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ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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PRELIMINARY

2013 was a special year for the Fonds Pascal Decroos voor Bijzondere Journalistiek vzw. The organisation changed its name and became Journalismfund.eu vzw. The Pascal Decroos Fund will continue to exist as a Flemish project of the European organisation. From 2013 onward, the board of directors was fully committed to a European focus. This was a brave, but also logical, decision.

2013 was a very special year because our Chairman Paul Decroos, Pascal Decroos' father, wanted to pass the torch after 15 years. German/Danish journalist and long-time partner of our fund Brigitte Alfter was unanimously elected as his successor.

This international turn immediately led to an agreement with a new partner, Adessium Foundation, who is willing to support Journalismfund.eu for three years.

The European Dataharvest Conference for investigative and data journalism saw an increase in the number of participants and was highly valued with regard to content.

2013 was a very special year because never before had more applications been submitted and working grants paid. Journalismfund.eu is becoming more well-known and the need for grants in journalism is growing. This emphasises the importance and necessity of our organisation.

Our year-long battle for the foundation of a European fund was noticed as far as in Leipzig (Germany). Brigitte Alfter and I were invited there to receive the Prize for the Freedom and Future of the Media. This is a recognition of the importance of Journalismfund.eu and a boost for everyone involved in this unique project that originated out of friendship for the late Pascal Decroos.

With these positive elements in mind, we have high hopes for the coming year.

Ides Debruyne
Zellik

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)
- Director Europe: Brigitte Alfter – (1 FTE – freelance)
- Communication: Rafael Njotea – (1 FTE – contract)
- Administration: Britt De Metter – (1/2 FTE – contract)
- Contact in the organisation: Ides Debruyne (+32 2 705 59 19)

1.2. ORGANISATION

- 1.2.1. *General Assembly*

- Alfter Brigitte (Copenhagen)
- Castelein Bart (Nieuwkapelle)
- Coessens Wim (Ghent)
- Criel Wim (Sint-Denijs-Westrem)
- Debruyne Ides (Ghent)
- Decroos Ann-Sophie (Diepenbeek)
- Decroos Isabel (Ostend)
- Decroos Paul (Ostend)
- Decroos Tom (Brussels)
- Dekeyzer Lieve (Zellik)
- De Maeyer Ann (Meise)
- Depuydt Piet (Ghent)
- Desterbecq Anne-Mie (Ostend)
- Fort Anne (Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe)
- Heirbaut Rob (Sint-Joris-Weert)
- Pauwels Caroline (Brussels)
- Pollet Joris (Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe)
- Poppe Ludo (Keerbergen)
- Soen Ann (Ostend)
- Vandenberghe Kurt (Zellik)
- Van Hee Jacques (Meise)
- Van Laeken William (Hoeilaart)
- Van Lierop Ton (Brussels)
- Van Wichelen Koen (Vilvoorde)

- Voeten Teun (Brussels)
- Vogels Annik (Keerbergen)

The General Assembly convened twice in 2013.

- 22 January 2013:

- Approval of the annual report and financial report of 2012, and the budget for 2013
- Update General Assembly members' list
- Update Board of Director members' list

- 26 August 2013:

- Update General Assembly members' list
- Update Board of Director members' list
- Election of the new chair
- Adaptation Journalismfund.eu mission

- *1.2.2. Board of Directors*

- Alfter Brigitte (Copenhagen) - chair
- Castelein Bart (Nieuwkapelle)
- Coessens Wim (Ghent)
- Criel Wim (Sint-Denijs-Westrem)
- Decroos Paul (Ostend)
- Depuydt Piet (Ghent) - secretary
- Desterbecq Anne-Mie (Ostend)
- Heirbaut Rob (Sint-Joris-Weert)
- Pauwels Caroline (Brussels) - vice-chair
- Pollet Joris (Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe)
- Vandenbergh Kurt (Zellik) - treasurer
- Van Hee Jacques (Meise)
- Van Laeken William (Hoeilaart)
- Van Lierop Ton (Brussels)

Goedele Geeraert left the Board of Directors in 2013. Brigitte Alfter and Ton van Lierop joined. The Board of Directors convened five times. Its most important job is to supervise the managing director and check the accounts and the budget. It also helps plot the organisation's course and helps it keep its focus.

- *1.2.3. Daily Board*

- Alfter Brigitte (Copenhagen)
- Debruyne Ides (Ghent)
- Depuydt Piet (Ghent)

- Vandenberghe Kurt (Zellik)
- Van Lierop Ton (Brussels)

The Daily Board did not convene in 2013 but is in regular online contact.

- *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. At the end of 2013 Hans-Martin Tillack was replaced as a jury member.

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)

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. At the end of 2013 Liesbet Walckiers and Dorian van der Brempt were replaced as jury members.

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 Biltreyst and Geert Sciote (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)

- *1.2.5. International Advisory Board*

The international advisory board advises Journalismfund.eu vzw with regards to the Dataharvest Conference (names, subjects, communication in their networks...) and

the list of names for new cross-border working grant jury members. In 2013, the advisory board was only consulted electronically. It did not convene. The majority of the advisory board members is part of an investigative journalism centre or network in their own country. The advisory board consists of the following people:

