
- Team of one Italian and three German journalists.
- Working grant of €8,100 allocated on 10th November 2015.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/languagepassport>

EUROCRIMES – Exploring Criminal Worlds on the Continent

- The migration of criminality between European countries is a major source of social and political tension on the continent. Though dominant in the news, this phenomenon is barely covered in reports released by national and European institutions, creating an information gap that furthers mistrust and fear between people.
- Team of a British, an Italian, a Spanish, two Lithuanian and four Romanian journalists and designers.
- Working grant of €8,500 allocated on 25th May 2016.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/eurocrimes>

The Right To Be Forgotten

- Google notifies media and information sites when an article is delinked from its search engine after a Right to be Forgotten request is approved. These notifications can reviewed, collected in a database, deleted or ignored. Which criteria does Google follow to accept or refuse a request?
- Team of a Spanish, an Estonian, a German, a Hungarian and a Portuguese journalist.
- Working grant of €6,457 allocated on 12th October 2015.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/righttobeforgotten>

The Criminal Migrant Shipping Network

- Smugglers, some of them organised in networks, are profiting from migrants' despair by selling them their services, making a fortune in the process and fueling their criminal enterprise with cash.
- Team of a Greek, an Italian, a Turkish, a Romanian, two Jordanian and three Belgian journalists and investigators.
- Working grant of €15,230 allocated on 28th October 2015.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/migrantshipping>

2.2. PROJECT PASCAL DECROOS FUND

• 2.2.1. Objective

The Pascal Decroos Fund working grant programme aims to keep the memory of Pascal Decroos alive and continue his life's work by:

- promoting quality and investigative journalism in Flanders and beyond;
- creating the possibility for young people to develop journalistic talents in practice;
- bringing together people from all corners and layers of society.

The Fund wants to support Flemish quality and investigative journalism financially through working grants. That way, starters as well as experienced journalists get the opportunity to develop their ideas.

The support takes the form of grants to individual journalists, who must demonstrate that their project is unusually costly or time-consuming in such a way that the normal support of editors or publishers is not sufficient for the project to be realised. The projects must exceed regular reporting, daily journalism or correspondence. The subject or theme must be of an investigative nature, or else the approach or perspective.

• 2.2.2. Applications

For the Flemish Pascal Decroos Fund project, Journalismfund.eu received 71 applications submitted by 95 applicants in three application rounds that were held in 2016.

The jury convened three times and granted a total of **€195,504**. Out of the 72 received applications, 38 (53%) were approved and 34 (47%) were denied.

The total sum applied for in 2016 was €469,210; this is €94,075 less than last year (2015).

The total amount of money that was paid out in 2016 was **€132,528**.

• 2.2.3. Profile of the applicants

Applicants

The 71 applications were submitted by 95 journalists. 13 of them (14%) were employed, 81 of them (85%) were freelancers. Among the 95 applicants, 56 (59%) of them were seniors (more than 2 years of experience) and 39 (41%) were starters. 64 applicants (67%) were male and 34 applicants (33%) were female.

Grantees

The 37 applications that were approved, were submitted by 48 applicants. 6 of them (12,50%) were employed, 30 of them were freelancers (62,50%).

- *2.2.4. Overview of the grants published in 2016*

Arabic Uprisings

- The dream of the Arab Spring is no more. Since the start of the uprisings in 2011 the situation in the region seems to only have worsened. Is the Arabic world not ready for democracy, or are there other things at play? **Chams Eddine Zaougoui** finds out.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/arabischeopstanden
- €3,000
- Book — Uitgeverij Polis

Why I Want To Save The Indians

- Sitting Bull epitomises the mystery surrounding the Indians. One of the few white people who he trusted was father Pieter-Jan De Smet, a jesuit from Dendermonde who wanted to save the Indians. The story of the two men is gripping. **Karl van den Broeck** tries to separate fact and fiction.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/indianenredden
- €5,000
- Book — Uitgeverij Polis

Fortisgate

- A completely new light on the Fortis affair in Belgium, particularly the extremely closed deliberation procedure by the Public Prosecutor. **Wim Van den Eynde's** book Fortisgate raises serious questions about the functioning of the judiciary in Belgium.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/fortisgate
- €5,000
- Book — Van Halewyck

Love Under Pressure

- "Cancer." A diagnosis that makes you lose the ground under your feet. And not just you; your partner, too. In sixteen stories, **Els Put** lets cancer patients and their partners tell their stories.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/liefdeonderdruk
- €5,535
- Book — Van Halewyck

MAFIA

- An investigation into the Italian mafia in today's Europe. Or how the mafia found its way to the Low Countries. Mafia specialists **Raf Sauviller** and **Salvatore Di Rosa** report about their trip through Sicily, the Aspromonte and Naples, the backdrop of these organisations' activities.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/maffia
- €10,000
- Book — Manteau

The Heroin Trail

- Every year, 115 tons of heroin makes its way from Afghan poppy fields to Europe. Who wins? Who loses? Journalist **Hanne Couderé** and photographer **Jim Huylebroek** followed a shipment of Brown Sugar across Afghan, Iranian, Turkish and Eastern European borders. Elk jaar belandt 115 ton heroïne van Afghaanse papavervelden tot in Europa.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/heroineroute
- €8,000
- Article — dS Weekblad, De Correspondent, VICE

Dilemmas of Democracy

- The 20th century has been characterised by the granting of a diverse range of rights to different segments of society. But for some of these rights, we haven't found the ideal democratic ways to organise them yet. Three cases by **Thomas Van de Putte**.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/en/inhoud/werkbeurs/dilemmas-democracy
- €5,000
- Article — Apache.be

