

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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MISSION

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Journalismfund.eu vzw is a Brussels-based independent non-profit organisation incorporated by citizens in 1998. The organisation is dedicated to advancing independent cross-border investigative journalism by connecting donors and journalists in order to promote democracy in Europe. It ultimately serves the public interest, furthers accountability as well as transparency, and contributes to critical thinking and well-informed debate.

This is how we work:

- › We facilitate donors so that they can play their role supporting investigative journalism to the maximum extent possible. We therefore report very transparently on our projects.
- › We facilitate journalists to conduct investigative and cross-border journalism; moreover, we safeguard their independence from donors.
- › We help journalists disseminate their stories among citizens.

OUR ORIGINS

Journalismfund.eu vzw is a Belgian registered independent non-profit organisation originating from the Pascal Decroos Fund for investigative journalism. The fund was set up in 1998 by family, close friends and colleagues of Pascal Decroos to commemorate and further the legacy of this Belgian journalist.

What we stand for is what Pascal Decroos stood for in word and deed. He was dedicated to investigative journalism. He was committed to creating opportunities to develop young journalistic talent and had an ability to bring people from different sectors of society to engage in dialogue and work together.

THE JOURNALISM WE STAND FOR

The journalism we support is characterised by the two ‘i’s: investigative and independent.

- › **Investigative journalism** is fact-based, well-researched, uses the best available methods and respects the relevant professional, ethical and legal rules.
- › **Independent journalism** is credible because it is editorially independent from political, economic or other types of influence. Journalismfund.eu strives to provide the necessary structures to safeguard such editorial independence.

Journalismfund.eu endorses the principles of the Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists as well as the national codes of ethics that are in force (see <https://www.ifj.org/who/rules-and-policy/global-charter-of-ethics-for-journalists.html>).

OUR VALUES

Independent. We operate independently from any political or economic influences, donors or other interests. We respect the editorial independence of the journalists we work with. Our key innovation was the setup of an independent, anonymous jury to assess applications and allocate funds for journalists.

Transparent. Our board, staff members, partners and the general public know what we stand for, and how we operate and make decisions. We ask those we work with to be equally transparent. We are aware that transparency in the context of investigative journalism can expose people to risk and are therefore mindful of our requirements.

Innovative. We propagate new journalistic methods and skills. We encourage creative thinking and are willing to try new approaches.



Responsive. We act on the needs and interests of journalists and donors. We adapt to changing external and internal opportunities and threats. We walk our talk.

Collaborative. Collaboration empowers. It amplifies the impacts of journalists and journalism. Our willingness and ability to collaborate with key stakeholders in our field strengthens our strategies. Collaboration within and between our organisational structures strengthens our operations.

OBJECTIVE I PROMOTING INVESTIGATIVE INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM IN EUROPE

IMPACT

The first step in raising awareness of human rights violations, climate change, organised crime and large-scale fraud is investigating them. Public opinion **must have access to information**, which is an essential condition for a critical democratic debate. And that's exactly what journalists do: they search, dig and examine. They discover, reveal, expose. They tell their stories to readers, listeners and viewers, aid organisations and policy makers, who can then start doing what they each do best to fight those abuses.

Since 1999 Journalismfund.eu has supported journalists in doing this job by giving them the money they need to do their research, by providing networking opportunities, by sharing knowledge and by building their capacities. It's a citizens' initiative that ultimately seeks to see the citizens better informed.

Journalismfund.eu monitors the independence of the investigations it supports and protects journalists from all possible influence by donors. **It functions as an intermediary and a firewall.**

NGOs, governments, and philanthropic organisations that work with Journalismfund.eu therefore share at least two basic principles:

- › Change can mainly be achieved by **thoroughly informing citizens to a high standard**;
- › Independent investigative journalism creates **much more impact through its credibility and depth than on-demand journalism**. If you want journalism with maximum impact, the donor is therefore best separated from journalists as much as possible. Otherwise, any journalists' credibility will be undermined, resulting in the negative view of what is initially intended, strengthening independent investigative journalism.

Journalismfund.eu provides the **necessary distance** between the donor and the journalists. Donors understand that external professionals have our unwavering support to decide which journalistic investigation projects should proceed. The donors are only made aware of the projects the jury members have approved on the day of the publication. That is our *raison d'être* and the core identity of Journalismfund.eu – we **facilitate** independent investigative journalism as an intermediary and firewall between donors and journalists.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Journalismfund.eu wants research topics to come primarily from the journalists themselves, and not from the donors. Nevertheless, Journalismfund.eu is open to topics that the United Nations has established as the global Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030 (SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals). There are 17 objectives and 169 underlying targets. A donor who wants to help realise one or more of these objectives can approach Journalismfund.eu. The targets are broad enough (fighting poverty and famine, health, education, gender equality, sustainable management of water and energy, industry, innovation, etc.) so as not to jeopardise the independence of journalistic choices.

MONITORING IMPACTS

Recipients report the impact of their story in these **three areas** six months after publication:

- › **Reach:** estimation of the reach of the story, based on the original publication / broadcast, social media, acquisition in other media, etc.;
- › **Debate:** articles and mentions in other media; debates; responses from organisations, civil society or politics; presentations at conferences or other forums; journalistic prizes and awards;
- › **Accountability:** changes in legislation or policy, layoffs, legal actions.

Finally, the **fourth most important form of impact** each project provides is: journalists gain valuable experience from them, and they generate cross-border networks and long-term partnerships that develop new journalistic stories in the future.

Like its donors, Journalismfund.eu wants the results of journalistic investigations to have maximum reach and to create a greater chance of impact. Journalismfund.eu, therefore, helps to maximise the publications' reach by building an expansive database during its more than 20-year existence. Journalismfund.eu not only pushes the stories through existing news platforms but also helps to alert civil society and other organisations to the newly published studies in their area of interest, which not only assist us in wider distribution but also with possible impactful change.

PUBLICATIONS WITH IMPACT

Some examples showing the scope of the tangible impact of stories that received the support of several of Journalismfund.eu's grants programmes.

TWO BELARUSIAN BUSINESSMEN BANNED FROM EU AFTER JOURNALISMFUND.EU-SUPPORTED INVESTIGATION

Alexander Zaytsev and Aliaksei Aleksin, two Belarusian businessmen considered close to the Alexander Lukashenko regime, were officially included in the EU sanctions package that started on 21 June 2021.

In 2020 Šarūnas Černiauskas (Lithuania) and Irma Bogdanoviciute (Lithuania) from Lithuanian investigative journalism centre Siena.lt, and Stanislau Ivashkevich (Belarus) from Belarusian Belsat TV followed the trail of the Belarusian elites, in particular Zaytsev and Aleksin. When the sanctions against Aleksin and Zaytsev were imposed, the official sanction implementation decision mirrored the team's stories to a large extent. Companies mentioned in the stories were indicated as the source of the oligarchs benefiting from their relationship with the regime, further stressing the importance of the investigative work.

"Sometimes, it takes years for an investigative story to have a clear impact. Sometimes, it never happens. In this case, international sanctions came 8 months after we ran our first story, and this is the first time that my work has made this kind of impact. In my perspective, investigative journalism isn't about punishing people. It's about getting the truth out to the world - even from regimes as tight as the one in Belarus. And once the truth is out, change will come sooner or later", underlines the team leader Sarunas Cerniauskas.

Read more about the project [here](#).

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT IN LEBANON ISSUED A WARNING TO TICKET SALES AGENTS IN SWEDEN

In May 2021 the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport in Lebanon issued an official statement warning for agents in Sweden and Germany selling airline tickets to Syria via Beirut. The aim of these ticket sales offices is to defraud Swedish residents, the Ministry said.

It happened just two weeks after a [Daraj](#) publication in line with a Money Trail-supported cross-border investigation 'The way to Damascus'. Also, one of the biggest ticket sales agents located in Jönköping Elias Dawod (Sweden) arranging flights to Syria removed all the labels from the front of its building and closed its office.

Read more [here](#).

NESTLÉ RECOGNISES ITS RESPONSIBILITY AND PROMISES PROGRESS AFTER [WATERSTORIES.EU](#)'S RESEARCH

After a [Liberation](#) investigation into Nestlé Waters' illegal dumping grounds in Vittel, the mineral water giant was forced to act more transparently. In [Vosges Matin](#) its management admitted responsibility for nine illegal landfills and announced a draft action plan to remove its waste.

This investigation was conducted in France as part of the [Waterstories.eu](#) project framework with the support of Journalismfund.eu's European Cross-Border Grants programme. This is a cross-border multimedia project about the European bottled water industry, initiated by [We Report](#), a European network of investigative journalists. Eight members of the network from four different countries are working on concrete cases in France, Germany and Italy, where most of Europe's bottled water is produced and consumed.

Nestlé's production manager, David Vivier, first admitted that there are nine landfills in the area. Five are open-air landfills for which "the solution would be quick to implement to clean them up". Four are buried sites, in They-sous-Montfort, Saint-Ouen-lès-Parey, Contrexéville and Crainvilliers, which are now covered by vegetation.

Read more about the project [here](#).

YELLOW CARD FOR GHANA FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND A GHANAIAN MINISTER REPLACED DUE TO A JOURNALISTIC INVESTIGATION

The Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Ghana, Mrs Elizabeth Afoley Quaye, lost her seat in the December 2020 polls and was replaced as minister after a journalistic investigation. Furthermore, the European Commission has issued a warning (a so-called yellow card) to the Republic of Ghana that it risks being identified as a non-cooperating country in the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The Commission's decision is based on various shortcomings in Ghana compliance with its duties under international law as a flag, port, coastal or market State.

In 2020 a Journalismfund.eu supported investigation by Gideon Sarpong and Elfredah Kevin-Alerechi revealed the negative impact of illegal industrial fishing on the marine ecosystem and biodiversity in Ghana and Nigeria and the significant economic toll on artisanal fishers. This cross-border story has already highlighted how current laws in both countries had been rendered ineffective through years of non-enforcement serving as a boost to illegal, unreported and unregulated IUU fishing.

Ghana is currently being encouraged to take the necessary actions in order to abide by its international obligations in the fight against IUU fishing.

Read more [here](#).

COLLATERAL IMPACT OF THE CHLORPYRIFOS CASE: STORY SUPPORTED BY JOURNALISMFUND.EU INFLUENCES EU AND US POLICY

Residues of Chlorpyrifos, a dangerous insecticide, have been found in fruit baskets and samples of human urine across Europe. Chlorpyrifos is a chemical that kills insects on growing vegetables and fruit. The series of stories, funded by Journalismfund.eu, uncovered its effect on adults and children, the spread of the pesticide in different foods, the legal battle in European Union and the fact that it has been banned in more and more countries, but cannot be completely avoided. At the same time, market analysts predict the market to expand in the next five years.

After this large and cross-border investigation that unveils its risks for the public. The use of the pesticide has been banned in the European Union since February 2020. Consequently, important companies remove this chemical from their productions due to it has been linked to low birth weight, reduced IQ and attention disorders in children. Recently US environmental agency also banned it for the same reasons.

Read more [here](#).

"DECEPTION WITH PORT" ECBG RESEARCH GOT AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT JUST AFTER ITS FIRST PUBLICATION

As an outcome of the story, AH removed bottles of Kopke from the shelf after research "Deception with Port". The info was reported by Distrifood in the Netherlands on 14th January, 2022 just after the first publication.

Read more [here](#).

INCREASING APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORT

APPLICATIONS

In 2021 Journalismfund.eu received **309 applications (from 656 applicants)** for 9 grant programmes: European Cross Border (ECBG), Pascal Decroos Fund, Emergency Fund for Local Journalists, Stamp Media Grants for young journalists, Money Trail Project, Journalismfund.eu Local, Science Journalism grants, Modern Slavery Unveiled Project, investigation grants for Environmental Journalism, enabling services for Environmental Journalism. For an overview of the goals, scope, grants, stories and impact of the grant programmes, see Annexes 6.1 to 6.10.

The grant applicants were domiciled in **71 different countries**, see the table below.

The **average age** of the applicants is **37**.

GRANTEES

In 2021, we supported 135 projects or 289 grantees (123 female, 150 male). The grantees are domiciled in 42 different countries.

The average age of the grantees is 38. 73,35% are freelance journalist, 52% male and 42% female. 11% are novices, 89% are experienced journalists (more than 2 years of experience).

- (*) **ECBG** = European Cross-Border Grants Programme (see below)
ENV1 = Investigation Grants for Environmental Journalism (see below)
ENV2 = Enabling Services for Environmental Journalism (see below)
FPD = The Pascal Decroos Grants Programme (see below)
LOCAL = Journalismfund.eu LOCAL Grants Programme (see below)
MSU = Modern Slavery Unveiled (see below)
MT = The Money Trail Grants Programme (see below)
SCI = Science Journalism (see below)
SM = Stamp Media Grants Programme (see below)

2021	ECB	ENV1	ENV2	FPD	LOCAL	MSU	MT	SCI	SM	TOTAL
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APPLIED

#budget	1.160.711	422.424	403.128,87	578.696	30.341	407.318	174.087	95.612	5.415	3.277.733
#applications	93	23	15	103	5	29	18	18	5	309
#applicants	264	70	15	147	11	82	39	22	6	656

GRANTED

#budget	207.250	278.245	82.345	253.144	21.325	118.061	59.730	64.360	3.800	1.088.260
#projects	27	14	4	52	4	10	8	13	3	135
#grantees	82	46	4	75	9	32	21	16	4	289
Av. age	40	41	0	37	41	37	39	35	24	33

APPLIED

	2020	2021		
#budget	2.812.488	3.277.733	↑	+ 16.54%
#applications	290	309	↑	+ 6.55%
#applicants	649	656	↑	+ 1.08%

GRANTED

#budget	925.295	1.088.260	↑	+ 17.61%
#projects	153	135	↓	- 11.76%
#grantees	317	289	↓	- 8.83%

WORK SITUATION / GRANTEES

2021	ECB	ENV1	ENV2	FPD	LOCAL	MSU	MT	SCI	SM	TOTAL 2021
Freelance	65	33	0	52	9	26	14	12	1	212
Employee	17	1	0	17	0	5	7	4	0	51
Student	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	7
Retired	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Company	0	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Other	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	82	46	4	75	9	32	21	16	4	289

GENDER BALANCE OF THE GRANTEES

2021	ECB	ENV1	ENV2	FPD	LOCAL	MSU	MT	SCI	SM	TOTAL 2021
Male	45	17	0	46	6	13	14	8	1	150
Female	37	18	0	28	3	19	7	8	3	123
-	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Compagnie	0	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
TOTAL	82	46	4	75	9	32	21	16	4	289

NOVICE VERSUS EXPERIENCED / GRANTEES (LESS OR MORE THAN 2 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE)

2021	ECB	ENV1	ENV2	FPD	LOCAL	MSU	MT	SCI	SM	TOTAL 2021
Starter	0	0	0	22	0	2	1	0	4	29
Senior	82	35	0	53	9	30	20	16	0	245
TOTAL	82	35	0	75	9	32	21	16	4	274

DOMICILE / GRANTEES

2021	ECB	ENV1	ENV2	FPD	LOCAL	MSU	MT	SCI	SM	TOTAL 2021
Afghanistan	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Argentina	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Austria	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Belarus	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Belgium	3	5	0	63	4	0	0	14	4	93
Cameroon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Croatia	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Czech Republic	6	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	11
Denmark	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Ethiopia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
France	9	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
Gambia, The	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Germany	11	6	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	20
Ghana	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Greece	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
India	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	6
Ireland	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Italy	6	7	0	0	0	9	0	1	0	23
Kenya	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5
Lebanon	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Myanmar	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Nepal	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Netherlands	6	2	0	9	5	0	1	0	0	23
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Poland	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Portugal	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Romania	3	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	7
Serbia	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Slovakia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
South Africa	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spain	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4
Switzerland	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Tunisia	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Turkey	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ukraine	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
United Kingdom	14	5	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	25
United States	4	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	7
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	82	46	4	75	9	32	21	16	4	289

AWARDS

In 2021, the following projects received or were nominated for an award:

PASCAL DECROOS FUND

- › Belgian film **La Civil** was awarded at the Cannes Festival 2021 where it won the Audacity Award, the film had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, and it opened the Film Fest Gent on October 12, 2021;
- › Belgian film **ALL-IN** won the award for best documentary at the Antalya Altın Portakal Film Festivali, and the film has also been selected for the European Film Awards 2021.
- › The book **Bloed en honing** (Blood and honey) won *De Nederlandse Fotoboekenprijs* (Dutch award): award for best text/photobook.
- › The podcast **Moeders ten laste** (Financially dependent mothers) was awarded with the Belfius Persprijzen: award for Best Podcast/Radio, most important journalistic award in Belgium.
- › Documentary **Mother** won Ensors 2021: award for Best Documentary Film, most important film award in Flanders, Belgium.
- › **De onfatsoenlijken** (The indecent), a documentary supported by Fonds Pascal Decroos was awarded with the Ensors 2021: award for Best Documentary TV, most important award in Flanders, Belgium.