- **Stefan Candea** is a co-founder of the [Romanian Centre for Investigative Journalism](#). He works as a freelance investigative journalist out of Bucharest, Romania.
- **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](#) and was the anchorperson of the 5th Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Lillehammer in 2008.
- **Stephen Grey** is a special reporter at Reuters with a long experience as independent and staff writer, in international reporting and as a Brussels correspondent. [Stephen Grey](#) works out of London, United Kingdom.
- **Anne Haubek** is co-founder of [Scoop](#), a network supporting investigative journalism in Eastern European countries. She works as editor and host of a weekly [radio show on European politics](#) at the Danish Broadcasting Corporation.
- **Henrik Kaufholz** is the co-founder of [Scoop](#), supporting investigative journalism through research grants in various countries. He is the chairperson of the international committee of the [Danish Association for Investigative Journalism](#). He works on the foreign desk of Danish daily Politiken, Copenhagen, Denmark. He was the anchorperson of the 7th Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Kiev in 2011.
- **András Löke** is a Hungarian journalist working with ultralocal news in Budapest. He also works with the [Soma Foundation](#), who give annual awards for investigative journalism.
- **Lutz Mükke** works at the [University of Leipzig](#), where he teaches research methods amongst other subjects. He represents German [Netzwerk Recherche](#).
- **Margo Smit** is the director of the Dutch-Flemish association for investigative journalism [VVOJ](#). She used to work as a TV reporter doing investigative television documentary series on Dutch public TV and teaches journalism at the university of Groningen, Netherlands. She was on the organising team of the 3rd Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Amsterdam in 2005.
- **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](#).
- **Salla Vuorikoski** is a Finnish journalist working for MTV3 and a board member of the Finnish association for investigative journalism, [Tutkiva](#).

- *1.2.6. Donors*

Journalismfund.eu is supported by a large group of sympathisers. In 2013 117 people donated money to Journalismfund.eu for a total of € 8,289.

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 (October 2013)*

For its European cross-border grant programme, Journalismfund.eu organised one application round in 2013, in October. That round saw 53 applications submitted by a total of 107 applicants. Never before had one application round seen that many applications being submitted.

Seven applications, submitted by 21 applicants in total, were approved.

The total sum applied for in 2013 was € 433,074.95. The jury granted € 49,954.

- 2.1.3. *Profile of the applicants*

Applicants

The 53 applications were submitted by 107 journalists in total. Nationality-wise, most applications came from journalists from Italy, Germany, France and the Netherlands, viz. 16, 13, 10 and again 10 respectively. Cf. figure 2.1.3A and table 2.1.3A for an overview of the applicants' nationalities. As far as the gender of the applying journalists is concerned, 63 applicants (59%) were male, 44 (41%) female.

Grantees

A total of 21 applicants, from twelve different countries, spread over seven teams saw their application approved. Most grantees are from France, Germany, Italy and Spain. Cf. figure 2.1.3B and table 2.1.3B for an overview of the grantees' nationalities. Remarkable: of the journalists in the seven grant-receiving teams, 18 (86%) are male; 3 (14%) are female. The jury only applies journalistic criteria for the selection; some previous rounds had a majority of female grantees. The average gender division among grantees has been 56% men and 44% women.

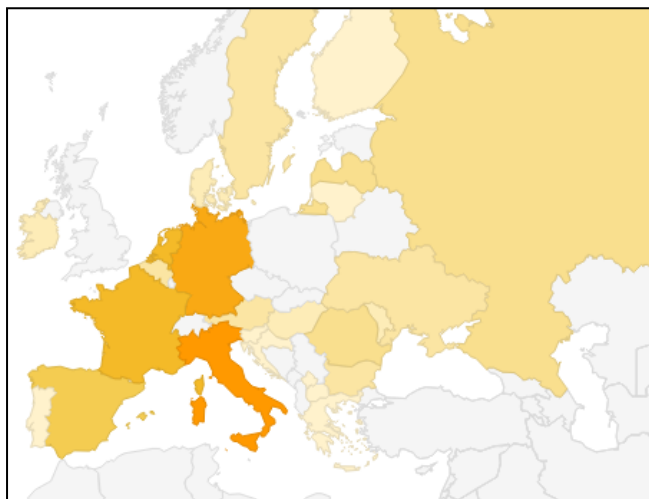


Figure 2.1.3A – applicants in Europe

Italy	16	Hungary	2
Germany	13	Ireland	2
France	10	Moldova	2
Netherlands	10	USA	2
Spain	7	Afghanistan	1
Latvia	4	Croatia	1
Romania	4	Finland	1
Russia	4	Greece	1
Austria	3	Iran	1
Belgium	3	Kosovo	1
Bulgaria	3	Lithuania	1
Sweden	3	Macedonia	1
UK	3	Portugal	1
Ukraine	3	Slovenia	1
Denmark	2	Turkey	1

Table 2.1.3A – applicants per country

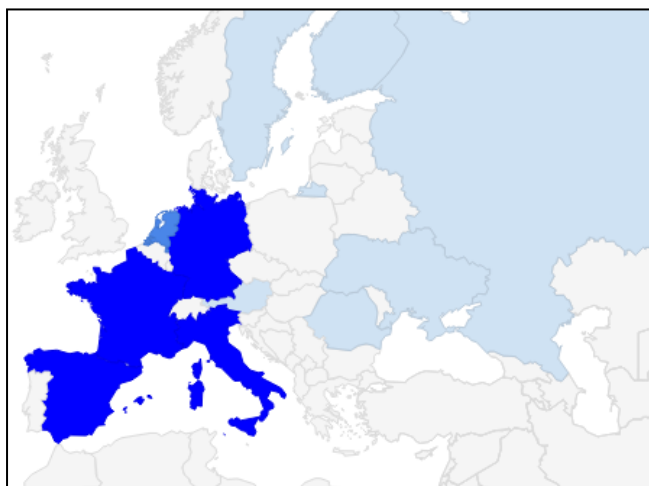


Figure 2.1.3B – grantees in Europe

France	3
Germany	3
Italy	3
Spain	3
Netherlands	2
Austria	1
Finland	1
Romania	1
Russia	1
Sweden	1
UK	1
Ukraine	1

Table 2.1.3B – grantees per country

- 2.1.4. Overview of the applications published in 2013

Roma Exploitation: the end of the dream

- Some 10 to 12 million Roma are estimated to travel around Europe. The political dimension of this ethnical and social challenge is an ongoing discussion in the EU, but what is never told is the dark economy of Roma migration. Who benefits from the large afflux of mainly poor people into western Europe?
- Team of one Bulgarian and two German journalists.
- Working grant of € 5,500 awarded on 24 October 2011.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/roma-exploitation>