The Nazis' Stolen Art

- During the second World War more or less each Nazi heavyweight had his own private art collection. There was an almost insatiable thirst for art. Which paintings were shipped from Belgium to Nazi Germany? 75 years after the facts, **Geert Sels** tracks down the Belgian works.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/naziroofkunst
- €2,270
- Article — De Standaard

Project Victoria: Kakuma

- In 1991, in a corner of Kenya's thinly populated Northwestern region, Kakuma Refugee Camp was set up. The region's constant instability lead to there rising a form of society with ever more urban characteristics. **Pablo Janssen** travelled to Kakuma to uncover this forgotten page of the refugee story.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/kakuma
- €1,040
- Article — mo.be

Foreign Dream Teams in Ukraine

- The Ukraine has dominated the media the past two years. Journalist **Pieter Stockmans** and photographer **Jürgen Augusteyns** visited both sides of the frontline and investigated the situation in both regions.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/oekraïne
- €4,300
- Article — MO* and mo.be

Iran's Sexual Revolution

- Since the Islamic Revolution in Iran men and women's "chastity" is monitored strictly. The Iranian women seem to care ever less about the monitoring, but the religious authorities have launched a counteroffensive.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/iranseks
- €6,770
- Article — De Tijd and International Business Times

Erdogan's Idol

- If you want to understand the ways of Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, you need to look at his great idol: Islamofascist poet and ideologist Necip Fazil Kısakürek. **Ayfer Erkul** went to Istanbul and learned that Erdogan is well on his way to fulfil his guru's dream.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/erdogansidool
- €5,000
- Article — Knack and knack.be

Vir 'n glasier wyn

- The world behind a glass of South-African wine. **Emma Lesuis** went back to the wine farm that she made the documentary Vir 'n glasier wyn and saw how little had changed a year later. Her search for solutions brought her to the world of Fairtrade, among others...
- fondspascaldecroos.org/glasiewyn
- €3,700
- Article — De Correspondent

The Road to El Dorado

- Noticeably absent in the American political debate: the issue of the Central-American refugee crisis. Journalist **Arthur Debruyne** travelled the migration route between Mexico and the US.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/eldorado
- €4,000
- Article — mo.be

Yovo Bonsoir

- Yovo Bonsoir wants to leave clichés about Africa behind. The white volunteer-traveller in Benin in West-Africa is the case in point. Together with local colleagues, **Roel Nollet**, **Luca Putteman** and **Loes Verhaeghe** look at voluntourism, a popular holiday trend that combines tourism and volunteer work.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/yovobonsoir
- €5,875
- Documentary — Canvas (Vranckx)

Kakuma, The Invisible City

- How do you build a house in a place that is literally called 'nowhere'? Director **Lieven Corthouts** lived in the African refugee camp Kakuma for over four years and discovered that 'nowhere' also means 'invisible' for the outside world.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/kakumadocumentary
- €5,000
- Documentary — feature

#WeAreKabul!

- One city, five women. Each with her own story. One is an artist, another a journalist, another a rapper. They are fighting for a better Afghanistan, each in their own way. **Tine Vanhee** and **Gieljan Van Goethem** show the resilience these women share with so many of their peers.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/wearekabul
- €4,000
- Documentary — feature and Canvas (Vranckx)

Dieselgate 2.0

- An investigation by VRT journalist **Luc Pauwels** shows that since November official Opel dealers have been modifying polluting software in one of the Opel models.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/dieselgate
- €5,000
- Reportage — Een (Het Journaal, Terzake)

SPUL

- The four-part documentary series SPUL investigates what performance-enhancing drugs do to a sportsman. Instead of judging or – what usually happens – condemning, journalist **Jan Antonissen** wants to find out what happens with people when they decide to take drugs.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/spul
- €10,000
- Documentary Series — Canvas

Bring Home The Jews

- Koen Carlier is a man with a mission: he wants to bring all Jews back to Israel. With the support of Dutch organisation Christenen voor Israël, he travels through the Ukraine to help Jews return home. Because only then will the Messiah come... The organisation spends millions of Euros on its operations. But do they act out of kindness or self-interest? **Arnold van Bruggen** poses the question.
- fondspascaldecroos.org/brengdejodenthuis
- €7,500
- Documentary — Acht (DOC) and NP02 (2Doc)

We Must Be Dreaming

- The past three years **David Joris Dhert** and **Gregg Young** filmed in all corners of Rio de Janeiro, looking for an answer to the simple question: how will the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics change the lives of the people of Rio de Janeiro?
- fondspascaldecroos.org/wemustbedreaming
- €4,000
- Feature documentary and an article on mo.be

The Maidan Earthquake Effect

- Three years after the Maidan revolution the Ukraine is still shaking. Families were torn apart, millions of people had been forced to flee, the economy collapsed. In their investigation of the geopolitical frontline **Olivia Kortas**, **Kasper Goethals**, **Johannes De Bruycker** and **Bernd Fink** combine long-form journalism, videos and photo reports.
- <http://www.fondspascaldecroos.org/maidan-aardbevingseffect>
- €4,500
- Article — knack.be and [De Morgen](http://demorgen.be)

Transparency Index of Political Parties in 2016

- **Jean-Paul Pinon** of the organisation WijBurgers evaluated the Belgian political parties regarding their transparency. A first!
- fondspascaldecroos.org/doorzichtigheidsindex
- €4,500
- Article — [Apache.be](http://apache.be)

2.3. CONNECTING CONTINENTS

• 2.3.1. Objective

The new Connecting Continents grant programme, which was launched in 2015, yielded results in 2016. Connecting Continents was a pilot project that allocated grants to intercontinental journalist teams consisting of at least one Sub-Saharan African and one European journalist. The project was organised in collaboration with Oxfam Novib, which provided the money for the grants: €100,000.