MONEY TRAIL

- › Money trail supported series 'Hard Labour: How a lack of regulation puts Kenyan surrogates at risk' has been shortlisted for the Fetisov Journalism Awards. The Series was shortlisted in the category of Outstanding Investigative Reporting.
- › Swedish Journalist Carolina Jemsby was shortlisted for the 'Golden Shovel' (Guldspaden) award for investigation Climate Change Adaptation Aid Never Reached Kenya's Farmers supported by Money Trail grant programme. Guldspaden is an annual Swedish prestigious award in investigative journalism. It is awarded by the Swedish Association of Investigative Journalism ([Föreningen Grävande Journalister](#)).
- › The investigation 'The consultant: why did a palm oil conglomerate pay \$22m to an unnamed 'expert' in Papua?' was finalist in two categories of the Online Journalism Awards 2021: the 'Knight Award for Public Service' and 'Excellence in Collaboration and Partnerships'.

All awards and nominations can be found online:

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/awards>

TRAINING AND MENTORING PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM – POST-ACADEMIC (MECHELEN)

The course targets people with a master's degree in any subject (or with a bachelor's degree in journalism) and provides insight into how a successful, properly substantiated and credible investigative journalism project can be set up. The course consists of three modules: Investigative journalism, International reporting and Portfolio. The course takes 136 hours and takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (throughout the academic year).

The ultimate goal of the course is to teach students how to write a news article. The students are familiarised with techniques of which mainstream journalists have little or no knowledge. For instance, considerable attention is paid to data analysis and visualisation, searching on the internet, making use of Freedom of Information legislation, etc.. Considerable attention is also paid to cross-border cooperation and entrepreneurship.

The guest lecturers are all experts in their field with extensive experience: Evert De Vos (Groene Amsterdammer), Henk Van Ess (Poynter, Bellingcat), Maarten Lambrechts (expert data journalism and visualisation), Peter Verlinden (former VRT journalist), Kristof Clerix (investigative journalist Knack), Luuk Sengers (Story-based Inquiry), to name a few. Every year, we also schedule a guest lecture given by a former IRJ student who successfully completed the course and is now working as a journalist.

TRAINING MODERN SLAVERY UNVEILED PROJECT

In the framework of Modern Slavery Unveiled grant programme, trainings will be provided on online safety and collaboration with CSOs. Journalism in its essence entails the investigation for and production of articles. To amplify the impact of these stories, CSOs and journalists will be brought together to receive relevant trainings and similarly ensure stories about exploitation are being exchanged and implemented in the advocacy work of CSOs. In order to ensure the independence of the journalists the collaboration with CSOs will not cover the investigative work. JF will monitor this important ethical principle for the journalists throughout the project.

On June 24, 2021, the first webinar took place online and was titled **"Investigating Human Trafficking"**. We carried it out in collaboration with the Global Investigative Journalism Network. This webinar provided tips on how to dig into human trafficking, sex exploitation and labour abuse, and discussed the best ways to cooperate with civil society group offering protection to victims of trafficking and slavery. It took place online through Zoom, in total 694 people registered, 308 attended from 63 countries, and the attendance rate was at 44%. The training was shared on the Facebook pages of GIJN and Journalismfund.eu. On this platform the peak number of live viewers was 15 people. The webinar is available on YouTube and had already 760 views.

For 2022, one training is already confirmed on 9 February. Added to this, four other trainings are scheduled throughout the year. All of them are planned to be held in collaboration with other organisations who share the goal regarding ending modern slavery.

MENTORING PROGRAMME (UNDER ECB GRANTS, MSU AND ENV1 GRANTS)

For teams that need support in terms of investigation skills, a mentor can be appointed. We can propose calling on a mentor during a prior dialogue with the team applying for a grant. The mentors are selected based on the focus of the investigation or in view of their competence in a specific skill. Having the help of a mentor can have a significant positive impact on a team and its story. Teams of journalists less experienced in the field of cross-border investigative stories can particularly benefit from help from more experienced colleagues. The jury can also make the awarding of a grant subject to collaboration with a mentor.

The investigative team can suggest a mentor from its pool, or the team can choose the mentor from the list on our website and suggest him/her themselves. The maximum duration of the use of a mentor depends on the case at hand and on the needs of the journalists involved. One person can also act as mentor for multiple teams.

Once he/she has been selected, the mentor will sign a mentor agreement with Journalismfund.eu. His/her total remuneration will depend on the number of days that he/she will be needed. The fee per day amounts to €250, exclusive of VAT. The mentor will issue an invoice to Journalismfund.eu on a quarterly basis.

After the evaluation of Journalismfund.eu's mentoring programme pilot phase in 2017, the Fund successfully expanded it, eventually integrating it into its grant programmes. All the lessons learnt were taken into the account, and all the previous recommendations were considered. Over the last four years (2018-2021) Journalismfund.eu's pool of mentors had a significant positive influence on the teams of journalists, processes of their investigations and results of the stories. In 2020-2021 both Modern Slavery Unveiled and European Cross-Border Grants Programmes demonstrated evident and visible advantages of working with mentors.

This is the list of mentors whom we have pooled for the ECBG, MSU and ENV1:

- › **Gwen Lister** (Namibia) – Journalist, columnist and press freedom activist. Founder and editor of [The Namibian](#). Early ICIJ member;
- › **Nick Mathiason** (United Kingdom) – Founder and co-director of Finance Uncovered;
- › **Sheila Coronel** (United States/ Philippines) – Director of Stable Centre for Investigative Journalism;
- › **Wahyu Dhyatmika** (Indonesia) – Specialist in corruption reporting. Editor-in-chief for Tempo Media Group, Jakarta. Board member of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI), Indonesia;
- › **Yi-Shan Chen** (Taiwan): Finance reporter, instructor at National Taiwan University's School of Journalism and deputy editor at Taiwan's Commonwealth magazine. Participated in the ICIJ Offshore Leaks, Panama Papers and Paradise Papers projects;
- › **Oliver Schröm** (Germany) – Finance reporter and editor-in-chief at Correctiv;
- › **John-Allan Namu** (Kenya) – Investigative journalist for/CEO of Africa Uncensored;
- › **Eric Smit** (Netherlands) – Finance and money laundering specialist. Editor-in-chief of Follow the Money (ftm.nl);
- › **Paula Fray** (South Africa) – Managing director at frayintermedia;
- › **Laurent Richard** (France) – Investigative journalist. Co-founder of the French inquiry magazine Cash Investigation. ICIJ member. Worked on Luxleaks;
- › **Pavla Holcova** (Czech Republic) – specialises in Organised Crime Groups in Europe, Money Laundering, media projects. She is the founder of the Czech Centre for Investigative Journalism;
- › **Roel Landingin** (Philippines) – specialises in corruption, abuse of money and resources. Roel Landingin is the editor-in-chief of Entrepreneur Philippines, an online business news website. He is also a contributor to the Philippine Centre for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) and an ICIJ-member;
- › **Sylke Gruhnwald** (Switzerland) – reporter based in Switzerland specialising in reporting on white collar crime, fraud and following the money trail;
- › **Craig McKune** (South Africa) – specialises in research and communications projects tackling tax havens and financial flows & climate and energy issues. Formerly worked as an investigative journalist for amaBhungane;

- **Coco Gubbels** (Netherlands) – full-time ad-interim programme and project manager at VL Consultants BV. Coco Gubbels is aware of the need and added value of project management in investigative journalism.
- **Lindita Cela** (Albania) is an investigative reporter based in Albania, known and awarded for her uncompromising investigations into corruption scandals and organized crime, including the problem of human trafficking in Europe.
- **Irene Caselli** (Italy) is the founder of The First 1,000 Days, a fully reader-supported newsletter that covers early childhood. Before that, she worked for a decade as a foreign correspondent in Latin America.
- **Pramod Acharya** (Nepal) is a freelance journalist based in Kathmandu, Nepal. He has experience in investigative reporting, data journalism, and multimedia content production.
- **Staffan Dahllöf** (Denmark) is a freelance reporter based in Copenhagen, specialised in FOI.
- **Nils Hanson** (Sweden) is an awarded freelance investigative editor for and former editor-in-chief of Swedish public broadcaster SVT’s Mission Investigate.

OVERALL RESULTS:

1. For the last four years (2018-2021) Journalismfund.eu’s mentoring programme has brought an evident and visible added value to the supported projects, teams of individual journalists and investigative process;
2. The list of mentors was further updated and developed;
3. For the last four years both mentors and journalists demonstrated progress in understanding their respective roles and responsibilities in their partnership.

In 2020-2021 in general Journalismfund.eu had 7 ongoing projects with the mentorship consultations for the European Cross-Border Grants Programmes. If we follow these increased numbers, we can see clear progress in the mentoring programme.

EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER GRANTS

ID	ROUND	TEAM LEADER	MENTOR
ECB/2019/JA3A/532	14/10/2019	Luk Dewulf	John-Allan Namu
ECB/2020/OSF3/570	18/02/2020	Yuliia Kalashnyk	Gwen Lister
ECB/2020/JA3A/609	21/08/2020	Ludovica Jona	Staffan Dahllöf
ECB/2020/JA3A/600	21/08/2020	Robert Schmidt	Sylke Gruhnwald
ECB/2020/OSF3/605	21/08/2020	Hannah Kirmes-Daly	Nancy Porsia
ECB/2020/OSF3/573	18/02/2020	Daiva Repeckaite	Crina Boros
ECB/2021/663	16/04/2021	Patrizia Schlosser	Sarah Hurst

CAPACITY BUILDING – MENTORING

In 2021 the project coordinators spent approximately 115 hours guiding and coordinating the mentors. In total they have supervised 20 mentored projects (12 with a contract signed).

INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MENTORING

During 2020 – 2021 the following factors contributed to a more effective mentorship:

- › **Availability** – the mentors were really dedicated to mentoring and spent their time accordingly;
- › **Understanding respective roles and responsibilities** – the mentors started to understand better their exact role in the investigations. They were sufficiently (de)briefed about the concept of the project and their responsibilities. They fully understood the specific needs of the teams;
- › **Knowledge and Skills** – the teams of journalists started to indicate in detail in their application forms the specific skills and professional profile of the mentor they think they need. Also, very often the team itself selected a mentor from the pool of mentors and/or specified the specific skills of the mentor needed in the context of their investigation. As a result, mentors have grown much more knowledgeable about the topic or skills they are transferring. Mentors were appointed for teams that needed support regarding a specific aspect of an investigation. As such, the mentors were selected based on either the focus of investigation or the need for competencies in a specific skill;
- › **Deciding on mentoring** – previously it was always the jury members of the grant programmes who recommended the assistance of a mentor to the teams of journalists. In the last few years, the applicants themselves received the opportunity to choose a mentor in the course of the application process. Consequently, projects were approved on their own merit, and mentors didn't become a tool for approving proposals.

QUALITY MEASUREMENT SYSTEM MENTORING PROGRAMME

Journalismfund.eu uses the following key performance indicators for its mentoring programme:

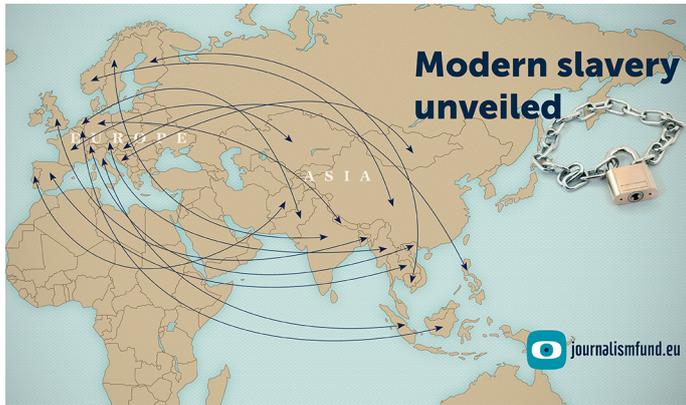
- › Quality publication of the investigation;
- › Story was published more widely, with more extensive outreach;
- › The investigation had more influence / tangible impact;
- › Knowledge transfer and knowledge sharing;
- › Network building / network development;
- › Motivation of the team to continue conducting cross-border investigative journalism.

The following examples illustrate how some of these indicators worked in 2021 in the framework of the European Cross-Border Grants Programme:

- › ECB/2021/663 – project '**The Invisible men behind the biggest porn sites**'. The team requested a mentor with skills in financial reporting, corruption, money trails leading into offshore companies. Finally, Sarah Hurst, our former successful grantee, first joined to the team as a mentor by also consulting the team members in line with Russian ties into the EU.
- › ECB/2020/JA3A/609 – project '**Behind the Pledge**'. The team requested an editorial expert to point out potential gaps in narrative, strengthen necessary data or make other suggestions. Their mentor Staffan Dahllöf helped the team to elevate the quality of their publication in Le Monde and also to achieve more extensive outreach (in addition to Le Monde, and Süddeutsche Zeitung, articles were also published in the British Medical Journal and the EU Observer);

- › ECB/2020/JA3A/600 – project **'Waterstories.eu'**. The mentor helped the team in planning the project and its publications. As an outcome, the story was published more widely, achieving greater outreach.
- › ECB/2020/JA3A/595 – project **'Ukraine as a Safe Haven for Jihadists'**. Their mentor Pavla Holcova brainstormed the team about the way they conduct their research and pitch their stories. As a result, the investigation had more influence in both Ukraine and Poland.

MODERN SLAVERY UNVEILED GRANT PROGRAMME - MENTORING



Next to a grant, teams also applied for a mentor to assist them with either the focus of the investigation or the need for competences in a specific skill. So far, all the teams from the first round have met with their respective mentor and had expressed the advantages of having an experienced journalist who guides them in different aspects such as project management and safety issues. The objective is to provide facilities to research modern slavery stories in Asia and Europe. In 2021, **five teams** had a mentor assigned to them.

In the case of Modern Slavery Unveiled grant programme, 5 teams asked for a mentor in 2021 out of the 10 teams that were granted in the calls of March and September. In total Journalismfund.eu contacted four mentors for five teams, all of them have signed a contract. One of the teams published their story in November 2021:

MSU/2021/006 – project **'A High Stakes 'Game' - How traffickers exploit young Bangladeshis' dreams of escape to Europe'**. The team requested a mentor to guide them on OSINT methods, and how to follow the money courses. Their mentor, Pramod Acharya, helped them to understand satellite information and how this technology works to be used as a useful tool in their investigation.

EARTH INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAMME



For Investigation Grants for Environmental Journalism 8 out of 14 granted teams asked for a mentor to support specific aspects and areas in their investigations. Up to date, no contract has been signed with the mentors, but in 2022 it is expected to conduct teams and mentors. Since the environmental aspect is crucial in this grant programme, Journalismfund.eu will have to expand its pool of mentors to provide more specific support to journalists.

OBJECTIVE II FACILITATING NETWORKS OF JOURNALISTS IN EUROPE

GRANTEES AT CONFERENCES

Journalismfund.eu considers it important that journalists are given the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge with colleagues and fellow journalists at conferences. Journalists who have been given a grant, share their experiences at conferences after the publication of their reports and, in doing so, help and inspire their colleagues. We believe that the more successful investigation projects turn out, the more journalists will want to investigate corruption, tax evasion and other financial injustices and the more budget media will want to make available for it.

Most of the conferences we focused on did not take place, were postponed or went virtual because of the pandemic. So we were not able to support any grantee to attend a conference.

LECTURES / EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

Over the year, Journalismfund.eu attended several online conferences and networking events to promote our grants and organisation. With its networking activities, Journalismfund.eu tries to convince journalists to start a cross-border investigative journalism project and lower the threshold for this.

Here is the list of conferences / networking events (online):

- › **20/03/2021** – Brussels - Ides Debruyne at a radio programme (Interne Keuken – Radio 1 Belgium) talking about a book about Eliot Higgins
- › **26/03/2021** – Online - Ides Debruyne attended the online meeting “The Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe”
- › **02/04/2021** – Online - Interview for study – Journalists in the future
- › **14/04/2021** – Online - #UnCovered – Online event about investigative journalism setup by ECPMF (as attendee)
- › **28/04/2021** – Online- Ides Debruyne was part of a VVOJ brainstorm meeting about the vision of the organisation
- › **30/04/2021** – Online - Ides Debruyne attended an online network event organised by the European Cultural Foundation
- › **02/05/2022** – Online - World Press Freedom Day – Brussels – attended the online event – Journalismfund.eu is part of the ‘steering committee’
- › **12/06/2021** – Amsterdam – Ides Debruyne attended (as a member of the jury) the event De Loep
- › **09/09/2021** – Brussels – Ides Debruyne attended the launch of FTM Brussels
- › **23/09/2021** – Berlin – Ides Debruyne attended the 2021 European Press Prize Celebration
- › **06/10/2021** – Potsdam – Ides Debruyne attended the event ‘From Crisis in Perpetuity to Democratic Resilience’
- › **26/10/2021** – Ghent – Ides Debruyne attended a lecture about “Russia’s war on independent media” by Galina Timchenko (CEO of Meduza news agency).