Bad Doctor: question marks over EU's doctor register

- Free movement of labour within the European Union causes a significant and growing number of doctors working abroad. However, that also requires free movement of information, in order to secure patients' safety.
- Team of one German and two British journalists.
- Working grant of € 5,500 awarded on 5 July 2010.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/bad-doctor>

Gaza's Gas: the EU's burnt millions

- The Gaza Strip suffers daily power cuts of eight hours or more; the region's only power plant produces far too little electricity to meet the people's needs. How did things get this far, after massive international aid has been invested in the region that was supposed to help the Gazans?
- Team of one French and one Italian journalist.
- Working grant of € 5,000 awarded on 26 March 2012.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/gazas-gas>

Pulp Fiction: Chinese tomato puree, made in Italy

- A great amount of capital is invested in agriculture and gains juicy but illegal returns. Nearly one in three 'Made in Italy'-labeled goods sold in Italy or exported elsewhere are produced with non-Italian products.
- Team of one Belgian and three Italian journalists.
- Working grant of € 5,000 awarded on 23 March 2012.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/pulp-fiction>

Olive oil, the liquid gold

- The farms in Jaen in Spain provide a substantial amount of the total vegetable produce consumed across Europe and receive large farm subsidies

from the EU. However, very often the people working on the farms are exploited and the environment is neglected.

- Team of a Spanish and a Danish journalist.
- Working grant of € 3,200 awarded on 13 December 2011.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/olive-oil>

Organ Trafficking in Kosovo

- Between 1999 and 2001, Kosovo's Liberation army, the KLA, possibly used Serbian war prisoners' organs to supply illegal organ trafficking on a massive and international scale, under the eyes and maybe even with the collaboration of the international community present in the country.
- Team of a French and a Polish journalist.
- Working grant of € 5,000 awarded on 23 March 2012.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/organ-trafficking-kosovo>

The Gold Trail

- The Romanian village of Rosia Montana has been a site of historic gold and silver mining for over two millennia. Now, mining company Rosia Montana Gold Corporation plans a massive mining project, which is dividing the village into supporters and opponents.
- Team of a Romanian and an Irish journalist.
- Working grant of € 2,570 awarded on 8 November 2011.
- <http://www.journalismfund.eu/gold-trail>

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 (three rounds)

For the Flemish Pascal Decroos Fund project, Journalismfund.eu received 99 applications in the three application rounds that were held in the year 2013. The applications were submitted by 121 applicants.

The jury convened three times and granted a total of € 209,488. Out of the 99 received applications, 52 (52%) were approved and 47 were denied.

The total sum applied for in 2013 was € 737,068.97.

- 2.2.3. Profile of the applicants

Applicants

The 99 applications were submitted by 121 journalists. There were never more freelancers among the applicants: 88 in total (73%). 26 applicants (21%) were employed. 70 applicants (58%) were male, 51 (42%) female.

Grantees

52 people (80%) whose application was approved were freelancers. This number, too, has never been higher. 22 people (34%) who received a working grant were starters. Giving young talents opportunities to develop journalistic skills is part of Journalismfund.eu's mission. 26 women (40%) got a working grant, and 39 men (60%).

- 2.2.4. Overview of the grants published in 2013

The race for raw materials

- An uncomfortable story about an economy that does not bring development, but sponges off labour, nature and the South.
- Working grant of € 3,000 awarded on 11 May 2011.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/node/6835>

Africatown, China

- Photography project about the Congolese community in the Xiaoabei district of Guangzhou, China.
- Working grant of € 6,000 awarded on 13 September 2012.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/node/6836>

Getting rich in poverty-stricken Congo

- The secret of the riches of the Congolese elite.
- Working grant of € 6,000 awarded on 28 November 2011.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/node/6819>

Two weeks with Antwerp Jews in New York

- A small group of modern-orthodox Antwerp Jews has built a new life in New York, and don't want to leave anymore.
- Working grant of € 3,000 awarded on 2 July 2012.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/node/6829>

Cairopolis

- Photography project that wants to show personal stories in Cairo, a metropolis with a population of 20 million.
- Working grant of € 4,500 awarded on 12 April 2012.
- [http://fondspascaldecroos.org/cairopolis \(NL\)](http://fondspascaldecroos.org/cairopolis)

Free trade in Peru: who wins, who loses?

- The consequences of the free trade agreement between the EU and Peru that came into force in March 2013.
- Working grant of € 3,737 awarded on 2 July 2012.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/free-trade-peru>

The end of antibiotics

- Bacteria are increasingly becoming immune to Steeds meer bacteriën worden ongevoelig voor de werking van antibiotica en dat kan een serieus probleem vormen.
- Working grant of € 5,000 awarded on 28 November 2011.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/end-antibiotics>

Belgian arms depot in Libya

- The weapons that were used to shoot Belgian soldiers in Mali in 2013 were Libyan, but they had been delivered by former Belgian government administrations.
- Working grant of € 4,850 awarded on 13 September 2012.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/node/6831>

Science Fraud in Flanders

- Because of the pressure to publish in the academic world, medical scientists often forge data and results.
- Working grant of € 7,000 awarded on 12 April 2012.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/node/6911>

Rendez-vous au paradis

- Photography project about Palestinian martyr posters.
- Working grant of € 5,000 awarded on 12 April 2012.
- [http://fondspascaldecroos.org/rendez-vous-au-paradis \(NL\)](http://fondspascaldecroos.org/rendez-vous-au-paradis (NL))

Nuclear heritage

- The complex problem of nuclear waste and the consequences it has for this and future generations.
- Working grant of € 8,000 awarded on 13 September 2012.
- [http://fondspascaldecroos.org/nucleaire-erfenis \(NL\)](http://fondspascaldecroos.org/nucleaire-erfenis (NL))

Islam and radicalism among Moroccans in Brussels

- Has Brussels become a laboratory for Islamism in continental Europe?