Applications were screened by a separate, independent, anonymous jury of four people with ample experience in investigative journalism in Africa and Europe. The jury members were chosen by Journalismfund.eu, which operated as a firewall between the funders and the journalists, making sure that there was a strict division between where the money came from and where it went, in order to safeguard the independence of participating journalists and media.

Ten projects got awarded a grant in 2015. One had already published that same year. Six others published in 2016. Find all seven projects that have been published so far underneath.

<http://conntinents.org>

• 2.3.2. Overview of the grants published in 2016 (and one in 2015)

Who extracts the value of Nigerian football players?

- According to a 2013 study conducted by Paris-based charity Foot Solidaire, about 15,000 young boys from West Africa are trafficked to Europe each year by fake football agents promising them trials with top football clubs in exchange for a lot of money from their families. This is their story.
- Team of two Nigerian and one British journalist.
- Working grant of €6,300 allocated on 23rd September 2015.
- journalismfund.eu/nigerianfootballplayers

The Ematum Deal in Mozambique

- How much of the \$850 million budget that the publicly-privately owned Mozambican company Ematum had to purchase a fishing fleet actually went to military hardware?
- Team of one Mozambican, one British and one German journalist.
- Working grant of €6,910 allocated on 23rd September 2015.
- journalismfund.eu/ematum

Our Game

- The internal financial structures of several African countries' dominant political parties that are performing as corporatised multinationals in monopolised state power structures: Angola's MPLA, Zimbabwe's ZANU, and Namibia's SWAPO.
- Team of one Portuguese, one Namibian and two South-African journalists.



- Working grant of €14,500 allocated on 14th July 2015.
- journalismfund.eu/ourgame

Mafia in Africa 2

- Mafia in Africa 2 exposes the fraudulent businesses empire of Italian criminal Curio Pintus, who was sentenced to three years in jail in 2001 for laundering drug money for the 'ndrangheta, but remains active as CEO of US “merchant bank”, the Pintus Group.
- Team of one South-African, one Senegalese, one British and four Italian journalists.
- Two working grants, of €14,500 and €4,500, allocated respectively on 7th August and 6th October 2015.
- journalismfund.eu/mafiaafrica2

South African Companies in the Dutch Tax Haven

- Fourteen of the twenty largest company on the Johannesburg stock exchange have at least one subsidiary in the Netherlands. 20 billion Euro coming directly from South Africa is stored in Dutch shell companies.
- Team of one South-African and two Dutch journalists.
- Working grant of €8,500 allocated on 6th October 2015.
- journalismfund.eu/dutchtaxhaven

Nigeria: Europe's Electronic Junkyard

- Thousands of tons of used electronics and illegal e-waste are imported into Nigeria annually. High demand for used European electronics, inefficient regulation, and a local lack of recycling facilities form a growing hazard.
- Team of one Nigerian, one Danish and two Norwegian journalists.
- Working grant of €4,790 allocated on 23rd September 2015.
- journalismfund.eu/ewastenigeria

Catching the Real Pirates

- A number of fishing companies are flouting international law, exploiting workers, and over-fishing, thus stripping vulnerable countries of a vital food source.
- Team of one Canadian, one Belgian and one Spanish journalist.
- Working grant of €15,000 allocated on 8th July 2015.
- journalismfund.eu/realpirates

2.4. FLANDERS CONNECTS CONTINENTS

• 2.4.1. Objective

Journalismfund.eu's Flemish Pascal Decroos Fund project had announced another intercontinental grant programme in 2015: Flanders Connects Continents, a 'Flemish' spin-off of the Connecting Continents project. Teams of journalists consisting of at least one Flemish and one Sub-Saharan African journalist were eligible to apply.

Submitted story proposals needed to fall into the general scope of the UN's 17 sustainable development goals.

The project was launched at the end of 2015, so all but one application deadlines fell in 2016.

<http://flanderscontinents.org>

• 2.4.2. Application and applicant information

The Flanders Connects Continents project ran from December 2015 (1st round) until August 2016 (4th round). Across all four application rounds, 23 applications were submitted by a total of 66 applicants. Of those 66, 33 were employed while the other 33 worked as freelancers. 23 applicants were women (35%), 43 men (65%).

Out of the 23 received applications, 18 (78%) were approved and 5 (22%) denied. The total sum applied for was €249,068. The jury granted a total of €118,875.

The total amount of money paid out so far (in 2015-2016) is €87,402. Nine of the 18 granted projects were published in 2016.

• 2.4.3. Overview of the grants published in 2016

Ça Bouge au Benin (€8,631)

- The most controversial candidate in the upcoming presidential elections in West-African microstate Benin is Lionel Zinsou, who has roots in Benin but was born and raised in France. Will the next president in West-Africa be a white man?
- Team of two Beninese and three Flemish journalists.
- A working grant of €8,631 allocated on 5th February 2016.
- journalismfund.eu/bougebenin

Chinese Success. Made in Ethiopia (€4,340)

- Tens of thousands of Chinese have moved to Addis Abeba over the past years, creating jobs, roads, telecom networks and vegetable gardens with water spinach. Who are the different actors in China's recent involvement in Ethiopia?
- Team of one Ethiopian and one Flemish journalist.