- › **02/11/2021** – The Hague – Ides Debruyne attended the People’s Tribunal on the Murder of Journalists
- › **05/11/2021** – Online – GIJN – Ides Debruyne was a member of the panel #GIJN21 – Session Fundraising – How to fund your investigation
- › **11/11/2021** – Brussels - Ides Debruyne – Radio 1 VRT (Belgium) – central guest in programme “bruggenbouwers”
- › **19-20/11/2021** – Brussels - Ides Debruyne attended the VVOJ-conference
- › **02-04/12/2021** – Kiev - On 2-4 December, 2021, ECBG project coordinator, Svitlana Slabinska, participated in the Ukrainian Investigative Journalists Conference in Kyiv, Ukraine. She made a presentation as a panellist in the session called “Opportunities for funding and collaboration of investigative reporters”. She shared the panel with media donors from Ukraine, Spain, and Denmark to tell journalists what they need to know to get funding for their activities, which topics are more likely to receive financial support and where to apply, and how to apply properly.

DEBATES

Due to the pandemic, JF did not organise any in-situ debates.

DIFFERENCE DAY

This year, Journalismfund.eu was the organising partner of the **VUB**, May 3 in Brussels. Due to the pandemic, this event was an online event.

Difference Day honours people, institutions and organisations that make a difference in the propagation and promotion of freedom of speech without however making it absolute.

In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 3 May World Press Freedom Day. The aim was to raise awareness about the importance of press freedom and to remind governments of their duty to protect the right of freedom of speech by virtue of article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

OBJECTIVE III AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

COMMUNICATION

In 2019, Journalismfund.eu researched and designed a new communications strategy for the organisation as a whole and for the European cross-border grants, our flagship grants programme, in particular. The goals of the new strategy are to further enhance:

- (1) Discovery of ECB grants by potential applicants;
- (2) Engaging journalists, editors and grantees for our grant programmes;
- (3) Audience retention to our brand through constant relationships with our grantees;
- (4) Networking through maintaining a vibrant journalism community around the organisation.

Journalismfund.eu research has shown that we can achieve the above goals:

- (1) Through personal communication with aspiring applicants (recruitment in conferences and via email and social media);
- (2) By boosting our Facebook and Twitter campaigns when nearing the four application deadlines;
- (3) By adding to our 'how to' materials regarding budgeting of investigations, the investigation itself, applications for funding;
- (4) By conducting interviews with experienced investigative journalists and featuring them on our website (at least one a month).

In the new Journalismfund.eu communications strategy, we have also increased the volume of communication tools in order to demonstrate the *impact* in terms of the development of transnational networks of journalists and the main benefits for society that are generated by these networks. Part of the organisation's resources and personnel has been assigned to an essential task within the scope of our strategic communication strategy, that of monitoring the impact of Journalismfund.eu as a whole and of the European Cross-Border Grants Programme in particular.

WEBSITES

Corporate website www.journalismfund.eu

The website – www.journalismfund.eu – is the basis of Journalismfund.eu's communication. It includes communication about the most important aspects of the organisation as a whole: grants, news updates, upcoming events, wrap-ups of activities, supported stories, etc.

Supported projects – <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects>

We continue to build our archive of cross-border stories realised through our support. We improved the system and are working on better tagging. At the moment we have about 599 stories available and a bio of 950 supported journalists. It is a collection of all journalists who across the years have been awarded a grant through various grants programmes (European Cross-Border Grants, Pascal Decroos Fund, Modern Slavery Unveiled, The Money Trail, Connecting Continents, Flanders Connect Continent, Fox Grants...)

Nowhere in the world will you find such a rich collection of interesting cross-border investigative stories. It is also easy to use. And the list of almost 1000 journalists – who have already passed a rigorous assessment – is very often used by applicants for work grants.

News – <https://www.journalismfund.eu/news>

Here, you'll mainly find corporate news.

Database of Journalists – <https://www.journalismfund.eu/journalists>

In 2021 alone, the website had 300,791 page views and we had 144,050 users of the main Journalismfund.eu's website (vs 86,557 users in 2020). The number of visitors of the website has almost doubled in one year. They come from all over Europe, from the United States, Asia and the African continent. Over the

past year, the following 10 countries topped the ranking in terms of numbers of visits: Nigeria, the United States, Italy, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, China, France.

Grant application platform www.grants.journalismfund.eu

In 2021, the application platform for all our grant programmes was centralised in one website, including the following grants: European Cross-Border, Pascal Decroos Fund, Modern Slavery Unveiled, Science Journalism, Journalismfund.eu LOCAL, Investigation Grants for Environmental Journalism, Enabling Services for Environmental Journalism. During the first year, the main application platform website had 79,544 page views and had 10,661 users. They come from all over Europe, the United States, and Asia. Over the past year, the following ten countries topped the ranking in terms of numbers of visits: Belgium, the United States, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Germany, France, India, and China. In 2021, 921 users created applications.

www.money-trail.org

Additionally, The Money Trail project has another site – www.money-trail.org, which it shares with the Money Trail consortium.

www.fondspascaldecroos.org

The website of the Pascal Decroos Fund is the communications base of the Fund. Here visitors can find all necessary information on how the Fund works: grants, procedures, criteria, etc. They can also retrieve all supported projects as well as a calendar and news updates.

The site also draws attention to the **database of journalists**, which should encourage the initiation of collaborative projects. For every grantee, a profile is created with contact details and his/her field of expertise.

In 2021, the website had 96,410 page views (vs 91,411 in 2020) and 41,599 users (vs 36,020 in 2020). Apart from Belgium, obviously, the other users mainly came from the Netherlands, Indonesia and the US.

www.vlaamsjournalistiekfonds.be

This project was discontinued. We will keep the website online for the time being.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

Journalismfund Newsletter

The purpose of the e-newsletter is to highlight content published on the website: published grants and interviews with grantees, important news items or upcoming events. Occasionally, we refer to stories or updates on websites of partner organisations. The newsletter subscribers are a somewhat diverse group: applicants and grantees, journalists, media people, journalist associations and sympathisers.

In 2021, the average publication frequency of the electronic newsletter was approximately twice a month. Especially during March, April, June, August, September, December we could submit two issues per month which coincided with application deadlines and project publications. For the Journalismfund.eu Newsletter, we use MailChimp.

In 2021, JF prepared 19 External Newsletters (English language) in total. The number of subscribers of the JF External Newsletter (English version) has increased in 2021, totalling around 8,291 for the reporting period (in 2020 we counted about 6,990 subscribers). JF implemented a new Newsletter Template to make it more attractive and eye-catching for the readers.

Fonds Pascal Decroos Newsletter

Also for the electronic newsletter of the Pascal Decroos Fund grant programme (in Dutch), we use MailChimp. The Pascal Decroos Fund issued 14 e-newsletters in 2021 and had 3,947 subscribers at the end of 2021 (compared to 2,966 at the end of 2020). The Pascal Decroos Fund issues newsletters with information about its activities, supported projects, events, important media news updates, etc.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Journalismfund.eu vzw – Social media

All separate social media platforms of Journalismfund.eu are useful tools for communicating outputs and the outcome and impact of the organisation's projects and for networking activities. The main objective of the social media channels of Journalismfund.eu is network building, generating awareness about published articles and informing people about campaigns and project results. The target audience of the organisation consists of: potential grant applicants, journalists, the general public, donors, an international audience of professionally interested investigative journalists and CSO activists.



Twitter – is the most popular communication channel of Journalismfund.eu. We use Twitter to spread news about the organisation, supported stories and events, all relevant information from partner organisations and some interesting investigative journalism-related writing. By the end of 2020, we had over 7,500 followers of our Twitter page. By the end of 2021 we had 8,780 followers. We post an average of 8 to 15 posts a week to stay active and increase the reach of our page.



LinkedIn – Journalismfund.eu uses this channel to expand our target audience/network and develop a professionally interested audience. The organisation has a LinkedIn company page with 417 followers (vs. 221 in 2020) and a [LinkedIn group](#) with about 5,087 members (vs 5,050 in 2020). We try to post or share our published project stories at least once a week, along with relevant news relating to the organisation, and to like and share stories that have been posted.



Facebook – we use the Facebook online community to create a space for Journalismfund.eu's growing network of investigative journalists (attendees of training, events, grantees) with the goal to communicate remotely and digitally, exchange ideas and seek collaboration for new or follow-up stories. We share, amongst other things, Journalismfund.eu-related news, supported stories and news from similar organisations. By the end of 2021, we had over 7,050 followers of our Facebook page (vs. 6,700 in 2019). We usually post 8-15 times a week.

We have now also set up a Facebook group where we want to share more tips on cross-border investigative journalism with the community. We now have 558 members.



Instagram – Journalismfund.eu created its own Instagram account in 2017. In general, the organisation shares relevant news on the platform to develop new projects and give impressions of those that have been completed. We have also established a routine for image and story posts and post short videos that could potentially become viral. We usually try to have 8 to 15 posts a week according to the frequency of publications. We had 840 followers until the end of 2021.

In addition to this, with a view to highlighting work supported by Journalismfund.eu, we start communicating as soon as the first round of publications comes out and the journalists provide us with the necessary material, both on the first day of publication and whenever new parts of their investigation are released in new countries or media outlets.

Pascal Decroos Fund – social media

While www.fondspascaldecroos.org publishes news messages that are directly related to (grants of) the Fund or that are very relevant to Flemish media, Facebook and Twitter have a more general approach. Through these social media, we also spread messages that have no direct link with the Fund. The Facebook page of the Fund also continued to grow in 2021 and went from 2,979 page likes at the end of 2019 to 3,030 likes by the end of 2021 (followers: 3,128). On Twitter, @pascaldecroos is followed by 2,040 people (compared to 1,878 in 2020).



<https://www.facebook.com/FondsPascalDecroos/>



<https://twitter.com/pascaldecroos>

SURVEY

A special Impact Survey has been developed for grantees to monitor the impact of their projects. The Survey includes two evaluation sections, including an impact section. Grantees are asked to fill in the Survey after the project finalisation in line with their contracts. The survey helps to register 'the continuum theory' of impact so as to be able to include it in our annual reports.

JF further developed a Survey Questionnaire for the grantees by shortening it and making it clearer and more concise to monitor the following phases of the project: application phase, project phase and cross-border collaboration, publication phase. The survey now also includes questions about 'added value' from the cross-border collaboration, ways of using possible new methods / tools for its improvement, main challenges of the collaboration across borders etc. The section regarding Funding and Fees was also updated in the questionnaire.

According to the contract regulations that the grantee signs with Journalismfund.eu, a survey should be completed on the SurveyMonkey platform upon publication of the project, within one month after publication at the latest.

According to the first results of the Survey, all ECBG grantees indicated that online application forms were easy for them to navigate and complete. The selection criteria were clear and fair. The pre-application advice sessions were quite helpful to them.

The majority of grantees underlined that the project gave them an opportunity to develop and learn new tools, methods and skills, such as working together in a large team, structuring the investigation and the use of Evernote, an end-to-end encryption software programme for messaging and video calls. Some of them also mentioned the importance of developing their skills/learning new skills for handling extensive investigation materials with a view to reporting on the issue at hand.

All grantees also indicated that this kind of cross-border journalism was valuable for their professional experience. For instance, dealing with complicated subjects in a cross-border manner improved their skills as reporters, both in gathering and in processing material.

All grantees also agreed on the effectiveness of the 'Supported Stories' section of our website as a strong communications tool for their professional promotion.

SURVEY ANALYSIS – COMMUNICATION FOR DONORS

Summary of main points

I. NEW METHODS / TOOLS LEARNED DURING CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION:

- OSINT tools (especially in terms of verification);
- How to use end-to-end encryption software for messaging and video calls;
- Structuring on investigation;
- Learning of a collaborative method;
- Knowledge on how to jointly collect and share data.

Lots of new investigative methods and approached learned (summary from the grantees).

II. ADDED VALUE AND OUTCOME FROM CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION:

- Sharing the sources, knowledge and experience;
- Knowledge from working on a cross-border research;
- Cross-border aspect helped to gain international audience's interest, to bring out all the aspects of the story at European level;
- Improvement of a journalistic ability to gather and to process material;
- Comparing situations more easily in different countries, overall results are much stronger;
- Opportunity to get different perspectives to the story from different countries, to grasp all different aspects of the covered topic;
- Possibility to get a contribution from journalists from different countries to investigate an international story;
- New knowledge on other countries' politics and media situation;
- Chance to create transnational networks with colleagues and to use them in the future after the closure of the project.

Main point raised by grantees – Cross-border manner is not a choice anymore, it's a necessity.

III. COMMUNICATION WITH JOURNALISMFUND.EU

Grantees indicated it as timely, effective and useful

IV. PROMOTION OF THE STORY

Main point – Journalismfund.eu helped to gain an international audience's interest

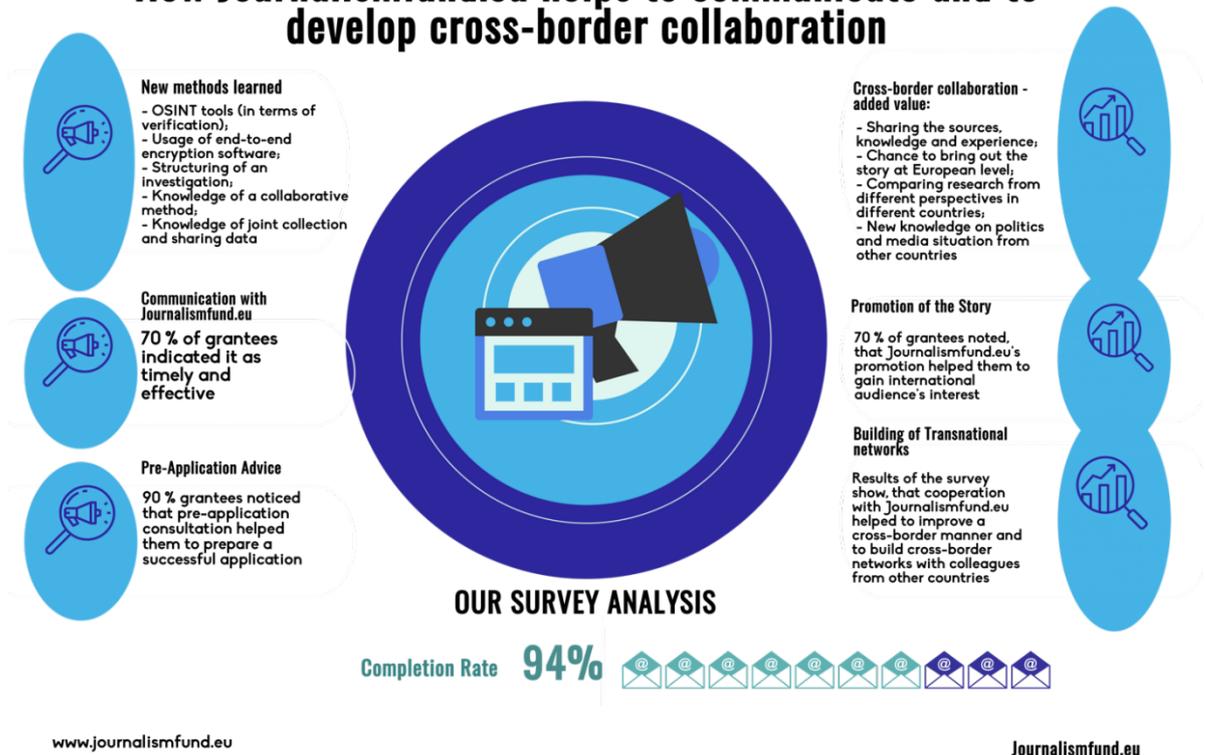
V. PRE-APPLICATION ADVICE

Main point – pre-application consultation helped to prepare and to submit a successful application

VI. WAYS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

Many grantees indicate, that Journalismfund.eu can provide a translation / editorial advice.

How Journalismfund.eu helps to communicate and to develop cross-border collaboration



DATABASE

Journalismfund.eu has a designated database of professional journalists (including mentors, jury members, publishers, editors-in-chief, etc.). This database is used as an instrument for all grant programmes of the organisation. By the end of 2021, the platform included around 8,297 professional contacts (vs. 7,780 in 2020).

PASCAL DECROOS FUND ADS

The free advertising space that the Flemish print and online media allocated to the Pascal Decroos Fund, accounted in 2021 for a total sum of €116,401. Thanks to the support of Flemish newspapers, magazines and news websites, the Pascal Decroos Fund has been able to increase its brand awareness among journalists, publishers and the general public. This year, the campaign highlighted the important role of journalists in offering context and background to news facts. A task that requires a lot of time and resources.

SECURITY / PRIVACY POLICY

Journalismfund.eu has created a new digital security policy in order to guarantee the security of journalists and grantees. Over the last couple of years, the organisation has implemented several thorough changes in its digital security protocols. First, Journalismfund.eu switched to the European Nextcloud instead of Google Drive in order to share files internally on a secure server. Secondly, the organisation offers journalists the opportunity to contact it through PGP, an encryption programme for email communication. Thirdly, Journalismfund.eu tries to use two-factor authentication.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/privacy-and-cookies-policy>

STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION

MANAGEMENT & STAFF

- › **Leopoldstraat 6, 1000 Brussels**
- › Publication: **1998-05-21 N. 009338**
- › Registration number of the organisation: **9338/98**
- › ID number NIS: **15262553**
- › National number: **463312580**
- › NACE-BEL code: **9112**
- › VAT number: **BE043312580**
- › Managing Director: **Ides Debruyne** (1 FTE – contract)
- › Financial Manager: **Linda Berckmans** (9/10 FTE – contract)
- › Project Coordinator Pascal Decroos Fund: **Kristof Polfliet** (1 FTE – contract)
- › Project Coordinator European Cross-border Grants: **Svitlana Slabinska** (1 FTE – contract)
- › Project Coordinator Modern Slavery Unveiled: **Paola Condemayta** (1 FTE – contract)
- › Project Coordinator Investigation Grants for Environmental Journalism: **Klaudia Bronckaerts** (1 FTE – contract)
- › Project Coordinator Investigation Grants for Environmental Journalism: **Marie Lefevre Saadoun** (1 FTE – contract)
- › Contact person within the organisation: **Ides Debruyne** (+32 2 705 59 19)

ORGANISATION

Board of Directors

- › [Coessens Wim](#) (B) – chairman
- › **Musschoot Iris** (B)
- › [Smit Margo](#) (NL) – secretary
- › [Wolters Hans](#) (NL)
- › **Reuter Delphine** (B)
- › **Koksal Mehmet** (B)

In 2021, the board of directors convened 5 times.