- Working grant of € 4,670 awarded on 7 September 2009.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/node/7037>

Being Muslim on the Flemish labour market

- How difficult is it to have to balance working on the Flemish labour market and believing in the Islamic God?
- Working grant of € 2,140 awarded on 2 July 2012.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/minaret-midden> (NL)

The money of Flanders' right-wing party

- The remarkable relation between Vlaams Belang (Flemish right-wing), its heavyweights and its money.
- Working grant of € 5,800 awarded on 6 September 2011.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/right-wing-money>

Verapaz – the first Belgian colony

- The story of the mystery of the first ever Belgian colony, one that existed between 1843 and 1856 in Guatemala.
- Working grant of € 5,000 awarded on 6 September 2011.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/verapaz>

Controversial Dutch bird flu study continued

- Did the bird flu study of a Dutch virologist, for which he had grown an airborne variant of the dangerous virus, have any actual impact in the field?
- Working grant of € 4,000 awarded on 13 September 2012.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/bird-flu>

Between Antwerp and Baghdad

- On the search for emigrated Iraqis who returned to their country, which has one of the world's highest migration rates.
- Working grant of € 5,000 awarded on 29 April 2013.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/antwerp-baghdad>

The art of becoming

- Three unaccompanied minors in Belgium. What are their dreams? What worries them? What keeps them strong?
- Working grant of € 5,000 awarded on 28 November 2011.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/art-becoming>

School uniforms

- Photography project about school uniforms and the changes that have happened in the Flemish education system in the last twenty years.
- Working grant of € 9,550 awarded on 9 March 2010.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/school-uniforms>

Entre Temps

- Photography project in the *Zeepreventorium* in De Haan, Flanders, about three people who are at a turning point in their lives.
- Working grant of € 3,720 awarded on 13 September 2012.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/entre-temps> (NL)

Espionage. Target Brussel

- The nine best true stories about the intelligence services in Brussels during the '70s and '80s.
- Working grant of € 12,000 awarded on 6 September 2011.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/espionage>

Tricked

- Sixteen ways to never find the Brabant killers, based on the judicial files.
- Working grant of € 4,000 awarded on 12 April 2012.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/beetgenomen> (NL)

Maroc – Terre des Migrants

- Which part is Europe playing in the migration story and the fate of the many Sub-Saharan illegal and legal refugees in Morocco?
- Working grant of € 5,000 awarded on 29 April 2013.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/maroc-terre-des-migrants> (NL)

Jihad in Antwerp

- In 2013 a few dozens of young Muslims left Antwerp for Syria to participate in the war. Why did they?
- Working grant of € 6,750 awarded on 29 April 2013.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/jihad-antwerpen> (NL)

Mayor behind bars

- A unique look back at the life's work of Guido Verschueren, the driving force and promoter of the open door policy in Leuven-Centraal prison.
- Working grant of € 3,000 awarded on 13 September 2012.

- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/burgemeester-achter-tralies> (NL)

Fine particles, bold profits

- The amount of carbon dioxide and fine particles in the Ghent harbour are correlated to the failure of European and international climate rules.
- Working grant of € 5,250 awarded on 12 April 2012.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/fijn-stof-grove-winst> (NL)

The second life of your waste

- Research into illegal export and recycling of e-waste in Kenya and Belgium.
- Working grant of € 2,500 awarded on 29 April 2013.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/e-waste> (NL)

Borneo: the forest for the trees

- How can the inhabitants of the island of Borneo, where one third of the natural vegetation has already been destroyed, make a living without further destroying the rainforest?
- Working grant of € 3,000 awarded on 13 September 2012.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/borneo>

Turkey at the Leie. 50 years of migration in Ghent

- In 2014 it will have been 50 years since the first Turkish migrant workers arrived in Ghent. Today, more than 20,000 people in Ghent have Turkish roots. How did the city become a small 'Turkey at the Leie'?
- Working grant of € 5,200 awarded on 23 April 2012.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/turkije-leie> (NL)

Broken wings

- Follow-up project of 'The art of becoming' about 19-year-old Mamadou, who spent some time in Belgium as an unaccompanied minor, but was evicted and now lives in Senegal.
- Working grant of € 3,188 awarded on 21 November 2013.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/gebroken-vleugels>

Conflict in Eastern Congo

- Despite the efforts and the money invested in managing the conflicts in Eastern Congo, the different peace agreements failed to create the conditions for sustainable conflict resolution.
- Working grant of € 4,650 awarded on 19 December 2013.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/en/conflict-eastern-congo>

Musical van Vlaanderen, behind the scenes

- Few cultural organisations in Flanders have a history as turbulent as Musical van Vlaanderen. An overview of the history, the financial constructions and the political lobbying surrounding the organisation.
- Working grant of € 2,325 awarded on 20 September 2013.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/musical-van-Vlaanderen> (NL)

Brain drain imminent in Romania

- Since 1 January 2014 Romanians no longer need a permit to work in Belgium. What consequences does that change bring for Romania? And for the labour market in Belgium?
- Working grant of € 2,250, awarded on 21 June 2013.
- <http://fondspascaldecroos.org/braindrain-roemenie> (NL)

3. ACTIVITIES II – NETWORKS

3.1. OWN PROJECTS

- 3.1.1. *Dataharvest Conference 2013 (JF)*

On 3 and 4 May 2013 the third edition of Journalismfund.eu's Dataharvest Conference took place in Brussels, the biggest cross-border investigative conference in Europe. The number of participants grew from about 30 in 2011, over 100 in 2012, to 154 in 2013. 22 different countries were represented.

The Dataharvest Conference was started in 2011 merging the annual seminars of Wobbing.eu – gathering journalists using freedom of information legislation as a research tool – and Farmsubsidy.org – gathering journalists working with EU spending using freedom of information, data journalism and cross border reporting.