- A working grant of €4,340 allocated on 9th February 2016.
- journalismfund.eu/madeinethiopia

The Lunatic Express (€3,500)

- How did one of Africa's biggest investment companies spend the money they collected from international developments banks for the refurbishment of the Rift Valley Railway?
- Team of one Kenyan, one British and one Flemish journalist.
- A working grant of €3,500 allocated on 12th February 2016.
- journalismfund.eu/lunaticexpress

Dairy and the Rwando-Congolese Border Trade (€3,000)

- Every day over 25,000 Rwandese cross the border to Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the majority looking to sell Rwandese milk. The trip is not without danger, but for many the juice is worth the squeeze.
- Team of one Rwandan and one Flemish journalist.
- A working grant of €3,000 allocated on 29th April 2016.
- journalismfund.eu/dairybordertrade

The African Line (€10,000)

- The Calabrian mafia 'Ndrangheta's primary source of money is cocaine. How do they traffic the drug from South America to Europe and Africa leaving virtually no trace?
- Team of one Dutch, one Belgian and two Italian journalists.
- A working grant of €10,000 allocated on 10th February 2016.
- journalismfund.eu/africanline

Half Brother, Half Enemy (€5,000)

- The FDLR is a brutal militia made up of former Rwandese soldiers and Interharamwe operative in the area around the Rwando-Congolese border. Its role seems to be played out, but is it really?
- Team of one Congolese, one Burundese-Rwandese and one Flemish journalist.
- A working grant of €5,000 allocated on 4th May 2016.
- journalismfund.eu/brotherenemy

Development Initiative Pushing Tanzania's Pastoralists into Poverty (€10,000)

- Some of the G8's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition projects aiming to combat hunger and poverty in Africa go directly against the interests of the smallholder farmers they're supposed to benefit.
- Team of one British-South-African and one Flemish journalist.
- A working grant of €10,000 allocated on 15th June 2016.
- journalismfund.eu/tanzaniapoverty

Water Points in Malawi: Does Development Aid Work? (€5,000)

- Development aid is not as straightforward a way to bring about change as it seems. The countries that need it most, are often suffering from corruption and a lack of good infrastructure. Malawi is a case in point. 40% of its economy depends on development aid.
- Team of one Malawian and one Flemish journalist.
- A working grant of €5,000 allocated on 15th June 2016.
- *journalismfund.eu/malawewater*

The Cotton Connection (€5,000)

- Early 2016 Burkina Faso announced its withdrawal from the genetically modified cotton introduced by multinational Monsanto eight years before. The Cotton Connection investigation shows that the American company made huge mistakes, but is not the only actor to be criticised.
- Team of one Burkinabé and two Flemish journalists.
- A working grant of €3,875 allocated on 29th April 2016.
- *journalismfund.eu/cottonconnection*

2.5. FoX GRANTS

We renewed the collaboration with the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom ECPMF for the Freedom of Expression grants, which were launched in 2015. FoX grants are research grants for investigations or projects into freedom of expression in Europe.

Journalists all over Europe have experienced forms of obstruction while doing their jobs, seeing their rights to obtain and publish information violated. These forms of obstruction range from threats of violence or imprisonment, over surveillance, to denial of access to information. Newsrooms have been raided, material confiscated, and journalists have been subject to smearing campaigns and other attacks on their professional credibility. The threats come not just from organised crime, but also from white-collar business and from authorities.

Journalists living in Europe who know about a breach of freedom of expression in their country and need time and money to document it, were eligible to apply for the Freedom of Expression Grant. The application deadline was 21st September 2016; this year there was €15,000 to distribute.

The applications were assessed by a jury appointed by the ECPMF and Journalismfund.eu. 8 proposals were submitted, by 16 journalists from 8 different countries. The total amount applied for was €38,865. Only one proposed project was allocated a grant.

<http://journalismfund.eu/FoX>

Of last year's FoX grantees, one published in 2016:

The Special Branch Files Project

- The Special Branch Files Project is a live archive of declassified files focusing on the surveillance of political activists and campaigners. The documents archived at the project reveal the intricate details recorded by Britain's secret police about a range of protest movements in Britain; from those protesting against the Vietnam War in 1968, to the Anti-Apartheid Movement, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Wapping industrial dispute of 1986-87. Other files relate to the psychological support available for undercover police officers infiltrating activist groups.
- Team of one Dutch and two British journalists.
- A working grant of €5,200 allocated on 2nd October 2015.
- journalismfund.eu/specialbranchfiles

2.6 PRIZES AND AWARDS

Every year a number of projects that were realised with Journalismfund.eu's support (either in the European cross-border working grant or the Flemish Pascal Decroos Fund working grant programme) garner attention outside of the journalism community. 2016 was a particularly fruitful year for Journalismfund.eu-supported projects, as far as awards are concerned.

Who Extracts the Value of Nigerian Football Players, a Connecting Continents-supported project by Paul Bradshaw, Yemisi Akinbobola and Ogechi Ekeanyawu, won the CNN African Journalist Award in the category Sport Reporting.

Insane Prices, a project by Eric Breiting, Stanimir Vaglenov, Cristian Niculescu, Dimitra Triantafyllou, David Leloup, Harry Karanikas and Aleksandra Jolkina, was nominated for the German Reporterpreis and won the Expopharm Prize.

Hearing Voices, a project by Michele Catanzaro, Philipp Hummel, Astrid Viciano and Elisabetta Tolla, led to Michele Catanzaro winning the European Science Writer of the Year Award.

Youth in Play / Game On, a project by Sofia da Palma Rodrigues, Paulo Nuno Vicente and Emma Lesuis, won the AMI Journalism against Indifference Prize and the High Commission for Migration's Communication Award.

Land Grabbing in the EU, a project by Luke Dale-Harris, Sorin Semeniuc and Beata Biel, won the European Press Prize Investigative Reporting Award.