Daily management

The Board of Directors has entrusted the day-to-day management of the organisation, as well as the representation of the organisation with regard to that management to the managing director:

- › **Ides MF Debruyne** (B)

International Advisory Board

To safeguard its firm roots in the European investigative journalism community and as a source of good advice, Journalismfund.eu has an International Advisory Board to steer the organisation in the right direction. It consists of representatives from associations and centres for investigative journalism and other esteemed individuals in the community, as well as professional (investigative) journalists with a strong network in their own country.

The task of the Advisory Board consists of: guiding the organisation; providing advice regarding the selection of jury members for the European Cross-Border Grant Programmes; determining the 'special working grants', where a research topic is postulated; spreading calls and other communications; feedback on the possible need for support in the journalism community, among others. The Advisory Board members act as an international sounding board and further the network in which the organisation operates.

Due to the coronavirus crisis, Journalismfund.eu postponed its International Advisory Board meeting.

journalismfund.eu/about-us-organisation/advisory-board

Below is a list of the members of the International Advisory Board:

- › **Sheila Ahern** is an Irish TV researcher.
[@SheilaPAhern](https://twitter.com/SheilaPAhern)
- › **John Bones** is Managing Director of [SKUP](https://www.skup.no), the Norwegian Foundation for Investigative Reporting.
- › **Tamás Bodoky** is a Hungarian journalist and the founder and director of the [Átlátszó Center for Investigative Journalism](https://www.atlatszocenter.com) in Budapest.
- › **Stefan Candea** is a co-founder of the [Romanian Centre for Investigative Journalism](https://www.romaniancentreforinvestigativejournalism.com). He coordinates the [EIC network](https://www.eic-network.com) and is a PhD fellow at the University of Westminster and the [European Institute for Journalism and Communication Research](https://www.europeaninstitute.com) in Leipzig.
- › **Evert de Vos** is a Dutch journalist (De Groene Amsterdammer) and chairman of the Dutch-Flemish association of investigative journalists [VVOJ](https://www.vvoj.nl).
[@evertdev](https://twitter.com/evertdev)
- › **Stephen Grey** is a special reporter at Reuters with long experience as a freelancer and a staff writer, in international reporting and as a Brussels correspondent. [Stephen Grey](https://www.stephengrey.com) works from London, United Kingdom.
[@StephenGrey](https://twitter.com/StephenGrey)
- › **Sanita Jemberga** is an award winning Latvian investigative journalist who has worked in the press and television since 1996. In 2014, she joined [Re:Baltica, the Baltic Centre for Investigative Journalism](https://www.re-baltica.com), where she serves as executive director and editor alongside Inga Sprigņe.
[@jemberga](https://twitter.com/jemberga)
- › **Eva Jung** is an investigative journalist with the Danish newspaper *Berlingske* and vice-chair of the *Danish Association for Investigative Journalism* (FUJ).
- › **Minna Knus-Galán** is a Finnish investigative journalist working for the *Finnish Public Broadcaster Yle*. She won the Finnish Journalist of the Year Award 2014.
- › **Saša Leković** 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 on ultra-local news in Budapest. He also works with the Soma Foundation, which gives annual awards for investigative journalism.
- › **Xhelal Neziri** is a Macedonian journalist and co-founder of [Scoop Macedonia](#).
- › **Rachel Oldroyd** is the Editor of [the Bureau of Investigative Journalism](#) in London (UK).
[@Raoldroyd](#)
- › **András Pethő** is a Hungarian journalist and co-founder of [Direkt36](#), a non-profit investigative journalism centre based in Budapest. Previously, he worked for the Hungarian news site Origo, the BBC World Service in London and the investigative unit of The Washington Post.
- › **David Schraven** is a German investigative journalist and publisher of [CORRECTIV](#), Germany's first non-profit newsroom. He previously worked with taz, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Welt and WAZ-Gruppe.
[@David_Schraven](#)
- › **Julia Stein** is a journalist with the German broadcaster NDR and chairwoman of the German [Netzwerk Recherche](#).
- › **Stanimir Vaglenov** is the founder of the [Bulgarian Centre 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.
- › **Pilar Velasco** is a Spanish journalist currently working at Cadena SER (Prisa Group), the radio network leader in Spain.
[@pevelasco](#)
- › **Taja Topolovec** is co-founder/CEO of [Podcrto](#), an independent investigative media agency in Slovenia.
[@tajatop](#)
- › **Fouad Youcefi** is the chairman of the Swedish organisation for investigative journalists, [Grävande Journalister](#).
- › **Kostas Zafeiropoulos** is an investigative journalist for one of Greece's biggest newspapers, Efimerida ton Sintakton and one of the founders of the non-profit organisation the Mediterranean Institute for Investigative Reporting (MIIR).
- › **Zaklina Zafirova** is a Macedonian journalist and co-founder of [Scoop Macedonia](#).

General Assembly

In 2021, the members of the General Assembly convened on 1 March 2021 - Online.

Article 21 of the articles of association lists the powers of the general meeting. The general meeting is solely for:

- › Amending the articles of association;
- › the appointment and dismissal of directors;
- › the appointment and dismissal of statutory auditors and establishing their remuneration if such remuneration is awarded;
- › discharging to the directors and statutory auditors;
- › approving the budget and accounts;
- › the voluntary dissolution of the organisation;
- › the appointment and exclusion of a member of the organisation;

- › the conversion of the organisation into a company with a social purpose;
- › all other actions as required by these articles of association.

Members of the General Assembly:

1. Ides Debruyne
2. Joris Pollet
3. Piet Depuydt
4. Wim Coessens
5. Anne-Mie Desterbecq
6. Tom Decroos
7. Isabel Decroos
8. Lieve Dekeyzer
9. Anne Fort
10. Rob Heirbaut
11. Kurt Vandenberghe
12. Hans Wolters
13. Teun Voeten
14. Lucas Verborgh
15. Koen Van Wichelen
16. Ann Soen

ORGANISATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The necessary office space and technologies are in place.

In 2021, JF implemented a new application website platform in cooperation with the IT company Eps&Kaas. The application website is the same for all current grant programmes. The application system eased the whole application process and provided a more user friendly and flexible application form. <http://grants.journalismfund.eu>

In December 2020 we had to temporarily move our office to another address in Brussels. Renovations finished in November 2021 and in December 2021 we were able to go back to our main office in the city centre of Brussels.

ORGANISATIONAL SYSTEMS

- › Financial reporting is up to date.
- › Project administration systems are improved. –During 2021 we continued making substantial investments in our database system (Filemaker). All the grant programmes are now integrated into a clear online system. We have an overview of the journalists by project as well as an overview of the projects by journalist, with a clear indication of status, in a system that is easy to manage and search. The database has become a management tool.
- › Since the coronavirus outbreak, we have increased the number of (online) team meetings from once a week to three times a week. Internal communication and coordination have improved.
- › Evaluation documents have been harmonised.
- › Information to U.S.-based funders: Journalismfund.eu has completed the ED process with NGOsource. NGOsource certifies EDs for U.S. grant makers so they can meet their tax compliance requirements and donate to Journalismfund.eu with fewer restrictions. Journalismfund.eu's Equivalency Determination certification was valid through to December 31, 2021.

ANNEXES

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Annual accounts in euros

BALANCE SHEET

	2021	2020	2019	2018
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Amounts receivable within one year	€ 93,261	€ 89,402	€ 134,098	€ 135,990
Cash at bank	€ 3,532,045	€ 1,390,149	€ 1,384,547	€ 1,603,922
Deferred charges and accrued income	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 14,741
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	€ 3,625,306	€ 1,479,551	€ 1,518,645	€ 1,754,653
Fixed (Long-Term) Assets				
Tangible fixed assets	€ 14,086	€ 16,604	€ 19,441	€ 15,286
Total fixed assets	€ 14,086	€ 16,604	€ 19,441	€ 15,286
TOTAL ASSETS	€ 3,639,392	€ 1,496,155	€ 1,538,086	€ 1,769,939

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Current Liabilities				
Amounts payable within one year	€ 42,680	€ 55,598	€ 57,851	€ 75,303
Deferred income	€ 2,228,948	€ 616,819	€ 618,605	€ 644,900
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	€ 2,271,628	€ 672,417	€ 676,456	€ 720,203
Provisions				
Provisions for liabilities and charges	€ 96,150	€ 29,000	€ 23,800	€ 0
Provisions for grants	€ 1,098,307	€ 665,630	€ 735,896	€ 1,045,286
TOTAL PROVISIONS	€ 1,194,457	€ 694,630	€ 759,696	€ 1,045,286
Equity				
Available reserves	€ 4,547	€ 4,547	€ 4,547	€ 4,547
Unavailable reserves – social liabilities	€ 182,522	€ 144,541	€ 124,500	€ 64,500
Accumulated profits (losses)	-€ 13,762	-€ 19,980	-€ 27,113	-€ 64,597
Total equity	€ 173,307	€ 129,108	€ 101,934	€ 4,450
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	€ 3,639,392	€ 1,496,155	€ 1,538,086	€ 1,769,939

INCOME STATEMENT

	2021	2020	2019	2018
OPERATING INCOME AND CHARGES				
Operating income				
Turnover	€ 12,290	€ 11,861	€ 50,043	€ 90,588
Donations, foundation grants and subsidies	€ 1,622,415	€ 1,439,893	€ 1,485,243	€ 1,817,293
Other operating income	€ 23,633	€ 137,123	€ 121,851	€ 127,377
Financial income	€ 29	€ 2	€ 23	€ 43
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	€ 1,658,367	€ 1,588,879	€ 1,657,160	€ 2,035,301
Operating charges				
Grants paid	€ 573,748	€ 1,028,567	€ 1,221,057	€ 642,558
Purchased services and other goods	€ 160,475	€ 244,068	€ 279,773	€ 412,655
Remuneration and social security costs	€ 363,674	€ 341,334	€ 331,181	€ 244,731
Depreciations	€ 4,400	€ 4,586	€ 5,482	€ 4,178
Provisions for grants: Appropriations (uses and write-backs)	€ 499,827	-€ 65,066	-€ 285,590	€ 629,635
Other operating charges	€ 0	€ 0	€ 55	€ 409
Financial charges	€ 6,979	€ 4,955	€ 7,613	€ 2,089
TOTAL OPERATING CHARGES	€ 1,609,103	€ 1,558,444	€ 1,559,570	€ 1,936,255
OPERATING (PROFIT) LOSS	€ 49,264	€ 30,435	€ 97,589	€ 99,046

EXCEPTIONAL INCOME AND CHARGES				
Exceptional charges				
Exceptional charges from office move	€ 5,066	€ 3,261	€ 105	€ 2,018
TOTAL EXCEPTIONAL CHARGES	€ 5,066	€ 3,261	€ 105	€ 2,018
GAIN (LOSS) OVER THE PERIOD AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION	€ 44,198	€ 27,174	€ 97,484	€ 97,028

TRANSFER TO RESERVES				
Transfer to unavailable reserves – social liabilities	€ 37,981	€ 20,041	€ 60,000	€ 64,500
Transfer to accumulated profits (losses)	€ 6,217	€ 7,133	€ 37,484	€ 32,528
TOTAL TRANSFER TO RESERVES	€ 44,198	€ 27,174	€ 97,484	€ 97,028

EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER GRANTS (ECBG) - PROJECT

PURPOSE

Over the past decade, European Cross-Border grants have stimulated cross-border journalism by making it possible for hundreds of European journalists to undertake in-depth independent investigations. In the past few years, the number of transnational investigations has risen sharply, leading to substantive political, legislative and other changes in Europe.

In 2019, our goal was to maintain the strong journalism community around European Cross-Border grants (grantees, alumni, mentors and advisory group members). We also aimed to attract young talent to the larger decentralised network of investigative journalists across Europe, as well as to increase the quality of cross-border journalism through its practice.

Today independent cross-border investigative journalism is needed more than ever to find solutions to increasingly complex problems like climate change, inequality, pandemics, and so on. The fast-growing number of applications shows the increasing demand of independent cross-border investigative journalism, and the growing need for funding this type of resource intensive reporting. Journalismfund.eu is the only organisation that is funding so many (and for such a long period) cross-border investigative journalistic projects in Europe.

With the [European Cross-border grant programme](#) Journalismfund.eu aims to further contribute to the development of a vital European public sphere by enabling investigations into issues of common interest to European citizens.

The awarded programme, started in 2009, supports professional journalists who have good ideas for cross-border investigations with a focus on European topics. Cross-border teams can apply for a grant to cover **working time and expenses** for their joint investigation. *Next to a grant, teams can also apply for a mentor to provide assistance with either the focus of the investigation or the need for competences in a specific skill.*

Teams of professional journalists **from at least two European countries** who have good ideas for a cross-border investigation with a focus on European topics. The programme supports journalists living in geographical Europe or a Council of Europe country. When relevant to the story, team members from elsewhere can be accepted, too.

PUBLICATIONS WITH IMPACT

In general, during 2021 in total **25** European cross-border investigations were published. **The following publications of 2021 have generated a tangible impact:**

TWO BELARUSIAN BUSINESSMEN BANNED FROM EU AFTER JOURNALISMFUND.EU-SUPPORTED INVESTIGATION

Alexander Zaytsev and Aliaksei Aleksin, two Belarusian businessmen considered to be close to the Alexander Lukashenko regime, were officially included in the EU sanctions package that started on 21 June 2021.

In 2020 a Journalismfund.eu-supported team of journalists from Lithuanian investigative journalism center Siena.lt and Belarusian Belsat TV followed the trail of the Belarusian elites, and in particular Zaytsev and Aleksin. When the sanctions against Aleksin and Zaytsev were imposed, the official sanction implementation decision mirrored the team's stories in a large extent. Companies mentioned in the stories were indicated to be the source of the oligarchs' benefiting from their relationship with the regime, further stressing the importance of the investigative work.

"Sometimes, it takes years for an investigative story to have a clear impact. Sometimes, it never happens. In this case, international sanctions came 8 months after we ran our first story, and

this is the first time when my work makes this kind of an impact. In my perspective, investigative journalism isn't about punishing people. It's about getting the truth out to the world - even from regimes as tight as the one in Belarus. And once the truth is out, change will come sooner or later", underlines the team leader Sarunas Cerniauskas.

Read the full story [here](#).

NESTLE RECOGNIZES ITS RESPONSIBILITY AND PROMISES PROGRESS AFTER WATERSTORIES.EU'S RESEARCH

After a [Liberation](#) investigation into illegal dumping grounds of Nestlé Waters in Vittel, the mineral water giant is forced to act more transparently. In [Vosges Matin](#) its management admits their responsibility for nine illegal landfills and announces a draft action plan to remove its waste.

This investigation was conducted in France in the framework of the [Waterstories.eu](#) project with the support of Journalismfund.eu's European Cross-Border Grants programme. It's a cross-border multimedia project about the European bottled water industry, initiated by [We Report](#), a European network of investigative journalists. Eight members of the network from four different countries are working on concrete cases in France, Germany and Italy, where the most of Europe's bottled water is produced and consumed.

Nestlé's production manager, David Vivier, first admitted that nine landfills are in the territory. Five are open-air landfills for which *"the solution would be quick to implement to clean them up"*. Four are buried sites, in They-sous-Montfort, Saint-Ouen-lès-Parey, Contrexéville and Crainvilliers, on which vegetation has grown back.

More information about the project can be found [here](#).

COLLATERAL IMPACT: STORY SUPPORTED BY JOURNALISMFUND.EU INFLUENCES EU AND US POLICIES

Residues of Chlorpyrifos, a dangerous insecticide, have been found in fruit baskets and samples of human urine across Europe.

After this large and cross-border investigation that unveils its risks for the public. The use of the pesticide has been banned in the European Union since February 2020. Consequently, important companies remove this chemical from their productions due to it has been linked to low birth weight, reduced IQ and attention disorders in children. In 2021 US environmental agency also banned it for the same reasons.

Read the full story [here](#).

"DECEPTION WITH PORT" RESEARCH GOT AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT JUST AFTER ITS FIRST PUBLICATION

As an outcome of the story, AH removed in December 2021 bottles of Kopke from the shelf after research "Deception with Port". The info was reported by Distrifood in the Netherlands on 14th January, 2021 just after the first publication.