#dataharvest13 gave full attention to new research fields through its different tracks: cross-border reporting, wobbing, and farmsubsidy reporting. There was also as a data journalism laboratory.

Cross-border

The cross-border track focused on international journalistic cooperations. Headliner at #dataharvest13 was *Offshore Leaks*, the investigation into tax havens organised by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) first published in April 2013 in which 86 journalists from 46 different countries participated. Another important part of the cross-border track were the projects supported by Journalismfund.eu's cross-border grant programme: David Schraven about the exploitation of Roma, Cecilia Ferrara and Assia Rabinowitz about gas in the Gaza strip.

Wobbing

The wobbing sessions looked at the latest developments in acquiring information through Freedom of Information laws. Journalismfund.eu was very happy to welcome a high-level WOB panel with the overall aim to learn from other professions on how to apply freedom of information laws for the best possible transparency. On the panel were highly specialised lawyers as well as the director of the European Ombudsman's office. Furthermore, German journalist Marco Maas talked about lobbyplag.org, a website that he and his team put together. On it, they compare lobbyists' proposals about the new European regulations concerning data protection with the actual amendments that MEPs and members of the commissions eventually hand in.

Farmsubsidy.org

The Farmsubsidy track revolved around the data of the European farm subsidies. Austrian journalist Hans Weiss was the track's main speaker. He wrote a much talked-of book on financial and fiscal abuses in the Austrian farming industry, partially based on public and easy-to-obtain EU and Austrian subsidy data. His analytical research thus represented the next-level farmsubsidy reporting, following the first-level type stories that reported the initial surprises of the data unveiling the largest recipients and celebrities as well as business recipients. Furthermore there was the opportunity for smaller teams to process and analyse new data with coaching by Farmsubsidy pioneers Nils Mulvad and Jack Thurston.

The Farmsubsidy workshops were held in cooperation with representatives of the Open Knowledge Foundation.

Data Journalism Lab

The aim of the lab was to make journalists and data coders get together and discuss possible stories or prepare new datasets. The set-up of the lab followed the hackathon, speed dating or challenge model, a new cooperation model with the overall aim to find partners to solve a given task. Journalists may have an idea for a story with interesting coding challenges; coders may have come upon an idea on which to cooperate with one or several journalists.

The Journalism Lab was run in cooperation with representatives of the Open Knowledge Foundation, who had organised a one-day Hackathon for coders prior to the Dataharvest Conference to prepare new data for the conference.

External speakers

#dataharvest13 also included non-journalist speakers, among them the director of lobby watcher NGO Corporate Europe Observatory who talked about wobbling, and data engineers of German Bertelsmann Foundation presenting a visualisation of global economic flows.

- 3.1.2. Jury Presentation & Press Freedom Day Event (JF – with PEN Vlaanderen)

For Press Freedom Day 2013, Journalismfund.eu and PEN Vlaanderen hosted a special event on Friday 3 May in Brussels to discuss the role of investigative journalism in safeguarding freedom of the press. Organised in the margin of Journalismfund.eu's Dataharvest Conference, the event gathered some 70 journalists from all over Europe in Rits Café.

The evening was kicked off by the PEN Vlaanderen president, Belgian author David Van Reybrouck. Afterwards, Flemish investigative journalist Marleen Teugels, board

member of PEN Vlaanderen, took to the stage for a presentation on the state of press freedom in Belgium.

The presentation was based on an exploratory study by PEN Vlaanderen and zoomed in on some big cases of political and other forms of pressure put on Belgian journalists in the last year. Additionally, it documented forms of mild censorship in the Belgian media and forms of external and internal pressure.

The presentation was followed by a panel interview by VVOJ-president Margo Smit with former Journalismfund.eu cross-border jury member Nils Mulvad and creator of Dutch online journalism start-up *De Correspondent* Rob Wijnberg.

[Read the full report here.](#)

- *3.1.3. Jury Presentation & Protection of Sources Event (JF – with deBuren)*

At an event organised by Journalismfund.eu and Flemish-Dutch house deBuren on Tuesday 3 December 2013, *Stern* reporter Hans-Martin Tillack was presented as a former jury member of Journalismfund.eu's cross-border grant programme. He had been a member of the jury from 2009 to 2013.

After a presentation by and a Q&A session with Tillack led by Flemish journalist Kristof Clerix (*MO* Magazine*), media law professor Dirk Voorhoof gave an outline of the current state of protection of sources legislation in the EU. Afterwards, the topic was discussed by Tillack and Voorhoof in a session moderated, again, by Clerix.

The situation in Belgium was discussed in particular, since legislation there, affecting all EU correspondents, was significantly widened after a case involving Tillack himself. In the 2004 case, Tillack was suspected of having bribed a civil servant in exchange for confidential information concerning the European institutions. Tillack's home and workplace were searched and many documents and work tools were seized. Ultimately, however, the accusations against him were deemed vague and uncorroborated and he was acquitted.

The case prompted the European Court to emphasise that a journalist's right not to reveal their sources cannot simply be considered a privilege to be granted or taken away, but is part and parcel of the right to information, to be treated with the utmost caution. As a result of the case, a more inclusive protection of sources law in Belgium came into force on 7 May 2005.

[Read the full report here.](#)

- *3.1.4. Mediacafé (FPD – with VVOJ & deBuren)*

Mediacafé #12: Everybody's a journalist

Topic: journalism courses in Flanders. What does a journalism degree still have to offer? **Panel:** Michaël Opgenhaffen (Lessius Hogeschool and Leuven University), Iris Musschoot (*Campus De Persgroep*), Jo Bardoel (Radboud University Nijmegen), Ann-Sofie Dekeyser (*De Standaard*) with moderator Koen Wauters (VRT). **Practical:** Tuesday 5 March 2013, 7.30 pm at Beursschouwburg, Brussels.

Mediacafé #13: Crowdfunding to the rescue?