Woelige Kaukasus, a Fonds Pascal Decroos-supported project by Lucas Destrijcker, was nominated for the Journalist voor de Vrede Award.

De versplintering van het werkgeverslandschap, a Fonds Pascal Decroos-supported project by Daan Ballegeer, was nominated for the Belfius Persprijzen, category financiële en economische pers.

SPUL, a Fonds Pascal Decroos-supported project by Jan Antonissen, won the Award for Best TV Documentary at DOCVILLE documentary festival.

3. ACTIVITIES II – NETWORKS

3.1. OWN PROJECTS

- *3.1.1. European Investigative Journalism Conference / Dataharvest 2016 (EIJC)*

Since its inception, Journalismfund.eu's European Investigative Journalism Conference / Dataharvest (EIJC) has been working on bringing together two communities: investigative journalists and data specialists. The need for collaboration between these two worlds has only increased since the very first edition of the conference in 2011: this year's **sixth edition**, which was moved from Brussels to Mechelen mostly for logistic reasons, was the most successful yet. It took place from Thursday 2 until Sunday 5 June 2016.

In total, **323 people attended** the conference, up 53 from last year's 270. Attendees were from **41 different countries** in Europe and beyond. Unsurprisingly, Belgium (64 participants) was the best represented country, followed by Germany and the Netherlands (both 40), France (28), the UK (21) and Denmark (20). As far as non-Europeans are concerned, there were seven American participants, two Nepalese, two Canadians and two Colombians, and one participant from Australia, Brazil, Nigeria, Mozambique, Namibia and India each.

The number of attendees has **increased every year**. The very first edition of the conference in 2011 saw some 30 journalists gather. The following year, the number of participants more than tripled to about 95, a number that increased even further to 150 in 2013 and kept growing in subsequent years: 194 in 2014, 270 in 2015 and now, in 2016, 323.

Spread over the **three-and-a-half-day conference** were **85 sessions** (84 plus a Hack Day) divided into **eight tracks**: Cross-border, Wobbing and FoX, Data, Entrepreneurial and Funding, Organisational, Tax and Finance, Online Research and Security, and a Data Lab. The Data Lab track, which was organised for the first time ever this year, was a collection of **25 hands-on training sessions**, mostly in computer rooms. There were trainings on SQL, R, Excel, Python, CartoDB, Tabula, OpenRefine and Pandas.

There were **two keynote speakers**, both top-notch investigative journalists, and both female. BuzzFeed UK's Heidi Blake opened the conference on Friday morning with a breakdown of her data-driven #TennisRacket match-fixing investigation. On Saturday, the head of ICIJ's Data & Research Unit, Mar Cabra, explained how ICIJ co-ordinated the #PanamaPapers investigation after being included in the biggest leak in journalism history.

For the first time in EIJC history, there was a Lightning Talks session. Inspired by NICAR, lightning talks are made up of **open, five-minute time slots** for which any conference participant can pitch proposals. All conference participants then get the chance to vote for the proposals of their choice. The eight people whose proposals get the most votes can give a presentation during the Lightning Talks session. The session was deemed very interesting by conference participants.

The conference participants were wildly enthusiastic. In addition to their warm praise to the organisers and positive feedback through the online survey, they sent out an abundance of tweets, resulting in the conference hashtag #EIJC16 trending in Belgium on the Friday *and* Saturday of the conference.

- *3.1.2. Mediacafé (FPD – with VVOJ, deBuren & Zebrastraat)*

De rol van media in tijden van crisis

Topic: Why do newsrooms collectively seem to take the decision to discard certain crisis situations as non-events, the only coverage in those cases often coming from a few lone rangers. **Panel:** Minka Nijhuis (author), Stijn Joye (researcher Ugent) and Pieter Stockmans (freelance). Moderator: Nico Haasbroek (journalist). **Practicalities:** Thursday 17th March 2016, 7.30 pm at Zebrastraat, Ghent. fondspascaldecroos.org/mediacafe/crisis

Cartoons: vrije meningsuiting vs. discriminatie

Topic: Cartoonists constantly balance between the uneasy and the unacceptable. How 'Charlie' are we about topics like the attacks in Brussels or Aylan, the drowned toddler? **Panel:** Tjeerd Royaards and Joep Bertrams (illustrators). Moderator: Trui De Maré (VRT). **Practicalities:** Thursday 28th April 2016, 7.30 pm at Zebrastraat, Ghent. fondspascaldecroos.org/mediacafe/cartoon

(On)partijdigheid bij heikele topics

Topic: Can a photographer or reporter take on one specific perspective or are they obliged to always tell both sides of a story? **Panel:** Filip Claus (photographer) and Bruno Struys (journalist). Moderator: Anneleen Van Offel (author). **Practicalities:** Thursday 6th October 2016, 7.30 pm at Zebrastraat, Ghent. fondspascaldecroos.org/mediacafe/onpartijdigheid

Feminisme: de m/v in de media

Topic: Do the mainstream media have to strive for gender equality and, therefore, become more feminist? **Panel:** Marleen Teugels (Amazonie), Linda Duits (Utrecht University) and Evelien Chiau (freelance). Moderator: Nathalie Le Blanc (Weekend Knack). **Practicalities:** Thursday 10th November 2016, 7.30 pm at Zebrastraat, Ghent. fondspascaldecroos.org/inhoud/agenda/mediacafe-feminisme-mv-media

- *3.1.3. Mediacademie Trainings (FPD – with VVOJ)*

For Mediacademie, the training programme for the Flemish written press, the Pascal Decroos Fund organised four training sessions for Flemish journalists. Each of the four sessions dealt with a different aspect of journalism:

- Thursday 17th November: LocalFocus' Jelle Kamsma talks about data journalism in a regional or local context.
- Wednesday 23rd November: Brigitte Alfter teaches the essentials, benefits and pitfalls of cross-border collaborations.