ECBG GRANT OVERVIEW

Journalismfund.eu has a strong belief in cross-border cooperation between European journalists as the best way to tell the major international stories of the 21st century. The organisation supports teams of journalists from different countries, who usually work on a joint story from their respective countries. This enables them to combine their investigative skills and to publish the publication in different countries, which is considered important when addressing the different European target groups and for generating maximum impact.

YEAR	#ROUNDS	#APPLI-CATIONS	#GRANTS	AMOUNT APPLIED FOR	GRANTED	AVERAGE GRANT	LARGEST GRANT	% OF MONEY APPLIED FOR GRANTED	% OF APPLICATIONS GRANTED	#APPLI-CANTS	#GRANTEES	AVERAGE GRANT PER PERSON
TOTAL	35	729	172	7.824.365	1.281.590	6.840	29.000	16	24	1.950	614	2.087
2009	2	38	6	296.864	29.430	4.905	5.500	10	16	46	16	1839
2010	1	27	5	243.761	20.944	4.189	5.500	9	19	56	10	2094
2011	1	13	4	80.282	14.810	3.703	5.500	18	31	26	10	1481
2012	2	57	7	474.874	37.107	5.301	7.107	8	12	116	23	1613
2013	1	53	7	433.075	49.954	7.136	9.500	12	13	107	21	2379
2014	2	55	11	479.697	63.195	5.745	8.025	13	20	156	37	1708
2015	5	85	18	701.730	137.722	7.651	15.230	20	21	237	76	1812
2016	4	42	13	353.496	136.888	10.530	29.000	39	31	144	62	2208
2017	4	65	16	778.739	127.235	7.952	13.300	16	25	155	63	2020
2018	2	33	9	368.825	77.625	8.625	14.500	21	27	126	36	2156
2019	4	76	24	1.113.316	196.192	8.175	15.000	18	32	236	103	1905
2020	3	92	25	1.338.995	183.238	7.330	11.000	14	27	281	75	2443
2021	4	93	27	1.160.711	207.250	7.676	15.000	18	29	264	82	2527

STATISTICS ECB GRANTS (APPLICANTS VERSUS GRANTEES)

Applicants / Grantees

For the ECBG programme, in 2021 we received **93** applications with **264** applicants. The total amount requested was 1,160,711 euros.

During the 1st round of applications, Journalismfund.eu received **30** proposals from 91 applicants for a requested amount of 443.907 euros, during 2nd application round there were **26** project proposals from 67 journalists for a total requested amount of 289.706 euros. During 3rd application round Journalismfund.eu received **23** project applications from **60** journalists for a total requested amount of **246,642** euros, during the last 4th application round there were **14** project proposals from 44 journalists for a total requested amount of 172,742 euros.

During 2021 of the 217 applicants, 142 were men and 119 were women and 3 X.

Overview grantees

Our European Cross-Border Grants Programme is very inclusive, we are currently supporting journalists who live in the member states of the European Council (geographical Europe). If relevant for the story, team members from beyond this region can be accepted as well.

As a result, for the reporting period during 2021 **27** projects were supported with **82** grantees.

The jury came together **4** times and awarded a total sum of € **207,250**.

In details, for the 1st application round the jury granted **7** teams with **27** grantees and awarded an amount of **54,000** euros; for the 2nd application round **6** teams were granted with **15** journalists with a total amount of equally **50,000** euros. For the 3rd application round the jury members granted **8** teams with **20** grantees for an amount of **52,500** euros; for the last 4th application round in total **6** teams were granted with **18** journalists with a total amount of **50,750** euros.

The largest grant received in 2021 was **15,000** euros, the average grant for the reporting period was **2,527** euros per grantee.

In 2021 only, of the 82 journalists who received a grant, 37 were women and 45 were men.

JURY ECBG

Proposals for a European Cross-Border Grant are evaluated by an independent jury on the basis of objective criteria that are known in advance by all applicants. However, the names of the jury members are never communicated prior to the evaluation. Every proposal is quoted by four jury members. Journalismfund.eu has no influence on the evaluation and selection of proposals.

The independent jury is drawn up by Journalismfund.eu on the basis of a list of names proposed by the members of the Board of Directors and Advisory Board. Our juries – we have a separate jury for every grant programme – consist of professional, experienced (former) journalists or experts. To ensure maximum independence, the jury members of all our juries are anonymous until their mandate ends. Two of the four jury members rotate every two years; a member may serve on the jury for a maximum of four consecutive years.

Every proposal is separately assessed by four jury members according to predefined criteria. Based on the score obtained by the proposal and the available budget, the jury members also suggest the amount to be awarded to each proposal.

The jury members send their assessments to Journalismfund.eu, five working days prior to the three-monthly review meeting at the latest. Journalismfund.eu gathers the various assessments into one file for the review meeting. At this review meeting, the jury members seek a consensus about the awarding of the grants and the distribution of the available budget on the basis of the individual score cards. A project manager of Journalismfund.eu acts as secretary.

If the votes of the four jury members are equally divided, the chairman of the jury submits a compromise proposal that must be accepted by all jury members.

On the website of Journalismfund.eu, you can read their reflections on their time as a jury member and their advice to future grantees on the best way to handle their applications.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/jurors-go-public-if-you-want-grant-heres-what-you-should-do>

CRITERIA

Every proposal is assessed by the individual jury members according to 9 criteria.

1. Non-regular character
2. Social relevance
3. Originality and innovative character
4. Boldness (the level of risk associated with the execution of the project)
5. Feasibility
6. News value
7. Experience of applicant/references
8. Marketability/market focus
9. Time required

OVERVIEW OF GRANTS PUBLISHED IN 2021

WATERSTORIES.EU

An in-depth investigation of the We Report network uncovers the dark side of the bottled water business in Europe, where the market is dominated by multinational companies such as Coca-Cola, Nestlé and Danone.

Waterstories.eu is a cross-border multimedia project about the European bottled water industry. It is initiated by [We Report](#), an European network of investigative journalists.

Eight members of the network from four different countries are working on concrete cases in France, Germany and Italy, where most of Europe's bottled water is produced and consumed. The first investigation results yield concrete evidence on cases of conflicts of interest, major environmental damage such as drying out of aquifers or polluted rivers, tax evasion, greenwashing, and much more.

A grant of 9.000 euros was allocated on 22/09/2020.

Publications: Die Zeit (G), Mediapart (F) and Liberation (F).

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/waterstorieseu-dark-side-european-bottled-water-industry>

IMPACT OF THE STORY



© Laurent Gillieron / AP

After a [Liberation](#) investigation into illegal dumping grounds of Nestlé Waters in Vittel, the mineral water giant is forced to act more transparently. In [Vosges Matin](#) its management admits their responsibility for nine illegal landfills and announces a draft action plan to remove its waste.

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Crainvilliers, on which vegetation has grown back.

VEOLIA'S HOT WATERS: HOW THE FRENCH COMPANY VIOLATED BULGARIAN REGULATIONS

Excessive water cuts to its consumers, questionable management of tendering procedures, constant increase in water prices in the face of significant leaking of its outdated infrastructures. These features of the global water giant, repeatedly singled out by the press, are no longer a secret in France.

Elsewhere, however, other countries are paying a high price for the privatisation of water by the French brand. In Bulgaria too, Veolia has exported its practices - with its usual share of drifts.

A grant of 5.000 euros was allocated on 23/01/2020.

Publications: Basta! (France), Bivol.bg (Bulgaria)

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/how-french-company-violated-bulgarian-regulations>

THE OFFSHORE MARKETS OF HUMAN BODIES

This investigation piece, which includes interviews with surrogate mothers, lawyers, a human rights activist, and journalists studying this topic in Ukraine and Poland is meant to bring attention to the unregulated reproduction sphere in Ukraine, which puts at risk the lives and health of surrogate mothers and babies.

A grant of 11,028 euros was allocated on 09/12/2018.

2 publications in New Eastern Europe (Poland)

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/offshore-markets-human-bodies>

THE INOCULATION

As Daiva Repeckaite (Lithuania-Malta) and Eva von Schaper (Germany - USA) watched the pandemic unfold in early 2020, their plans for reporting in 15 European countries were scuttled. But they began to see patterns in **covid-denialism** that mimicked what they had seen with **anti-vaxxers**. They decided to expand their project to include investigative data journalism to map this new movement.

For their investigations the journalists talked to key experts, doctors, activists, and vaccine-hesitant parents. They also pored over transcripts of parliamentary sittings, government data, surveys, and official statistics. In addition to numerous articles they are publishing in various languages, they are sharing these stories on [The Inoculation Podcast](#).

A grant of 6.000 euros was allocated on 31/03/2020.

Publications: Nara (Lithuania), IQ Magazine (Lithuania), Re:Baltica (Latvia), LRT (Lithuania)

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/antivaxxers-between-fake-news-and-personal-concerns>

HOW GREEN DOT ORGANISATIONS OPPOSE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Belgian journalist Isabelle Vanhoutte and German journalist Benedict Wermter have investigated *Green Dots* across Europe for more than a year. Their investigation reveals how the powerful Green Dots work in networks on national and international level to maintain their income, ensure low costs for the industries and to blame citizens for littering. Overall the Green Dot organisations have installed a monopoly in most countries, in which they sometimes operate opaque and distort competition.

The journalists have spoken to science and industry and have obtained several internal documents. Their insights to the Green Dot's business is published in collaboration with Correctiv (DE), [Apache](#) (BE), Médor (BE), [EUobserver](#) (EU) and La Marea (ES). With the support of Journalismfund.eu the team of journalists has also contacted their media colleagues in other countries and explored the Green Dot situation in France, Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, Czech Republic, Italy, Austria, Germany. They have developed a whole feature storyline including country case studies and mapped data.

A grant of 4.650 euros was allocated on 28/09/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/how-green-dot-organisations-oppose-environmental-legislation-across-europe>

THE TUROW MINE: POLISH WATER THIEF IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

For years Poland has been ignoring complaints of border residents on the Czech-German-Polish tri-border, where groundwater is declining as a result of a combination of the climate crisis and mining activity. The Czech Republic has a great chance of succeeding in a lawsuit before the European Court of Justice. But it hesitates to pursue it. Why?

For decades the Polish Turów mine has been causing harm on the Czech and German border sides. Locals are suffering from water shortages and soil subsidences. Strong opposition from Czech citizens creates a space for political action, but the Czech government is not eager to take quick steps against the Polish government. The main reason is that both countries are partners in their efforts to slow EU's climate policy.

A grant of 4.614 euros was allocated on 10/12/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/turow-mine-polish-water-thief-czech-republic>

THE INVISIBLE FISH FACTORY FARMS. HOW AQUACULTURE IS RISING IN "GREEN" EUROPE

The European Union pledged around 2.9 billion euro between 2001 and 2020 to support the development of aquaculture. Based on the Food and Agriculture Organisation's strong support for fish farming, European institutions plan to develop aquaculture in member states, in order to decrease imports of fish products, to produce food in a more sustainable way and to reduce overfishing and meat consumption.

Scotland and the Mediterranean countries have been at the centre of the growth of this industry, with salmon, sea bream and sea bass productions. The EU gave money to these industries, but so far -after 20 years- has failed to provide clear rules on sustainability. This lack of regulation allowed member states to support the industries without necessarily asking them to respect strict environmental standards.

A grant of 9.000 euros was allocated on 09/08/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/invisible-factory-farms-rise-aquaculture-green-europe>

A grant of 9.000 euros was allocated on 09/08/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/invisible-factory-farms-rise-aquaculture-green-europe>

TORTURE, COVID-19 AND FORCED DETERRENCE AT EU BORDERS

At the height of the Coronavirus pandemic, Frontex indicates that irregular migration to the EU is at a long-time low. There is only one place where numbers of irregular border crossings are increasing: the Balkan route, connecting Turkey to central Europe.

A cross-border British-German team of journalists investigates how Covid-19 transformed the migrant route across the Balkans, and why violence has become the new norm of migration management, with police forces in Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia establishing a mechanism of undocumented collective chain pushbacks of migrants and asylum seekers outside of Europe.

A grant of 5.000 euros was allocated on 10/05/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/torture-covid-19-and-forced-deterrence-eu-borders>

HOW OFTEN DOES SEXUAL HARASSMENT OCCUR IN THE MEDICAL SECTOR?

In this in-depth cross-border investigation, a team of journalists came across cases of sexual harassment and sexualised violence in physician-patient interactions.

The team focuses systematically on the #MeToo topic in the medical sector. The journalists are looking into the mechanisms that fail in allowing a better screening of doctors across the EU-countries but also into specific problems in Croatia, France, Germany and Italy.

A grant of 10.000 euros was allocated on 20/10/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/how-often-does-sexual-harassment-occur-medical-sector>

EARLY MARRIAGES IN ETHNIC COMMUNITIES IN EASTERN EUROPE

In this investigation a cross-border team of journalists from Ukraine and Italy describes the situation with early marriages in Georgia, Ukraine and Armenia entering directly into the reality of ethnic minorities in these countries and collecting testimonies of young women and others from the community.

This reportage series explores the cultural and social reasons behind the practice of early marriages among Azeris living in Georgia, Yazidis in Armenia and Roma in Ukraine.

A grant of 3.000 euros was allocated on 18/02/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/early-marriages-ethnic-communities-eastern-europe>

BLACK TRAIL

The shipping industry is central to the global economy. But among the world's biggest polluters and tax avoiders. Its emissions, from the dirtiest fuel-oil on earth, are larger than those of Germany, and have a serious impact on climate change.

Despite its devastating emissions and its tax benefits, however, shipping has managed to escape inclusion in global climate change initiatives, like the Kyoto and Paris agreements. It is instead ruled by one entity: the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), a division of the United Nations. Yet critics say it has been captured by the industry. A cross-border team of journalists wanted to know the answer to one question. In the age of the climate crisis, are the shipping industry and IMO serious in their efforts to reduce emissions?

A grant of 7.000 euros was allocated on 18/02/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/black-trail>

AFTER THE YUGOSLAVIA TRIBUNAL: WAR CRIMINALS COMING HOME

In this project Jorie Horsthuis (Netherlands), Martino Lombezzi (Italy) and Marina Lalovic (Serbia) shed a light on how societies in former Yugoslavia deal with the past, by focusing on how war criminals are reintegrated in their home countries: a closer look at the results of international criminal justice.

Reconciliation was one of the main goals of the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Justice was seen as a means to compensate victims and ban perpetrators from power. However, 26 years after the genocide in Srebrenica, in the Balkans most of the current political leaders are still linked to the nationalist movements from the war era, and power is still divided along ethnic lines.

A grant of 10.000 euros was allocated on 18/02/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/after-yugoslavia-tribunal-war-criminals-coming-home>

THE ELECTORAL HYDRA

A team of journalists investigated the connections between an institution for Romanian democracy and a crime group, who sustained together a corruption network violating the law and blocking controls to favor political leaders.

A key institution for Romanian democracy has been captured by a consolidated crime group after an assassination attempt. The criminal group is from the city of Craiova, and they helped each other reach the top of the Permanent Electoral Authority, the institution that organizes and supervises electoral processes in Romania. The group also decides, according to their own will, how the public money for political parties' subsidies is settled.

A grant of 7.000 euros was allocated on 16/04/2021.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/electoral-hydra>

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

For the first time in history, the world is consuming more bottled water than soft drinks. Although access to safe water is both a fundamental human need and a basic human right recognised by the United Nations, the continuous growth in bottled water consumption is not just a response to basic human need.

This series explores the cycle of production, consumption and recycling of bottled water in the EU, looking at the stories of those most closely connected to it, examining public policies and addressing the limits of a circular economy. It tackles some of the most pressing issues, such as the environmental impact of an industry heavily dependent on fossil fuels, the relationship with public tap water services, the rooted belief that mineral water is a staple of a healthy lifestyle and the potential effects of recent water regulations in the EU.

A grant of 14.000 euros was allocated on 15/04/2019.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/message-bottle>

THE WASTE MAFIA

The export of waste to Poland is booming. Among these exports, illegal shipments frequently occur. Companies from Germany, the UK, Italy, Austria, the Netherlands and Sweden have illegally exported waste to Poland in recent years.

A cross-border independent team of investigative journalists tries to uncover the waste mafia, as Poland's Prime Minister labeled it in 2018. The team has traced several dirty shipments from their countries of origin all the way to the illegal landfills in Poland where they were dumped and - in some cases - burned, posing a potential threat to human health and the environment.

In Poland, the journalists visited seven illegal landfills where they found tens of thousands of tons of waste from across Europe. Most of the illegal waste comprised plastics from households and supermarkets. In other cases the team found large quantities of industrial waste. In some cases the journalists even found particularly problematic industrial waste such as ammonium hydroxide (NH₄OH) and other hazardous chemicals.

A grant of 7.000 euros was allocated on 18/06/2021.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/waste-mafia-tracing-illegal-waste-exports-germany-poland>

THE MEN BEHIND XHAMSTER

xHamster is one of the most visited porn websites in Germany and the world. The xHamster bosses have been in hiding for years.

This research by a cross-border team of journalists from Germany and Czech Republic reveals for the first time two leading figures behind Germany's most visited porn site.

A grant of 6.000 euros was allocated on 04/06/2021.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/men-behind-xhamster>

CHECKMATE ON BEES

This independent cross-border investigation looks at the impact of the European agricultural policies on pollinators and the future of beekeeping in the continent, through the stories of several beekeepers in Germany, France, and Spain.