Topic: crowdfunding, a business model in which initiators include the public in the creation process of their project to finance the costs. **Panel:** Jan Beddegenoodts (raised € 4,000 for his project *The Taste of Freedom*), Arnold van Bruggen (*The Sochi Project*), Bieke Purnelle (*De Wereld Morgen*) with moderator Lin Delcour (VRT, Koppen). **Practical:** Wednesday 22 May 2013, 7.30 pm at Rits Café, Brussels.

Mediacafé #14: Is there any future for regional journalism?

Topic: the future of regional journalism. **Panel:** Jan Bierhoff (verantwoordelijke Regionale Samenwerking van Persinnovatie.nl), Jana Wuyts (chef regio *Het Laatste Nieuws*) en Robert Esselinckx (hoofdredacteur TV Brussel), met moderator Trui De Maré (VRT). **Practical:** Thursday 3 October 2013, 7.30 pm at deBuren, Brussels.

Mediacafé #15: Should journalists show their colours?

Topic: political preferences of journalists. Can journalists have a political colour? **Panel:** Siegfried Bracke (N-VA), Jörgen Oosterwaal (*Knack*), Kees Boonman (TROS Kamerbreed, Leiden University), with moderator Karin Raeymaeckers (director Center for Journalism Studies UGent). **Practical:** Wednesday 27 November, 7.30 pm at deBuren, Brussels.

- *3.1.5. Networking moment 2013 and other activities (FPD)*

On Tuesday morning 3 December 2013, Journalismfund.eu organised a networking moment for its Flemish Pascal Decroos Fund grant programme. The networking moment was open for press and public. The main event was the presentation of two former jury members: radio journalist Liesbet Walckiers and director of Flemish-Dutch house deBuren Dorian van der Brempt.

Every two years, two members of the four-member Pascal Decroos Fund jury are replaced, after four years in the jury. At that time, the names of the members leaving the jury are made public. This was the seventh jury exchange in the history of the Pascal Decroos Fund.

Other activities

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

Ides Debruyne is advisory board member of Mediacademie (convened four times in 2013), board member of the VVOJ (convened four times in 2013), editorial board member of the VVOJ yearbook (convened four times), and involved in the EMMA Future Media Lab (three conference calls).

01/02/2013 – Interview Ides Debruyne with Radio Supo (Mechelen)
15/02/2013 – brainstorm meeting datapoort.eu (Leuven)
21/03/2013 – inauguration Huis van de Journalist (Brussels)
27/03/2013 – jury meeting Belfius Press Prize (Brussels)
27/03/2013 – Brainstorm EWI Opendata project (Ghent)
04/03/2013 – Lecture Jeff Jarvis (Hilversum)
10/04/2013 – European Parliament – investigative journalism conference – EPP
23/04/2013 – Future Media Lab 2013 conference (Ghent)
25/04/2013 – Journalism Night (Brussel)
25/04/2013 – jury Prize of the Media Minister (Brussels)
14/05/2013 – Masterclass Prins Filip Fund (Brussels)
21/05/2013 – 1 year MIX (Brussels)
23/05/2013 – award ceremony Belfius Press Prize (Brussels)
14/06/2013 – OpenData Day Flemish government (panel) (Brussels)
02/07/2013 – iDrops (Ghent)
03 tem 07/07/2013 – 3rd World Journalism Education Conference (moderate) (Mechelen)
26/09/2013 – jury research grant rekto:verso (Ghent)
03/09/2013 – UEF summer reception (Brussels)
07 tem 09/10/2013 – award ceremony Leipzig Prize (Leipzig)
10 tem 15/10/2013 – Global Investigative Journalism Conference (Rio, Brasil)
18/10/2013 – Seminar Diversity Multiformity (moderate) (Ghent)
04/11/2013 – International Peace Symposium (moderate) (Brussels)
06/11/2013 – VVOJ De Naakte Journalist (moderate) (Boekenbeurs, Antwerp)
15 tem 16/11/2013 – VVOJ Conference (moderate) (Zwolle, Netherlands)
22/11/2013 – AEJ 2013 Congress, Brussels Press Club (panel) (Brussels)
29/11/2013 – Data journalism seminar by VVOJ, FPD, Mediacademie (Brussels)
05/12/2013 – Vermeylenfonds – media debate
16/12/2013 – 50 years ratification of professional journalists (Brussels)
17/12/2013 – award ceremony Vlaamse scriptieprijs (partner) (Hasselt)
18/12/2013 – award ceremony Belgodysee (Brussels)

- 3.1.6. *InvestigativeStories.org* (JF)

A new website, InvestigativeStories.org, was prepared in 2012/13. It was delayed but gained new momentum thanks to contacts established during the Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Rio de Janeiro in October 2013.

InvestigativeStories.org will be a library of quality journalism, a database with articles, authors' biographies, research reports etc. It will be a cross-border project because it gathers stories from all over Europe. English summaries will be made of all articles, and each article will be provided with English tags so that it can be found in the library more easily.

The library will allow journalists and others to crosscheck previously unveiled information and build own research upon it rather than to replicate it. Also, it will make it easier for journalists who wish to work in cross-border teams to find experienced colleagues.

Thanks to the new contacts with librarians specialised in journalism, the work on the taxonomy of the website now continues and the website can be finalised and launched.

- *3.1.7. Journalism Night (FPD – with partners)*

Journalismfund.eu again cooperated on the organisation of the event 'Nacht van de Journalistiek' (Journalism Night) and was represented in the jury of the Media Minister Prize in 2013.

www.nachtvandejournalistiek.be

- *3.1.8. Webdox Doc Hothouse (JF – with iDrops)*

In collaboration with innovation agency iDrops, Journalismfund.eu worked on Webdox Doc Hothouse 2013, a three-day development lab for interactive web documentaries.

Through brainstorm sessions, individual contact moments with mentors, and group discussions, the participants received feedback on the creative and business potential of their idea and got information about finding funds. At the end of the three-day event, the participants got the opportunity to pitch their project in front of the group and the mentors.