- Tuesday 29th November: EFJ trainer and safety expert Abdulla Maksour gives a session on safety training for journalists in conflict zones.
 - Monday 5th December: Finance Uncovered's Nick Mathiason shows how to conduct journalistic research into tax evasion, global financial fraud and money flows.
-
- *3.1.4. Other activities*

During the year, the management attends special events and investigative journalism conferences. They are also asked for advice by several organisations.

Ides Debruyne is an advisory board member of Mediacademie.be (convened four times in 2016) and a board member of PEN Vlaanderen.

3.2. SPIN-OFFS

- *3.2.1. Scriptie vzw*

The non-profit organisation Scriptie vzw was founded several years ago in the organization of the Pascal Decroos Fund for Investigative Journalism. The non-profit organization organises the Flemish Thesis Prize, the most prestigious thesis prize in Flanders. In 2016 there were 625 submissions. The website www.scriptiebank.be, a database with all submitted theses, now contains over 3500 theses. The award ceremony took place in Brussels this year.

In addition to the Flemish Thesis Prize, for the very first time Scriptie vzw also organised a similar competition for PhD students, the Flemish PhD Cup. That initiative, too, was a success, with over 30 initial submissions.

www.scriptieprijs.be – www.scriptiebank.be – www.phdcup.be

3.3. AS MEMBER

- *3.3.1. VVOJ – VVOJ Conference 2016*

The annual VVOJ conference, the biggest event for Flemish and Dutch investigative journalists, took place on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th November in Leuven this year. The theme was *Going Cross-border*. Journalismfund.eu helped VVOJ with the organisation of and communication about the conference.

[All information and wrap-ups of the conference collected.](#)

- *3.3.2. Global Investigative Journalism Network*

The Global Investigative Journalism Network is the meeting point for organisations and initiatives of investigative journalism from all over the world. The secretariat is currently based in Washington, DC. Journalismfund.eu has been a member of the Global Investigative Journalism Network since 2004. Brigitte Alter is a member of the Steering Committee.

4. ACTIVITIES III — STARTERS

4.1. POSTGRADUATE COURSE IRI: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNALISM

Big news for our postgraduate International Research Journalism course. In 2016 we set up a counterpart in the Netherlands.

The IRI course was conceived in 2004 as a collaboration between the Thomas More Hogeschool in Mechelen, Belgium, and Journalismfund.eu. The idea was for Journalismfund.eu to be responsible for the content of the course (finding journalists to give lectures, selecting the students...) and Thomas More would support with infrastructure, logistics, administration and communication.

Goal

The course is aimed particularly at people with a bachelor degree in journalism or with any type of master degree, gives insight into how to successfully set up a journalistic research project that is well-founded and credible. The course consists of three modules: Research Journalism, International Reporting, and Portfolio. The course takes up 136 hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (during the academic year).

The ultimate goal of the course for students is to learn how to make news. The students are familiarised with techniques that regular journalists have never even heard of. There is, for example, a heavy focus on data analysis and visualisation, searching on the Internet, making use of FOI legislation, etc.

The Netherlands

In 2016 a collaboration was set up with the Fontys Hogeschool in Tilburg to organise a Dutch counterpart of the IRI course. Communication, administration and planning are kept separate. The added value is that there is now a cross-border journalism course. The synergy lies in the two sets of students (Dutch and Flemish) eventually forming cross-border groups to do their investigative group projects with. We expect there to be a few hiccoughs the first year, but as all parties get increasingly accustomed to the modus operandi, the cross-border collaboration and coordination between Mechelen and Tilburg will work better and better.

Publications by the students

That the course is still relevant, is proven by the cases that last year's students have managed to publish in Flemish media:

- '[Onrechtvaardig, archaïsch en niet transparant: iederéén betaalt de godsdienstfactuur](#)' (*HUMO*, 8 August 2016) by Liesbet Aerts, Rembert Debergh and Anja Rampelberg — spin-off publications in [De Standaard](#), [Het Nieuwsblad](#), [Gazet van Antwerpen](#), HLN, [Metro](#)...
- '[De godsdienstfactuur: ketters betalen mee](#)' (*HUMO*, 8 August 2016) by Liesbet Aerts, Rembert Debergh and Anja Rampelberg
- '[Kerk versus staat \(4\): herbestemming van kerken](#)' (*Apache*, 15 July 2016) by Sander Verwerft



- [‘Kerk versus staat \(3\): blufpoker over patrimonium’](#) (*Apache*, 14 July 2016) by Sander Verwerft
- [‘Kerk versus staat \(2\): hoeveel kost een kerk?’](#) (*Apache*, 13 July 2016) by Sander Verwerft
- [‘Kerk versus staat \(1\): de ene godsdienst is de andere niet’](#) (*Apache*, 12 July 2016) by Sander Verwerft
- [‘Vlaanderen gastvrijer voor vluchtelingen dan Nederland’](#) (*MO**, 2 June 2016) by Eva Meesterberends and Kwinten Rummens
- [‘Was dat nou slim: je euro voor Nepal doneren via crowdfunding?’](#) (*OneWorld*, 28 April 2016) by Joukje Krol

4.2. COLLABORATION FPD STARTERS & VRANCKX

The collaboration between the Pascal Decroos Fund and Canvas TV programme Vranckx that was started in 2012, continued through 2016. The goal of the collaboration is to give young reporters the opportunity to present their projects on TV.