The investigation also examines the new agricultural policies that are being designed at the EU institutions at the moment and the discussions to make agriculture more environmentally friendly.

A grant of 9.000 euros was allocated on 21/08/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/checkmate-bees>

PRISONS IN PARADISE

This cross-border independent investigation focuses on the newly opened "closed controlled access center" on the island of Samos.

A cross-border team of journalists have analysed internal documents on the planning process of the camp obtained through the Freedom of Information Act from European authorities such as DG Home, FRA and EASO.

A grant of 9.000 euros was allocated on 18/06/2021.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/prisons-paradise>

CORONAVIRUS IS CREATING THE PERFECT CRISIS FOR THE “VULTURE CAPITALIST” TAKEOVER OF CITIES

After the 2008 crash, a few Wall Street investors cracked the code for how to turn cut-price homes into a tradeable asset class worth billions. By 2021, the template they created is being adapted by diverse financial actors, ranging from private equity giants to PropTech apps.

During this process a cross-border team of journalists unexpectedly revealed a new methodology (using publicly available regulatory filings) for discovering private equity subsidiaries. This methodology also revealed the presence of subsidiaries located in tax havens. The journalists also put Berlin’s housing market under the microscope and intend to report on other European cities.

A grant of 8.000 euros was allocated on 18/04/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/coronavirus-creating-perfect-crisis-vulture-capitalist-takeover-cities>

BIG TOBACCO’S PROXY-LOBBY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Le Monde and The Investigative Desk delved into the multi-layered world of Big Tobacco’s 21st century astroturfing.

A cross-border team of journalists from France, the Netherlands and the United States discovered that under the guise of defending individual freedom, fake consumer organisations are promoting e-cigarettes.

A grant of 8.000 euros was allocated on 16/04/2021.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/big-tobaccos-proxy-lobby-21st-century>

GREEN EU SUBSIDIES IN THE HANDS OF ORGANIZED CRIME

A cross-border team of journalists has focused on the potential corruption of solar energy support in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. More specifically, in the Czech Republic, the government has been postponing the changes to law allowing the state-guaranteed price of solar electricity to match the decline in investment in solar electricity.

The team prepares a series of stories about the fraud and corruption which ensued from this subsidy program and the owners of the largest solar power plants.

A grant of 7.000 euros was allocated on 16/04/2021.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/green-eu-subsidies-hands-organised-crime>

SYRIA: THE HUNT FOR WAR CRIMINALS IN EUROPE

Every month, crimes committed in Syria since 2011 have repercussions on European soil and lead to new actions, thanks to the involvement of Syrian lawyers and human rights defenders. Mazen, Maryam, Anwar, and Hadi and many other defenders of justice and human rights track down suspected criminals, collect evidence and documents to bring these criminals in front of European courts in the name of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

For this investigation, a cross-border team of journalists accompanied these Syrians on a journey of hunting criminals to achieve justice. From behind the walls of offices and screens of computers to European streets, they cooperate with the war crimes units of the judicial system in the countries they live in. It is estimated that more than 1000 suspected war criminals are hiding in Europe.

A grant of 9.000 euros was allocated on 15/04/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/syria-hunt-war-criminals-europe>

THE EU COMPANIES INSIDE CHINA'S DIGITAL DICTATORSHIP

While going through the data, a cross-border team of journalists from the Netherlands and the UK came across investments in seemingly innocent sectors such as hospitality and tourism, as well as more advanced partnerships of enormous geopolitical and economic importance to China, such as semiconductors, medical technology and communication technology.

The team investigated where exactly Dutch investments in China end up and whether Dutch companies always take economic interests and risks of human rights violations into consideration.

A grant of 4.000 euros was allocated on 22/10/2021.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/eu-companies-inside-chinas-digital-dictatorship>

EXPOSED: WHERE WERE THE RUSSIA'S SPIES IN NATO'S HQ?

The "strikingly high" numbers of Russian spies in Belgium posed a danger because they were "100-percent hostile to Nato and the EU", in line with Russia's national security doctrines, an EU source warned. And the revelations posed the question if enough was being done to keep Nato and EU secrets safe.

The story arose from a joint project involving Andrew Rettman, a journalist from EUobserver, Anton Shekhovtsov, a Vienna-based political scientist, as well as the investigative team at the Dossier Center, a London-based NGO.

A grant of 9.000 euros was allocated on 18/06/2021.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/exposed-who-were-russias-spies-nato-hq>

DECEPTION WITH PORT

Deception: Port often younger than label indicates and synthetic alcohol found in samples. The Portuguese wine is popular because of its sweet taste and strong alcohol content. Port is fortified red wine from Northern Portugal. It is wine, to which 'aguardente' or brandy is added. That is a strong alcoholic substance, comparable to Grappa and Eau de Vie. This brings the alcohol percentage of the final port to 20%.

Research by journalists Eelco van Wieringen (Buro Publieke Werken, Holland), Micael Pereira (Expresso Portugal) and Twan Kroon (researcher, Holland) shows that the age of port wines is often incorrect. They commissioned scientific research into the actual age of 10 and 20 year old Tawny ports. In more than half of the cases, the bottles appear to contain too young port.

A grant of 12.400 euros was allocated on 14/10/2019.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/deception-port>

IMPACT OF THE STORY



© <https://sicnoticias.pt/economia/>

As an outcome, AH removed bottles of Kopke from the shelf after research "Deception with Port". The info was reported by Distri-food in the Netherlands.

MENTORING PROGRAMMA (UNDER ECBG GRANTS)

For teams that need support in terms of investigation skills, a mentor can be appointed. We can propose calling on a mentor during a prior dialogue with the team applying for a grant. The mentors are selected on the basis of the focus of the investigation or in view of their competence in a specific skill. Having the help of a mentor can have a significant positive impact on a team and its story. Teams of journalists less experienced in the field of cross-border investigative stories can particularly benefit from help from more experienced colleagues. The jury can also make the awarding of a grant subject to collaboration with a mentor.

The investigative team can suggest a mentor from its pool or the team can choose the mentor from the list on our website and suggest him/her themselves. The maximum duration of the use of a mentor depends on the case at hand and on the needs of the journalists involved. One person can also act as mentor for multiple teams.

Once he/she has been selected, the mentor will sign a mentor agreement with Journalismfund.eu. His/her total remuneration will depend on the number of days that he/she will be needed. The fee per day amounts to €250, exclusive of VAT. The mentor will issue an invoice to Journalismfund.eu on a quarterly basis.

After the evaluation of Journalismfund.eu's mentoring programme pilot phase in 2017, the Fund successfully expanded it, eventually integrating it into its grant programmes. All the lessons learnt were taken into the account, and all the previous recommendations were considered. Over the last four years (2018-2021) Journalismfund.eu's pool of mentors had a significant positive influence on the teams of journalists, processes of their investigations and final results of the stories. In 2019-2021 the European Cross-Border Grants Programmes demonstrated evident and visible advantages of working with mentors.

This is the list of mentors whom we have pooled for the ECBG:

- › **Gwen Lister** (Namibia) – Journalist, columnist and press freedom activist. Founder and editor of [The Namibian](#). Early ICIJ member;
- › **Nick Mathiason** (United Kingdom) – Founder and co-director of Finance Uncovered;
- › **Sheila Coronel** (United States/ Philippines) – Director of Stable Centre for Investigative Journalism;
- › **Wahyu Dhyatmika** (Indonesia) – Specialist in corruption reporting. Editor-in-chief for Tempo Media Group, Jakarta. Board member of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI), Indonesia;
- › **Yi-Shan Chen** (Taiwan): Finance reporter, instructor at National Taiwan University's School of Journalism and deputy editor at Taiwan's CommonWealth magazine. Participated in the ICIJ Offshore Leaks, Panama Papers and Paradise Papers projects;
- › **Oliver Schröm** (Germany) – Finance reporter and editor-in-chief at Correctiv;
- › **John-Allan Namu** (Kenya) – Investigative journalist for/CEO of Africa Uncensored;
- › **Eric Smit** (Netherlands) – Finance and money laundering specialist. Editor-in-chief of Follow the Money (ftm.nl);
- › **Paula Fray** (South Africa) – Managing director at frayintermedia;
- › **Laurent Richard** (France) – Investigative journalist. Co-founder of the French inquiry magazine Cash Investigation. ICIJ member. Worked on Luxleaks;
- › **Pavla Holcova** (Czech Republic) – specialises in Organised Crime Groups in Europe, Money Laundering, media projects. She is the founder of the Czech Centre for Investigative Journalism;
- › **Roel Landingin** (Philippines) – specialises in corruption, abuse of money and resources. Roel Landingin is the editor-in-chief of Entrepreneur Philippines, an online business news website. He is also a contributor to the Philippine Centre for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) and an ICIJ-member;

- **Sylke Gruhnwald** (Switzerland) – reporter based in Switzerland specialising in reporting on white collar crime, fraud and following the money trail;
- **Craig McKune** (South Africa) – specialises in research and communications projects tackling tax havens and financial flows & climate and energy issues. Formerly worked as an investigative journalist for amaBhungane;
- **Coco Gubbels** (Netherlands) – full-time ad-interim programme and project manager at VL Consultants BV. Coco Gubbels is aware of the need and added value of project management in investigative journalism.

OVERALL RESULTS:

1. For the last four years (2018-2021) Journalismfund.eu’s mentoring programme has brought an evident and visible added value to the supported projects, teams of individual journalists and investigative process;
2. The list of mentors was further updated and developed;
3. For the last four years both mentors and journalists demonstrated progress in understanding their respective roles and responsibilities in their partnership.

In 2020-2021 in general Journalismfund.eu had 7 ongoing projects with the mentorship consultations for the European Cross-Border Grants Programmes. If we follow these increased numbers, we can see clear progress in the mentoring programme.

EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER GRANTS:

ID	ROUND	TEAM LEADER	PROJECT TITLE	MENTOR
ECB/2019/JA3A/532	14/10/2019	Luk Dewulf	Cobalt Chain	John-Allan Namu
ECB/2020/OSF3/570	18/02/2020	Yuliia Kalashnyk	Child Marriage	Gwen Lister
ECB/2020/JA3A/609	21/08/2020	Ludovica Jona	Behind The Pledge	Staffan Dahllof
ECB/2020/JA3A/600	21/08/2020	Robert Schmidt	Waterstories.eu	Sylke Gruhnwald
ECB/2020/OSF3/605	21/08/2020	Hannah Kirmes-Daly	Under the cover of lockdown: Pushbacks on Europe’s Balkan Route at the time of COVID-19	Nancy Porsia
ECB/2020/OSF3/573	18/02/2020	Daiva Repeckaite	Antivaxxers	Crina Boros
ECB/2021/663	16/04/2021	Patrizia Schlosser	The invisible men behind the biggest porn sites and how they got rich with sexual violence	Sarah Hurst

INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MENTORING

During 2020 – 2021 the following factors contributed to a more effective mentorship:

- Availability – the mentors were really dedicated to mentoring and spent their time accordingly;
- Understanding respective roles and responsibilities – the mentors started to understand better their exact role in the investigations. They were sufficiently (de)briefed about the concept of the project and their responsibilities. They fully understood the specific needs of the teams;
- Knowledge and Skills – the teams of journalists started to indicate in detail in their application forms the specific skills and professional profile of the mentor they think they need. Also, very often the team itself selected a mentor from the pool of mentors and/or specified the specific skills of the mentor needed in the context of their investigation. As a result, mentors have grown much more knowledgeable about the topic or skills they are transferring. Mentors were appointed for teams that

needed support regarding a specific aspect of an investigation. As such, the mentors were selected based on either the focus of investigation or the need for competencies in a specific skill;

- › Deciding on mentoring – previously it was always the jury members of the grant programmes who recommended the assistance of a mentor to the teams of journalists. In the last few years, the applicants themselves received the opportunity to choose a mentor in the course of the application process. Consequently, projects were approved on their own merit, and mentors didn't become a tool for approving proposals.

QUALITY MEASUREMENT SYSTEM MENTORING PROGRAMME

Journalismfund.eu uses the following key performance indicators for its mentoring programme:

- › Quality publication of the investigation;
- › Story was published more widely, with more extensive outreach;
- › The investigation had more influence / tangible impact;
- › Knowledge transfer and knowledge sharing;
- › Network building / network development;
- › Motivation of the team to continue conducting cross-border investigative journalism.

The following examples illustrate how some of these indicators worked in 2020-2021 in the framework of the European Cross-Border Grants Programme:

- › ECB/2021/663 – project **'The Invisible men behind the biggest porn sites'**. The team requested a mentor with skills in financial reporting, corruption, money trails leading into offshore companies. Finally, Sarah Hurst, our former successful grantee, first joined to the team as a mentor by also consulting the team members in line with Russian ties into the EU.
- › ECB/2020/JA3A/609 – project **'Behind the Pledge'**. The team requested an editorial expert to point out potential gaps in narrative, strengthen necessary data or make other suggestions. Their mentor Staffan Dahllöf helped the team to elevate the quality of their publication in Le Monde and also to achieve more extensive outreach (in addition to Le Monde, and Süddeutsche Zeitung, articles were also published in the British Medical Journal and the EU Observer);
- › ECB/2020/JA3A/600 – project **'Waterstories.eu'**. The mentor helped the team in planning the project and its publications. As an outcome, the story was published more widely, achieving greater outreach.
- › ECB/2020/JA3A/595 – project **'Ukraine as a Safe Haven for Jihadists'**. Their mentor Pavla Holcova brainstormed the team about the way they conduct their research and pitch their stories. As a result, the investigation had more influence in both Ukraine and Poland.

THE PASCAL DECROOS GRANT PROGRAMME

PURPOSE

The Pascal Decroos Fund is a project of Journalismfund.eu vzw and aims to keep the memory of Pascal Decroos alive and to continue his life's work in the following ways:

- › Promoting high-quality and investigative journalism in Flanders and beyond;

- › Creating opportunities for young people to develop journalistic talents in practice;
- › Bringing people from all sections of society together.

The Pascal Decroos Fund aims to give financial support to special investigative Flemish journalism through grants. In this way, both novice and experienced journalists get the opportunity to work out their ideas. The support is awarded by way of grants to individual journalists. They must be able to show that their project entails unusually high costs or are so time-consuming that the normal remuneration from their editorial board or publishing agency is insufficient to realise the project. The projects must also outweigh the importance of regular reporting, daily journalism or normal work as a correspondent. The topic or theme must be special or must be tackled from a different approach or perspective.

Applications are completed and submitted digitally through the website <https://grants.journalismfund.eu>. Besides a description of the content and planning of the project, they must also add a detailed budget showing how the grant would be used.

CRITERIA

The jury evaluates the applications using 9 criteria:

1. Added value compared to mainstream coverage / a forgotten story
2. Relevance to society
3. Originality and innovative methods
4. Daring
5. Feasibility
6. Newsworthiness
7. Experience of the applicants, references
8. Saleability
9. Time commitment

STATISTICS

For the Flemish Pascal Decroos Fund programme, in 2021 Journalismfund.eu received 103 applications from 147 applicants in four application rounds. The jury came together four times and awarded grants to 52 projects (75 grantees).

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Aantal aangevraagde PROJECTEN	134	84	149	102	103
Aantal toegekende PROJECTEN	58	43	61	58	52
Toekenningen in euro	280.050,00	250.461,00	274.295,00	277.685,00	253.144,00
Uitbetaald	251.522,17	212.998,98	226.205,15	205.652,67	149.745,75
Minimum projectsteun	1.000,00	1.540,00	500,00	745,00	700,00
Maximum projectsteun	20.000,00	15.000,00	15.000,00	8.100,00	11.150,00
Gemiddelde projectsteun	4.828,45	5.824,67	4.496,64	4.787,67	4.868,15
Gevraagd budget	875.629,65	658.987,00	884.911,39	652.358,00	578.696,00
Gemiddeld gevraagd budget/zittijd	291.876,55	329.493,50	294.970,46	163.089,50	144.674,00
Aantal zittijd	3	2	3	4	4

PROFIEL AANVRAGERS - zowel toe					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
freelance	126	82	136	125	111
loontrekkende	34	23	35	26	27
student	13	2	8	0	4
werkzoekend	10	1	5	0	0
bursaal	0	0	0	0	0
loopbaanonderbreking	0	0	0	0	0
gepensioneerd	0	3	2	0	2
andere	3	7	8	1	3
Totaal	186	118	194	152	147
Aantal zittijden	3	2	3	4	4

PROFIELGrantees					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
freelance	54	45	55	72	52
loontrekkende	21	8	21	12	17
student	2	0	4	1	4
werkzoekend	1	1	2	0	0
bursaal	0	0	0	0	0
loopbaanonderbreking	0	0	0	0	0
gepensioneerd	0	3	2	0	1
andere	1	3	5	0	1
Totaal	79	60	89	85	75

JURY

The evaluation of the proposals for a grant is done by the jury on the basis of objective criteria that are known in advance by all applicants. However, the names of the jury members are never communicated prior to the evaluation. Every proposal is rated by four jury members. The Fund has no influence on the evaluation and selection of proposals.