Journalismfund.eu was represented as one of the mentors. Doc Hothouse took place on 10, 11 and 12 October in Ghent.

3.2. SPIN-OFFS

- *3.2.1. Wobbing Europe*

Wobbing.eu is a network of senior journalists in. It was founded in 2007 by the Pascal Decroos Fund for Investigative Journalism. Management of the website, www.wobbing.eu, has been transferred to Brigitte Alfter and Staffan Dahllöf, who

will develop it into a membership based organisation. In the beginning it will be closely affiliated with Journalismfund.eu.

- 3.2.2. *Farmsubsidy.org*

Farmsubsidy.org was a pioneer of European journalistic data projects. Founded in 2005 upon the first breakthrough FOI successes in 2004 and 2005, it unites journalists and programmers covering European spending and agricultural policies. The Farmsubsidy.org network has been hosted by the Danish International Centre for Analytical Reporting DICAR and the UK based organisation EU Transparency. Journalismfund.eu became the new host in 2011 and was approached by the Open Knowledge Foundation / Open Spending in 2013, who later stepped in as co-host. Open Knowledge Foundation / Open Spending currently hosts the data presentation.

- 3.2.3. *Mediakritiek*

The website www.mediakritiek.be was put on hold for budgetary reasons in the autumn of 2013, as had been expected in 2012. In 2013 the website drew an average of 6000 visitors per month, about 200 per day.

- 3.2.4. *Vlaamse Scriptieprijs*

The Vlaamse Scriptieprijs (Flemish Dissertation Award) was created some years ago by the Pascal Decroos Fund for Investigative Journalism.

www.scriptieprijs.be – www.scriptiebank.be

3.3. AS MEMBER

- 3.3.1. *VVOJ (FPD) – VVOJ-conferentie 2013*

In 2013, the annual conference of the Flemish-Dutch association for investigative journalists VVOJ took place on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 November in Zwolle, The Netherlands. It is the biggest event for Flemish and Dutch investigative journalists there is. Journalismfund.eu supported the VVOJ with the organisation and communication.

[The full programme of the VVOJ conference 2013.](#)

- 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 joined the Global Investigative Journalism Network as a member. Both Ides Debruyne and Brigitte Alfter spoke at the Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Rio de Janeiro, October 2013.

4. ACTIVITIES III – STARTERS

4.1. POSTGRADUATE COURSE IRJ: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNALISM

In 2013 Journalismfund.eu organised, in collaboration with University College Thomas More in Mechelen, the postgraduate course International Research Journalism for the tenth time.

The course, a postgraduate aimed particularly at people with a bachelor degree in journalism and people 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 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.

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

- [‘Iedereen negeert de rozenverkoper’](#) (Aleydis Nissen, Justine Scholiers, Marieke Vandenhende – *De Standaard*, 1 June 2013)
- [‘Nieuwe wet tegen koppelbazerij lost niets op’](#) (Hanne Couderé, Luk Dewulf, Pieter Leenknecht – *Knack*, 11 September 2013)
- [‘Uitbuiting buitenlandse werkrachten op Brusselse bouwerven’](#) (Hanne Couderé, Luk Dewulf, Pieter Leenknecht – *Trends*, 26 September 2013)

The course is taught mostly in Dutch. For academic year 2013 – ’14, 15 students enrolled.

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 2013. The goal of the collaboration is to give young reporters the opportunity to present their projects on TV.

Two projects that were supported by the Pascal Decroos Fund in 2013 were broadcast in Vranckx: Zelfa Madhloum's 'Tussen de Tigris en de Schelde' and Maithé Franco en Luca Putteman's 'Maroc – Terre des Migrants'.

5. COMMUNICATION

5.1. WEBSITE JOURNALISMFUND.EU

Since its complete makeover in July 2012, the website www.journalismfund.eu has been drawing more and more visitors. In 2013 a record number of visitors was recorded: 28,576 – versus 17,147 in 2012 and 11,269 in 2011. Figure 5.1A shows the number of visits per month from 1 January to 31 December 2013 compared to the same period a year before. Figure 5.1B does the same per week. Both figures show that the website was visited more in 2013 than in 2012 at almost any given moment. Peaks are March, April and May, the months running up to and in the aftermath of the Dataharvest Conference, for which Journalismfund.eu did extra communicative efforts in 2013. August and October score better than average, too, the months in which the application deadline was communicated and in which it fell, respectively.

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 Dataharvest Conference. 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 brings together other research grants for investigative journalism.

The website reaches visitors from all over Europe. 12.5% of visits was registered in Belgium, 7.5% in Germany, 6.5% in the UK, 5% in the Netherlands, 4% in Italy, 3.5% in France, 3% in Denmark and Spain, etc. Remarkably, 9% of all visits was registered in the United States, which shows Journalismfund.eu's international orientation, e.g. through its affiliation to the Global Investigative Journalism Network.

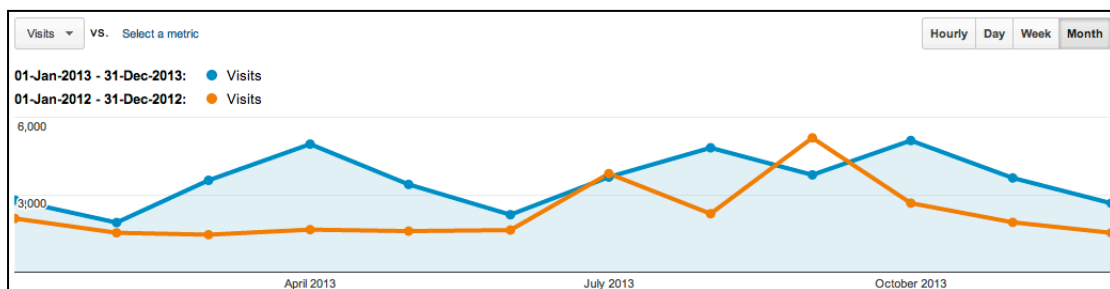


Figure 5.1A – number of visits to www.journalismfund.eu per month in 2013 vs 2012