Two projects supported by the Pascal Decroos Fund in 2016 were broadcast in Vranckx:

- [Yovo Bonsoir](#) (4 June 2016)
- [#WeAreKabul!](#) (25 June 2016)

5. COMMUNICATION

5.1. WEBSITE JOURNALISMFUND.EU

Since its complete makeover in July 2012, the website www.journalismfund.eu has been drawing more visitors every year. In 2016 66,102 visitors were recorded, up from 54,344 in 2015 and 44,559 in 2014 (other numbers: 28,576 in 2013, 17,147 in 2012 and 11,269 in 2011).

Figure 5.1A shows the number of visits per month from 1st January to 31st December 2016 compared to the same period the year before. Figure 5.1B does the same per week. Both figures show that the 2016 statistics were almost an exact copy of 2015. As every year, the small peak in May has to do with the EIJC, which, however, took place the first few days of June this year. The remarkable rise at the end of the year has to do with the announcement of our 2017 deadlines, the webpage of which was visited many times.

The site is used as a communication platform for the European cross-border working grants that have been published, as well as for events that Journalismfund.eu organises, such as the EIJC. However, the website is also supposed to be a broader source of information for investigative journalism in Europe, displaying interesting developments and events that have to do with investigative journalism. It also provides an overview page with other research grants for investigative journalism.

The website reaches visitors from all over Europe and beyond. Remarkably, most visits to the website came from the US: almost 11% of all visits, which shows Journalismfund.eu's international outlook. 9% of visits were registered in Germany, 8.5% in Belgium, 6% in the UK, 5.5% in France (up from 3% last year), 4% in Russia and the Netherlands, and 3.5% in Italy.

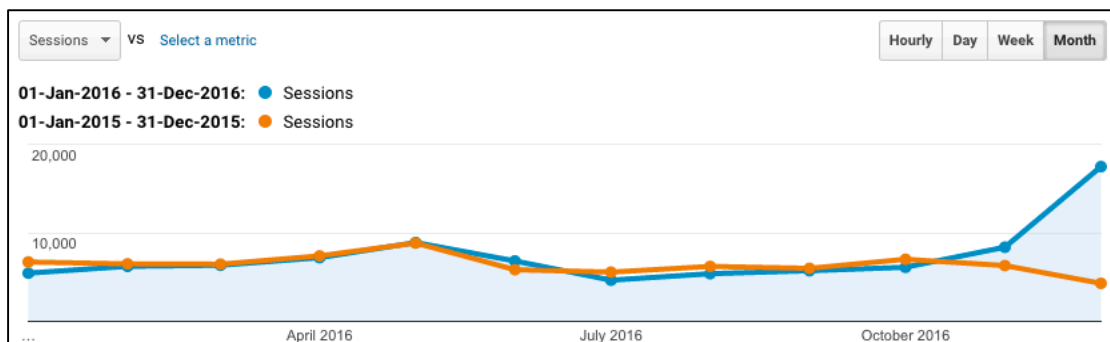


Figure 5.1A – number of visitors for www.journalismfund.eu per month in 2016 vs 2015

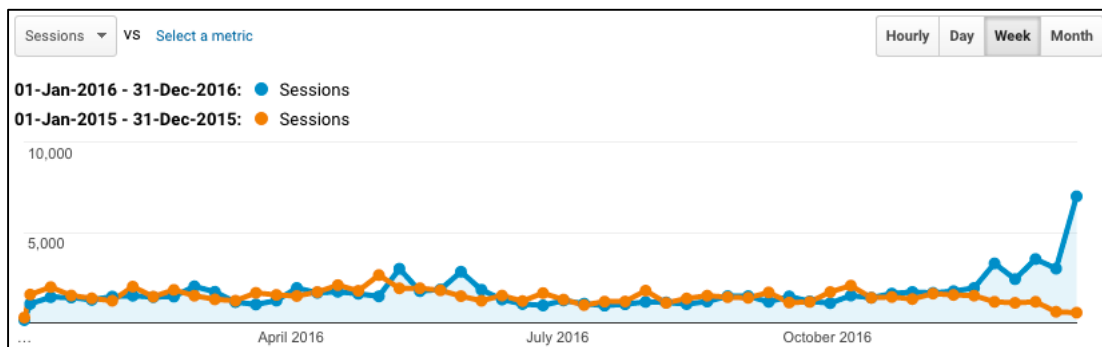


Figure 5.1B – number of visitors for www.journalismfund.eu per week in 2016 vs 2015

5.2. WEBSITE WWW.FONDSPASCALDECROOS.ORG

The website www.fondspascaldecroos.org is the communicative headquarters of the Pascal Decroos Fund grant programme.

Anyone can visit it for information about published working grants, the application process and application form, and news and events that involve the Pascal Decroos Fund. Furthermore, all activities of the Fund are announced and discussed on the website, as well as events attended by the Fund.

The website also includes a knowledge centre where information can be found about journalism organisations, Belgian and international awards, journalism education programmes in Belgium, etc.

In 2016 23,434 people visited the website, a significant drop from the 27,974 visitors the year before. The number of visitors has been decreasing for a few years now (with a minor increase in 2015): in 2012 the website still attracted 39,482 visitors and in 2013 33,264. The decrease might have to do with the increased workload of the communication manager, especially with regards to the international projects, which results in less time for Pascal Decroos Fund communication. Figures 5.2A and 5.2B show the number of visitors per month and per week respectively, compared to 2015.

Another explanation for the continuing decrease of visitors to the Pascal Decroos Fund website might be that people are increasingly following the project via social media.