Two of the four jury members rotate every two years; a judge member may serve on the jury for maximum four consecutive years. The independent jury is drawn up by the Fund on the basis of a list of names proposed by the members of the Board of Directors. The jury consists of four members, including three with comprehensive journalistic experience and one with another relevant background. The jury members are not on the payroll of a media company.

Former jury members are:

- > **Karel Anthierens** (1999-2001)
- > **Hugo De Ridder** (1999-2001)
- > **Paul Muys** (1999-2003)
- > **Dirk Voorhoof** (1999-2003)
- > **Derk-Jan Eppink** (2001-2005)
- > **Walter Zinzen** (2001-2005)
- > **Daniel Biltreyst** (2003-2007)
- > **Geert Sciote** (2003-2007)
- > **Kris Smet** (2005-2009)
- > **Carl De Keyser** (2005-2009)
- > **Josse Abrahams** (2007-2011)
- > **Trees Verleyen** (2007-2011)
- > **Liesbet Walckiers** (2009-2013)
- > **Dorian van der Brempt** (2009-2013)
- > **Tessa Vermeiren** (2011-2015)
- > **Michael Opgenhaffen** (2011-2015)
- > **Ingrid Vander Veken** (2013-2018)
- > **Luc Van der Kelen** (2013-2018)
- > **Michiel Hendryckx** (2018-2019)
- > **Katrien Van der Perre** (2018-2022)
- > **Caroline De Neve** (2019-2021)

OVERVIEW SUPPORTED PROJECTS

During 2021, 43 projects supported by the Pascal Decroos Fund were published.

1. AMAZIGH

AL HOCEIMA - During the summer holidays, Europeans with a Moroccan migration background flock to Al Hoceima. For two months, the tourist resort in the Rif region is flourishing and there is work again. But it's only a little solace for the Rifine population that has to deal with a corrupt government and oppression on a daily basis.

Amazigh is an undercover report about the hirak, the popular movement in the disadvantaged Rif area, and tells the story of those who left, stayed or were arrested.

We meet Mohammed, who is living illegally in Antwerp. Together with his best friend Nasser Zefzafi, he went through the streets of Al Hoceima to stand up for his rights. His friend was arrested, he himself fled. In Al Hoceima, we meet the parents of protest leader Nasser Zefzafi, Nasser El Ouazizi - frontman of the band Agraf, a teacher, a hairdresser and a self-employed person.

AUTHORS: Manon Duerinck, Evelyne Dierickx, Youssra Addou

GRANT: € 7.300

DOCUMENTARY

- [Amazigh](#), Vranckx & De Nomaden, VRT/Canvas (Belgian public broadcaster) 06/02/2021.

PRESS COVERAGE

- [Undercover in Marokko](#), VRT.NWS, 06/02/2021.
- [Marokkanse ambassadeur niet opgezet met Nomadenreportage](#), VRT.NWS, 18/02/2021.

2. THIS IS EGYPT

CAIRO - Can you love a dictatorship? Well, no, but the Belgian author Ruth Vandewalle does not want to leave Egypt after more than ten years. Ten years after Tahrir, she goes looking for answers among her Egyptian friends. Their solution: create your own reality.

What began ten years ago in Cairo's Tahrir Square as an uprising for democratic freedoms, fought for by the youth, has turned into more repression. The young people in their twenties have shifted the battlefield to their own lives. In #thisisegypt2 Ruth Vandewalle follows her friends who are all searching for their own way to independence within the limitations of the police state that Egypt is. A documentary about adapting, thinking back and ignoring, in a country where 'just doing your thing' has been elevated to an art form.

Amna is a national champion rower, Youssra an accordionist and Sadat a rapper and founder of the revolutionary Mahraganat music (Egyptian electronic dance). They build their own oases, where they can do whatever they want. To do so, they have to learn to ignore the world of repression and social control. Ruth, too, learned to navigate between the limitations of life in a dictatorship. But small personal revolutions are taking place behind closed doors, and they give her hope. #thisisegypt2 makes these changes visible.

AUTHOR: Ruth Vandewalle

GRANT: € 6.000

TELEVISION

- [#thisisegypt2, 10 jaar na Tahrir](#), VRT NU, 4/02/2021 (nog te bekijken tot 26/02/2024)
- [2DOC: #thisisegypt2, 10 jaar na Tahrir](#), VPRO, 26/02/2021 (om 22u35).

PRESS COVERAGE

- [Bruidsjurken](#), De Groene Amsterdammer, 20/01/2021.
- [Nooit meer slapen](#), VPRO/NPO1 Radio, 22/01/2021.

3. EUROPE'S CAR GRAVEYARD

CONAKRY - Every year, hundreds of thousands of discarded and polluting cars from all over Europe are shipped from Belgium to West Africa. There the wrecks, which pose a threat to the health and safety of the population, can continue to travel hundreds of thousands of kilometres. Attempts to tackle this trade have come to nothing. Simon Oeyen and Arnaud De Decker went to Conakry, the capital of Guinea, in search of our old wrecks.

The Heyvaer neighbourhood in Brussels, on the territory of Anderlecht, Molenbeek and Brussels City, has been the heart of the used car business since the 1980s. The transport companies in the district are considered institutions in many West African countries. In 2019, 320,000 used cars disappeared via the port of Antwerp, mainly heading for West Africa, a figure that has been rising for years.

But the second-hand vehicles that leave European territory still too often look like wrecks from a previous era, which in theory are no longer suitable for export. In August last year, at the request of the European Commission, a report was published by the Dutch consultancy Trinomics BV, which exposed several shortcomings in the export of end-of-life vehicles. According to the report, an average of four million European end-of-life vehicles disappears from the radar every year. According to Febelauto, the management body for end-of-life vehicles in Belgium, this number includes some forty to sixty thousand Belgian wrecks. "It is not known to what extent these vehicles are exported outside the EU, or treated unregistered within the EU, nor what environmental damage they cause," it says.

In January 2021, Arnaud De Decker and Simon Oeyen went to Conakry, the capital of Guinea, where the car industry has a tight grip on just about everyone and causes a lot of misery. Together with waste incineration, road traffic is one of the biggest sources of air pollution there. In addition, old European cars bring with them another evil: they are killing machines.

AUTHORS: Arnaud De Decker, Simon Oeyen

GRANT: € 2.640

TELEVISION

- [Het autokerkhof van Europa](#), VRT/Canvas (Belgian public broadcaster, 10/04/2021).

PRINT/ONLINE

- [We zijn de vuilnisbak van Europa'](#), De Standaard, 13/02/2021.

4. POTATOES

BELGIUM/FRANCE - Belgium is the world's largest exporter of frozen potato products. And that takes a lot of potatoes. An unprecedented Belgian success story. What does the chain look like behind that bag of frozen croquettes or that large packet of chips?

The ecological, social, environmental and social consequences of the increase in scale required for this are incalculable. What impact does the chip factory have on villages and landscape? How does this growing industrial agriculture affect the environment? And what about the position of the independent farmer?

The Belgian Dutch-language news site Apache, the Belgian French-language news site Médor and the French Mediacités set up a cross-border investigation to show how the potato industry works. The preliminary research for this project was financed by the Pascal Decroos Fund.

AUTHORS: anonymous

GRANT: € 4.775

ONLINE

- Projectpagina: www.frietbonzen.eu
 - [De agro-industrie achter je pakje friet](#), Apache, 16/02/2021.
 - [De grondhonger van aardappelgigant Clarebout](#), Apache, 16/02/2021.
 - [De gouden knol blinkt niet voor iedereen](#), Apache, 17/02/2021.
 - [De bodem is moe](#), Apache, 18/02/2021.
 - [Des frites, oui mais à quel prix](#), Médor, 16/02/2021.
 - [La frite industrielle impose sa loi à la culture de la patate](#), Médiacités, 16/02/2021.
-

5. ATRA

GEZNAKH - Atra is a documentary about Alexandro Yaramis' search for roots. He travels through former North Mesopotamia. He crosses Assyrian settlements that are in the middle of the conflict between the Turkish state and the PKK. When he hears that a church is being built in his father's village, Geznakh, he decides to make this important journey.

The landscape is marked by numerous military posts but also by centuries-old churches. The situation is sharply divided, but at last the stories reach beyond the borders of troubled Turkey. The story begins on the Tigris, one of the two most important rivers in Turkey. Then we stop in Derqubbe.

A stricken family, living there for generations, suddenly shared their land with strangers. Kurdish gangs have been fiddling with the land registers. The penultimate stop is Meer, in the middle of a high-risk area. The village is inhabited by one family, the Dirils. In the early 2020s, they are startled by the disappearance of their parents. Father Hurmuz has not yet been found. Turkey, despite all its technology, fails. The village of Meer threatens to turn into a ghost town. The search for my Atra, my heimat.

AUTHORS: Alexandro Yaramis, Marcel Top, Louis Delbarre

GRANT: € 2.100

TELEVISION/ONLINE

[Atra](#), Vranckx & De Nomaden, 06/03/2021, VRT/Canvas. Te bekijken op VRT.NU tot 06/08/2021.

PRESS COVERAGE

[Alexandro Yaramis uit leper gaat tijdens Vranckx en de Nomaden op zoek naar zijn roots](#), Krant Van West-Vlaanderen, 17/02/2021.

6. RESET

ANTWERP - The corona virus has been raging through Europe for weeks. The cultural sector is locked up and the creators at home, for the time being without any perspective. Seven artists manage to draw resilience from stagnation and show that they can quickly switch to an alternative frame of mind like no other.

During the lockdowns, a fundamental question becomes increasingly clear: what choices does society make in a crisis situation and what place does culture have in it?

But the corona crisis also pushes deeper problems to the surface: the cultural sector is a patchwork of statutes in which flexibility is crucial. Paradoxically enough, it is precisely this flexibility that ensures that many artists are left empty-handed today, because no job, no support. More than four thousand artists are missing out. It is becoming painfully clear and urgent that there is no fully-fledged artist statute today.

But the cultural sector is also a complex ecosystem of large and small players, all with their own interests that are not always aligned. The establishment of a single artists' coalition in the middle of

the crisis is therefore a historic turning point for the sector. It created a basis for successful political lobbying. Just when the artists' coalition finds an opening for debate and the cultural sector makes maximum use of the minimal space they are given, the second corona wave erupts in Antwerp.

Culture is immediately locked up again, without explanation, without solid arguments. This represents an absolute low point, at which artists will take their fate into their own hands... The coalition is working for a fundamental change in the status of artists but is encountering heavy opposition from political quarters. How do you determine who is an artist? How do you compensate someone who works on something for months and that 'something' only lasts an hour?

During the lockdowns, a fundamental question becomes increasingly clear: what choices does society make in a crisis situation and what place does culture have in it?

AUTHOR: Lies Van Der Auwera

GRANT: € 6.000

TELEVISION

[Reset](#), VRT/Canvas, 14/03/2021.

PRESS COVERAGE

[Documentaire 'Reset' toont kunstenaars in crisistijd](#), Rekto:Verso, 11/03/2021.

7. WHEN THE MASK FALLS

Although narcissism is a popular theme in today's media, there is also much confusion about it. This series explores what narcissism is and how destructive the consequences can be for people in close contact with a narcissist. The witnesses are former partners or relatives of.

Sofie Hanegreefs' three-part podcast series 'When the mask falls' examines what narcissism is and how destructive the consequences can be for people who are in close contact with a narcissist.

In each episode, various testimonies about narcissistic abuse are interspersed with the expertise of psychiatric and forensic experts.

AUTHOR: Sofie Hanegreefs

GRANT: € 3.200

RADIO/PODCAST

[Als het masker valt](#), Zandman, Radio 1 (Belgian public broadcaster), starting 16/03/2021, 22u00.

8. LE DERNIER REFUGE

BRUSSELS - In the heart of Brussels, a stone's throw from the Parliament and the Royal Palace, nearly 100 West African migrants occupy a squat. Divided into seven bedrooms. For six years now.

Moussa, 27, keeps things going. 'There is no community without rules', he knows. 'If we have been able to hold on for six years, it is thanks to good organisation.'

It is the longest-running occupation in the capital, but packed together, without privacy and without prospects, life is hard. Nobody wants to stay there but nobody knows where to go. At the same time, it is their last hope and refuge. From here, they fight for collective regularisation. Almost all residents have already received an order to leave the country after their asylum application was rejected. Most of them then submitted a new application. But the chance of recognition is minimal.

Le dernier refuge is set against the backdrop of Belgian and European asylum policy, where the wait is almost endless and redemption seldom at hand.

AUTHORS: Berber Verpoest, Wouter Vanmol

GRANT: € 3.200

ONLINE

- [Le dernier refuge](#), Bruzz, 02/04/2021.
- [Het laatste toevluchtsoord: 'Er is geen gemeenschap zonder regels'](#), MO.be, 02/04/2021.

9. A GIRL'S GAZE

LILONGWE - Malawi is one of the countries hardest hit by climate change. Major floods and extreme drought mean that the harvest fails year after year. Girls are then easy prey for human traffickers.

To escape poverty and famine, many young girls end up in prostitution. And almost half of them marry before they turn eighteen, even though that is prohibited. Anke Dirix and Roel Nollet of The Redhorse Collective investigate the link between climate change and gender violence.

The photo shows Maureen Phiri, a youth activist who was abused herself as a child. She now works with the organisation Chance for Change to get girls out of human trafficking. They organise activities - including boxing lessons - for the girls to work on their self-confidence and mental well-being. They also give sex education lessons in schools, to make sure the girls stand up for each other and recognise human trafficking - and traffickers - in their lives.

AUTHORS: Anke Dirix en Roel Nollet

GRANT: € 7.400

TELEVISION

[A Girl's Gaze](#), Vranckx en De Nomaden, VRT/Canvas (Belgian public broadcaster), 17/04/2021 (te herbekijken tot 16/04/2024).

10. CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS DUE TO WAR AND FAMINE IN YEMEN

SANAA - Yemen already suffered from a high rate of birth defects and infant mortality before the war, due in part to intrafamily marriages and lack of family planning, but the hospitals we visited in three different provinces are adamant that there has been an unprecedented increase since the war.

For this investigation, Mahmoud Elsobky visited hospitals and families in three different provinces in Yemen (Hoedidia, Sa'adah and Hajjah).

"My wife is pregnant again and I am afraid that this baby will also be deformed," says Maher.

"I feel sick and the doctor said I should get my pregnancy examined, but we don't even have the money for an ultrasound," says his wife. "Only God can help," the doctors say."

AUTHOR: Mahmoud Elsobky

GRANT: € 10.000

PRINT/ONLINE

[De slechtste plaats op aarde voor kinderen](#), De Morgen, 19/04/2021.

11. THE CALL OF THE EMPTY VILLAGES

PUYUELO - Only 15.8% of the total population still lives in the so-called Empty Spain, which covers just over half of the interior of the country. While Spanish cities have doubled or even tripled in size over the past century, the population in the interior of the country has barely increased.

The space created by this depopulation turns out to be fertile ground for the *neo rurales* or new rural people, a growing group of young people who have turned their backs on the city and are looking for an alternative life in the countryside.

Since many of them never really lived in the countryside, it is difficult to speak of a real 'return'. Rather, it is a symbolic return to the values of the countryside as opposed to those of the city. Disappointed by consumer society, individualisation and the hustle and bustle of urban life, neo-ruralists believe that the countryside offers the chance of a simpler life. In close relationship with nature and fellow man, and in an ecologically responsible way.

Pablo Janssen travelled through the North of Spain in search of their story.

AUTHOR: Pablo Janssen

GRANT: € 930

PRINT:

[De lokroep van de lege dorpen](#), De Standaard, 30/04/2021.

12. GENERATION CORONA

BRUSSELS - How will this pandemic shape the next generation? The middle class is fighting a valiant battle to reconcile family and professional life, but the vulnerable are fighting the same battle with more limited resources.

They often do not have computers, live in cramped quarters with many family members, and parents have less time to devote to homework. This can widen the gap between the underprivileged and the privileged: there are fears of more young adults without a diploma, language deficiencies are increasing at a rapid pace and mental wellbeing is deteriorating. In this three-part series, we look at the consequences of the pandemic one year on, with a focus on vulnerable youth. What did the measures do to their school performance and mental well-being? What does their future look like? And what can we do to improve their prospects?

AUTHOR: Tom Van Assche

GRANT: € 5.625

ONLINE

[Generatie corona](#), De Standaard, 02/05/2021.

13. FEMINISM IN ALBANIA

ALBANIA - Over the past 30 years, Albania has evolved at breakneck speed from an extreme communist dictatorship to an unbridled neoliberal democracy. This makes the country an interesting laboratory for contemporary social developments, such as migration, identity construction or gender and the social role of women. There is a lot to be said about this, because Albanian society has always been very patriarchal. Equality between men and women is hardly an issue.

Albania is - literally and figuratively - a blank spot on our map of Europe. We hardly hear anything

about the Balkan country in South-Eastern Europe except when it comes to disaster or the country's European ambitions.

Over the past 30 years, Albania has evolved at breakneck speed from an extreme communist dictatorship to an unbridled neoliberal democracy. This makes the country an interesting laboratory for contemporary social developments, such as migration, identity construction or gender and the social role of women. There is a lot to be said about this, because Albanian society has always been very patriarchal. Equality between men and women is hardly an issue.