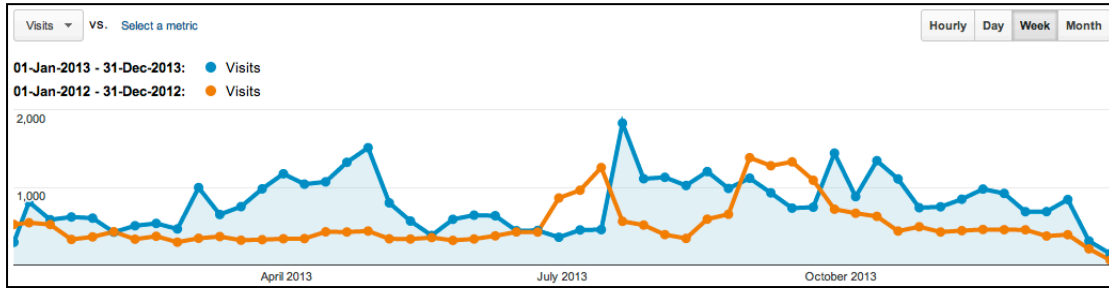


Figure 5.1B – number of visits to www.journalismfund.eu per week in 2013 vs 2012

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.

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 2013, 33,264 people visited the website, down from 39,482 in 2012. Figures 5.2A and 5.2B show that almost every day in 2013 less people visited the Pascal Decroos Fund’s website. Two exceptions: 14 August, the day the October deadline was announced, and 10 December, the day of the annual advertisement campaign in the printed and/or online editions of many of the tradition Flemish news media. An explanation for the surprising decrease of the number of visitors might be that people are increasingly following the Pascal Decroos Fund via social media.

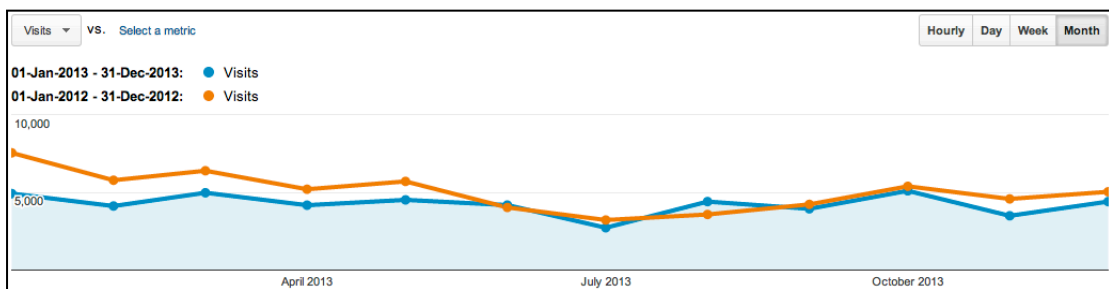


Figure 5.2A – number of visits to www.fondspascaldecroos.org per month in 2013 vs 2012

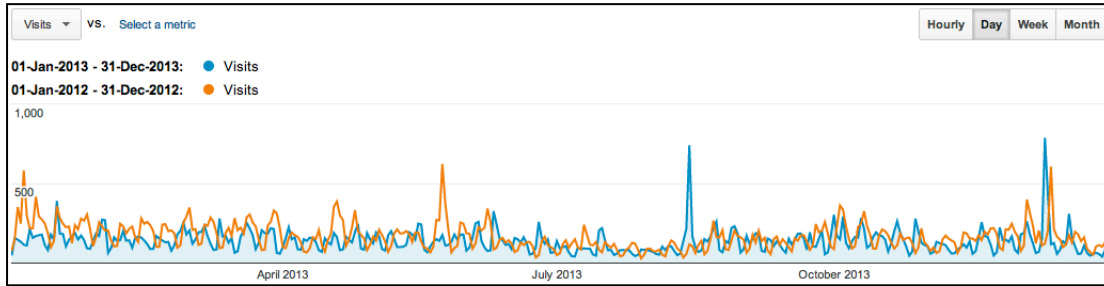


Figure 5.2B – number of visits to www.fondspascaldecroos.org per day in 2013 vs 2012

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 2012. At the end of 2012, 210 people had liked the page. At the end of 2013 there were 480 likes.

The Twitter account @journalismfund has boomed in 2013 more than tripling the 200 followers it had at the end of 2012 to almost 700 a year later. Most followers are journalists or media organisations.

Journalismfund.eu also remains active on LinkedIn. Its group brings together 2600 journalists from across the globe. At the end of 2012 the group had 1800 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 2013 and went from 1200 likes at the end of 2012 to just under 1600. On Twitter, @pascaldecroos was followed by 700 people at the end of 2013, versus 400 a year before.

5.4. E-NEWSLETTER JF

Journalismfund.eu sent eight electronic newsletters in 2013. That number corresponds more or less to the intended plan of sending one e-newsletter per two

months. 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.

From 2014 onwards, more and more working grants will be published every year. Correspondingly, the frequency of Journalismfund.eu's e-newsletter mailings is expected to rise.

5.5. E-NEWSLETTER FPD

Through 2013, the Pascal Decroos Fund has sent 30 e-newsletters with information about its working grants, events, actions, important media news, etc.

www.fondspascaldecroos.org/inhoud/panel/e-zines (mostly NL)

5.6. PRINT NEWSLETTER FPD

The Pascal Decroos Fund again sent two print newsletters to its members and other shareholders in 2013. The layout was slightly renewed to improve readability.

A question to be answered in 2014 is whether the printed newsletter might not be published in a different form in order to save costs. One option is to include it in specialist magazine De Journalist as a biannual extra.

www.fondspascaldecroos.org/inhoud/page/nieuwsbrieven (NL)

5.7. ADVERTS FPD

In 2013 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 € 91,405. 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