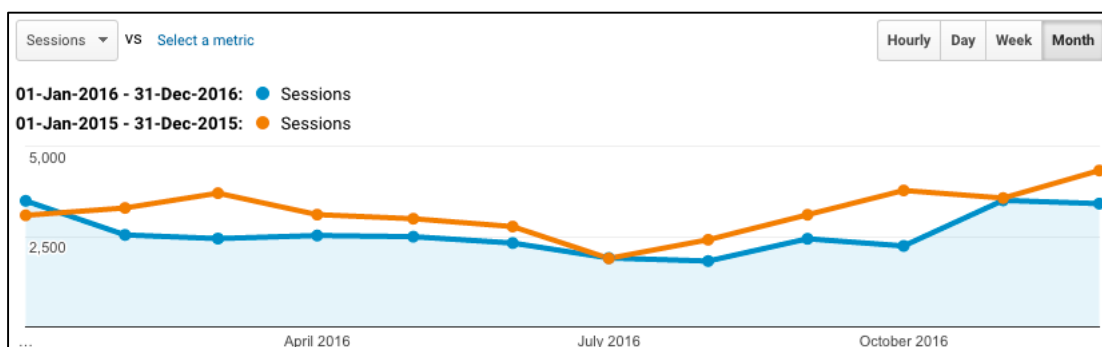


Figure 5.2A – number of visitors for www.fondspascaldecroos.org per month in 2016 vs 2015

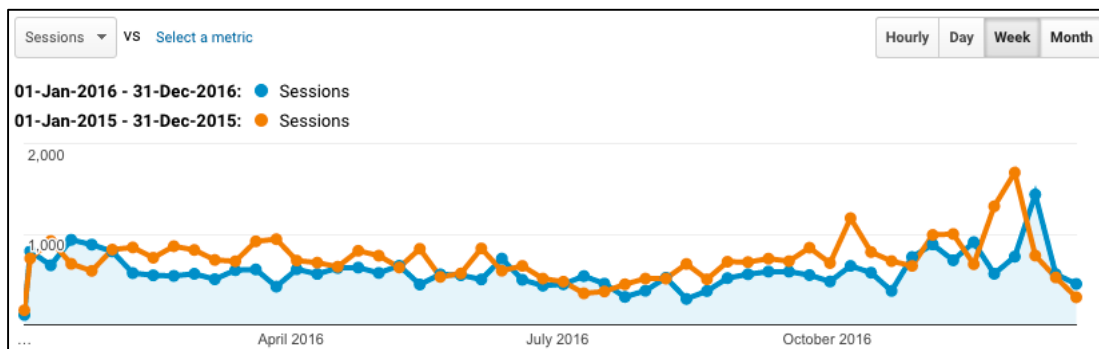


Figure 5.2B — number of visitors for www.fondspascaldecroos.org per week in 2016 vs 2015

5.3. SOCIAL MEDIA

• 5.3.1. Journalismfund.eu cross-border grant programme

Together with Journalismfund.eu's new website, a Facebook page was launched in July 2012. At the end of 2012, 210 people had liked the page, at the end of 2013 480. In 2014 we intensified our social media communication. That resulted in 1193 likes at the end of 2014 and spectacular increases to 1985 in 2015 and 2790 in 2016.

The Twitter account @journalismfund maintained its steady increase of followers through 2016 and is now at 3000, up significantly from the 2028 the year before. In 2014 @journalismfund had 1300 followers.

Journalismfund.eu also remains active on LinkedIn. Its group now brings together 4938 journalists from across the globe, up from 4500 a year before. At the end of 2014 the group had 3000 members.

• 5.3.2. Pascal Decroos Fund grant programme

The Pascal Decroos Fund's Facebook page and Twitter account are fast becoming the spearhead of its communication strategy.

While www.fondspascaldecroos.org publishes news items that are either directly connected to (the working grants of) the Fund, or highly relevant for the Flemish media landscape, Facebook and Twitter have a much more general approach. Via those communication channels the Fund also spreads items that are less self-related. Still, the website will remain the Funds communicative headquarters.

The Fund's Facebook page kept growing through 2016 and went from 2100 likes at the end of 2015 to over 2298 a year later in 2016. On Twitter, @pascaldecroos was followed by 1339 people, up from 1176 at the end of 2015 and 950 a year before.

5.4. E-NEWSLETTER JF

Journalismfund.eu sent 19 electronic newsletters in 2016, versus 23 in 2015. Since 2015 Journalismfund.eu has a communication planning of sending out about 2 newsletters per month. We fell slightly short of that in 2016. The e-newsletters are an addition to Journalismfund.eu's communication

strategy since the makeover of its website in July 2012. They are used to highlight working grants, news and events that have to do with Journalismfund.eu or partnering organisations.

5.5. E-NEWSLETTER FPD

Through 2014, the Pascal Decroos Fund sent 20 e-newsletters with information about its working grants, events, actions, important media news, etc.

5.6. PRINT NEWSLETTER FPD

Until 2013 the Pascal Decroos Fund published two print newsletters of eight pages every year and sent them to donors, journalists and sympathisers. Since 2014 we have scaled that down to just one issue per year — mostly a cost-cutting operation.

5.7. ADVERTS FPD

In 2016 the free advertising space that the Flemish print and online media industry offered the Pascal Decroos Fund grant programme amounted to a net worth of €114,139. Thanks to the support of Flemish newspapers, magazines and news websites, the Pascal Decroos Fund can increase its brand recognition among journalists, publishers and the broad public alike.

FINANCIAL REPORT — ATTACHMENTS