But that is not counting on a young generation of Albanian feminists, who claim women's rights and equality: on the street, via social media and their own news channels. For Knack.be Klara Van Es spoke in Tirana with Entenela Ndrevaaj and Liri Kuçi, two of the very first feminists, about their all-in activism for women, the LGBTQI community, workers, students, monuments and the environment.

AUTHOR: Klara Van Es

GRANT: € 5.200

ONLINE

[Jonge generatie feministes op de barricaden in Albanië: 'Als vrouw word je hier dubbel getroffen'](#), Knack.be, 04/10/2021

14. MAN AND THE HORN

NANYUKI - De Mens en de Hoorn is a project by Olivia Kortas and Kasper Goethals in collaboration with photographer Johannes De Bruycker. Based on the story of Najin and Fatu, the last two northern white rhinos on earth, they tell about the dysfunctional relationship between humans and their planet.

In various chapters, they show how a species was eradicated, how global biodiversity is declining and how humans ultimately make a final attempt to save the rhino, with technology. For the first series of stories, Olivia and Kasper traveled to the Czech Republic, Germany and Kenya

AUTHORS: Kasper Goethals, Olivia Kortas, Johannes Debruycker

GRANT: € 7.525

PRINT/ONLINE

- [Ei zo na uitgestorven](#), De Standaard Weekblad, 08/05/2021.
- [Nog twee...nog één](#), De Groene Amsterdammer, 11/08/2021.

15. THE ROUTE

TRIPOLI - How much do illegal immigrants suffer from smuggling networks? How do the illegal immigrants get in contact with the smugglers? What is the role of the international community in curbing the spread of this business? Investigative AUTHOR Mahmoud Elsobky searched for answers to these questions and travelled to Libya, Tunisia, France, Germany and Mauritania. There he met with victims of illegal immigration and smugglers.

"I want to be somewhere out of Libya where I can enjoy my freedom" said Yassin, a Sudanese victim of illegal immigration held in Libya. "I was kept by Jaber for months who used to rape me. Then I became pregnant, then he sold me to Abdel Yassine who is ISIS member who used to rape me too. I had to pay 14.500 USD to the smugglers" said to me an Eritrean victim who faced rape and torture under the hands of smugglers in Libya.

Libya is a torture factory for all the illegal immigrants, the Libyans have no mercy with them. They are considered as business only to profit from them through selling them.

“People are abused when they arrive in Libya, they try to escape and they’re sent back to the same abuse, in different camps maybe but in the same bad conditions” says Sara Prestianni, Programme Officer – Migration and Asylum, EURO MED Rights.

AUTHOR: Mahmoud Elsobky

GRANT: € 15.000

TELEVISION/ONLINE

[The Route](#), Al Araby, 15/02/2021.

PRINT/ONLINE

- [De migratiemaffia](#), De Morgen, vanaf 29/05/2021.
- [‘In Libië kun je maar één kant op: de zee’](#), De Morgen, 29/05/2021.
- [اين ات يروم ربع اب وروا اى ليا اى م اظن ليا ريغ ارجه ليا تاك بش و تا راسم فشكت تن ذري جلا .. ارحصل ليا قيرط](#), Al Jazeera.net, 01/08/2021. (In Arabisch)

16. THE INVISIBLE COSTS OF ELECTRONICS

BRUSSELS - We consume one phone every two to three years on average. That’s not good for the environment nor for the climate. In Europe more than two hundred million smartphones are being sold annually. This market is highly dominated by Apple, Samsung and Huawei. So they determine the level of durability for those devices, and how easy it is to repair them. On one hand our phones often die very fast and we don’t get it fixed, on the other hand the consumer is being seduced by the latest technological advancements. The repair industry could play an important role for our smartphone and could on top create local jobs. Problems that require fixing are most often a broken screen or battery. If we systematically repair those problems we immediately increase the lifetime of those devices and all of the resources they hold. The article investigates where the key problems are, what the government should do about it and what we as consumers can do to help.

A lot of the materials in a smartphone are not at all being recycled today. Next to that, producing the average smartphone emits more than 60 kg CO2 equivalent. If we rely more on repair, having a good phone case and a screen protector we already come a long way. If all Europeans would manage to keep their phone one year longer than now, we would emit 2.1 megaton less CO2 annually by 2030, which equals taking a million cars from the road. With an average price of 530 EUR per device, European consumers could annually spend an estimated 28 billion euro in a more sustainable way and create more local jobs.

In the coming months Louis will publish a series of articles on the overconsumption of consumer electronics and the effects on the environment, climate and our wallet. Next to the smartphone, products like laptops, fridges and washing machines are being examined. The research has been constructed based on input and interviews with academics, electronics manufacturers, ngo’s, policy makers and the industry.

AUTHOR: Louis Lammertyn

GRANT: € 7.050

ONLINE

- [Nee, je smartpone is niet onherstelbaar kapot](#), MO.be, 20/01/2021.
- [Laptops willen en kunnen langer mee](#), MO.be, 14/06/2021.

PRINT

Laptops willen langer leven, MO*, 02/06/2021.

IMPACT

- [Mondelinge vraag van Kamerlid Kris Verduyckt aan Vice-eersteminister en minister van Economie en Werk, de heer Pierre-Yves Dermagne, 29/01/2021.](#)
- [Dermagne kondigt actieplan aan rond te korte levensduur elektronica, Nieuwsblad, 3/02/2021.](#)

17. PROSTITUTION PREMISES

BRUSSELS - As of Wednesday (9 June 2021), the rules for sex work are normalising. After months of vacancy, activity in the zones of tolerance for window prostitution is getting back on track. In the past, sex workers and bar owners have been much investigated, but the property owners are a blind spot. Who are those men and women who buy premises to install display windows where sex workers attract customers? Which companies specialise in real estate for the sex industry and do they have links to foreign countries?

Apache went looking for the owners behind the real estate in the window prostitution zones of Ghent, Antwerp and Schaarbeek and saw three different dynamics. Readers discover that in Antwerp, since the turn of the century, companies have been systematically buying up private properties. In Ghent, one local project developer owns one third of the premises. Finally, the windows in the Aarschotstraat in Brussels North appear to be largely in the hands of a series of unusual private individuals. The three-part online series 'Prostitutiependen' is based on land registry research, supplemented by studies and conversations with experts and an owner.

AUTHOR: Steven Vanden Bussche

GRANT: € 4.000

ONLINE

- [Antwerpse prostitutiependen lokken grote vastgoedspelers](#), Apache, 09/06/2021.
- [Gentse Glazen Straatje blijft in handen van lokale eigenaars](#), Apache, 10/06/2021.
- [Panden in 's lands langste prostitutiestraat in particuliere handen](#), Apache, 11/06/2021.

18. KONGO CENTRAL

MATADI - Since colonial times, much and yet little has changed in the Congolese province of Kongo Central. Belgian companies in the Congolese agro-industry no longer play the role they did when they started operating in the then colony more than a century ago. The way in which these companies proceeded to plunder land and conclude dubious contracts with local chiefs in the past, however, has led to a deep dissatisfaction with Belgian investors to this day.

In Congo Central, the westernmost province of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the Atlantic Ocean, Apache was able to investigate the extent to which historical injustices against the local population are still taking their toll.

In the region of Nkolo, the notorious police commissioner Jules Van Lancker confiscated land in the 1920s. The Van Lanckers became the owners of a huge farm.

Jules Van Lancker's heirs sold the shares of this farm after the turn of the century to the Belgian Damseaux family's company Orgaman, another major player in the Congolese agro-industry, which also practised cattle breeding. In the meantime, the Damseaux family is no longer represented by Orgaman, but by the company SOGENAC. This deal was made behind the backs of the population, who are now demanding their land back.

AUTHOR: Raf Custers

GRANT: € 7.720

PRINT

[Kongo Central](#), Apache Magazine, 15/06/2021.

19. SUICIDE IN A POLICE CELL IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS - What happened to Dieumerci Kanda? Six years ago, the Angolan man entered a Brussels police station to report his missing wallet. For no apparent reason, he is arrested and locked up in a cell. Three hours later he's dead. The official explanation is that he killed himself. But isn't there more to it?

Janine Meijer reconstructs the last hours of Dieumerci Kanda's life on the basis of interviews with his family, the police, lawyers, the analysis of the judicial file and a visit to the police station.

AUTHOR: Janine Meijer

GRANT: € 5.000

PRINT/ONLINE

[Zelfdoding in een Brussels politiecel](#), Apache magazine, 15/06/2021.

ONLINE

- [VN veroordeelt structureel racisme bij Belgische politie](#), Apache, 16/06/2021.
- [Coffré malgré lui](#), Médor, 03/08/2021.
- [Qui devait surveiller Dieumerci ?](#), Médor, 04/08/2021.
- [Son avocat : « Ce n'est pas un hasard. Il était Noir »](#), Médor, 06/08/2021.

20. LA CIVIL

MEXICO - La Civil tells the story of Cielo, a mother in search of her daughter, abducted by a criminal cartel in Northern Mexico. As the authorities fail to offer support in the search, Cielo takes matters into her own hands and turns from housewife into avenging activist. The story was inspired by true events.

Cielo begins her own investigation and gains the trust and sympathy of Lamarque, an unconventional army lieutenant working in the region. He agrees to help Cielo in her search, as her research data may also be useful for his operations. Cielo's cooperation with Lamarque draws her further into a vicious circle of violence. The film focuses on Cielo's emotional rollercoaster as she is gradually drawn into ever more intense and dangerous circumstances. The camera stays close, we never lose sight of her as she gradually transforms from a housewife into an avenging activist. As events unfold, Cielo gets closer to the truth: she discovers a mass grave, obtains official DNA analysis, confronts one of the suspected kidnapers, but corruption and apathy keep her from finding a solution. Until the end finally comes, unpredictably and uninvited...

The film was preceded by years of intensive research by the Romanian-Belgian director Teodora Mihai and Mexican writer Habacuc Antonio de Rosario, for which they received a grant of the Pascal Decroos Fund. Originally it was going to be a documentary, but circumstances forced them to turn it into a fictional story.

"When I started following her, documenting her life, it soon proved a way too tricky road for an observational documentary: the region was very unsafe and I felt too censored by the circumstances and the content of the plot, which was managing a good amount of sensitive information. So the decision was taken: we would write a fictional story, inspiring ourselves of two years and a half of valuable research material I had gathered by then." In 2017, Miriam Rodriguez, the mother in question, was brutally killed in front of her house.

The film was awarded an Audacity Award at the 2021 Cannes Festival.

AUTHORS: Teodora Mihai, Habacuc Antonio de Rosario

GRANT: € 7.500

FILM

- [La Civil](#), world premiere in Cannes, 06/07/2021.
- La Civil, Belgian première, Film Fest Gent, 12/10/2021.
- Different festivals

PRESS COVERAGE

- [Debuut van Belgisch-Roemeense Teodora Ana Mihai geselecteerd voor filmfestival van Cannes](#), Radio 1, 06/07/2021.
- [In het leven moet je aan je kansen werken](#), De Standaard, 03/07/2021.
- [San Sebastian: Mexico's Pinnienta Films Boards Teodora Ana Mihai's Drug drama 'La Civil'](#), Variety, 19/09/2016
- [Teodora Ana Mihai en Jessica Woodworth nemen deel aan TorinoFilmLab](#), VAF.be, 02/02/2017
- [Mexicaanse moeder spoort zelf moordenaars van haar dochter één voor één op](#) - De Morgen, 17/05/2017
- [Gunmen Kill Mexican Activist for Parents of Missing Children](#) - The New York Times, 12/05/2017

21. MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS IN REFUGEE CAMPS

SAMOS - The harrowing conditions in the hotspots of the Greek islands of Lesbos, Samos and Chios have created a mental health crisis. Depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and self-harm are the most common mental health problems reported by NGOs in the field.

The condition of asylum seekers has further deteriorated after months of hard lockdowns, fires and years of uncertainty. One in four asylum seekers show psychotic symptoms (previously this was one in seven). Reports of self-harm have also risen significantly - by 66% - reports the International Rescue Committee.

The arrival of the new facilities - which are likely to be closed - is driving people to delusion. In Samos, people are trying to leave the island at all costs.

The project focuses on stories of people in need of psychological help and the work of mental health specialists who try to help them - despite language barriers, ever-changing contexts and scarce resources.

AUTHOR: Urszula Udzikowska

GRANT: € 2.300

ONLINE

- [Mensen kwamen hier op zoek naar veiligheid, maar lopen nu nog meer trauma's op](#), MO.be, 17/06/2021.
- [Wie vlucht denkt veilig te zijn bij aankomst in Europa, maar leeft voortdurend in angst](#), MO;be, 05/07/2021.
- ["What does Europe want to achieve? That we will all commit suicide one day?"](#), Solomon, 09/08/2021.
- [Een verloren generatie kinderen op de vlucht](#), MO.be, 05/10/2021.

22. DRAINING THE WELL OF YOUNG DREAMS

BEIRUT - The report 'Draining the well of young dreams' gives a portrait of these young adults alongside city landscapes who image the current situation in Beirut.

In recent years Libanon had to endure an accumulation of crises in which the ongoing covid-pandemic and the explosion in the harbour last year increased the economic and political crisis. Though the future doesn't look bright, young adults keep chasing their dreams and try to find their way in society. The report 'Draining the well of young dreams' gives a portrait of these young adults alongside city landscapes who image the current situation in Beirut. These adolescents are

on a thin line between rashness, specific to their age, and a sense of responsibility. By starting from the perspectives of young graduates, this photographic documentary tries to give insights into the city's current situation.

AUTHOR: Aaron Lapeirre

GRANT: € 3.600

ONLINE/PRINT

[Een jaar na de explosie van Beiroet is de stad een schim van wat ze ooit was.](#), De Morgen, 07/08/2021.

23. NEW BELGIUM: A MIGRATION HISTORY

BELGIUM - The thirty glorious years after the Second World War, that manic period of reconstruction and economic boom, have been decisive for the Belgium of today. The whole country was turned upside down. New jobs, habits and ideas replaced the old ones. At the end of those triumphant decades, Belgians were richer, freer and better educated than ever before.

This was also the time of migrant labour. Hundreds of thousands of people, originating from the belt of countries around the Mediterranean, moved to our country to help shape the new Belgium. The impact they had in economic, demographic, cultural and political terms is immense. In this first part of his great history of Belgium as a migration country, Tom Naegels tells the story of this migration in all its aspects. It starts with the liberation in 1944 and ends with the election in 1978 of the first representative of the new Vlaams Blok party.

European unification, the Cold War, decolonisation and the power struggle in the Middle East form the geopolitical backdrop against which this story is set. The perspective of the Belgian elite alternates with that of the Italian, Moroccan and Turkish elite. But the story also looks at the tensions in the Flemish-nationalist movement, at Wallonia's fear of political and economic marginalisation, at the difficulties faced by schools and at the diplomatic wrangling over the foundation of the Great Mosque. And it juxtaposes the experiences of the newcomers with those of the native Belgians.

This book paints a rich and multifaceted picture of 'Belgium in the world', providing the context and insights needed to understand the country today.

AUTHOR: Tom Naegels

GRANT: € 24.000

PREPUBLICATION

[Geen honden of Noord-Afrikanen](#), De Standaard, 21/08/2021.

BOOK

Dutch edition

Title: Nieuw België, een migratie geschiedenis

Pages: 480

Date of publication: 28/08/2021

EAN: 9789401434508

Nur-code: Vaderlandse geschiedenis

Editor: [Lannoo](#)

Print: 1

French edition

Title: La nouvelle Belgique, une histoire de l'immigration

Pages: 480

Date of publication: 28/08/2021

EAN: 9782390251675

Editor: [Racine](#)

Print: 1

PRESS COVERAGE

- ["België wist van in het begin waar het misliep"](#), De Standaard, 28/08/2021.
- [Tom Naegels presenteert eerste deel van tweeluik over heikel thema: "Het was nooit de bedoeling, maar België is een immigratieland geworden"](#), HLN.be, 29/08/2021.
- [België, migratiesamenleving tegen wil en dank](#), Apache, 30/08/2021.
- [Tom Naegels te gast in De Afspraak](#), VRT/Canvas, 31/08/2021.
- ["Groei in de jaren 60 was er nooit geweest zonder migranten"](#), De Morgen, 01/09/2021.
- [«On ne peut pas effacer l'histoire de l'immigration mais on peut mieux la comprendre»](#), Le Soir, 01/09/2021.
- [Gastarbeiders, welkom, Interne Keuken, Radio 1, 30/10/2021.](#)

24. ALL-IN

TURKEY - Two shy young men start to work in an all-inclusive hotel. A new, absurd world opens up to them. Colourful swimsuits, an abundance of food and the management's demands ensure they will never be the same again.

At the start of the summer season, Ismail and Hakan are preparing for their new job in a gigantic all-inclusive hotel at the Turkish Riviera. They observe the colourful swimsuits, the unemptied plates, the different ways of addressing other people, and gradually discover new opportunities to move ahead in life.

ALL-IN explores the loss of innocence against the backdrop of a fading European dream. Initial kindness turns into indifference as Ismail and Hakan's initiation into the absurd world of Western tourism soon leads them to ask: which dreams are really worth aspiring to?

All-In has been selected for the [European Film Awards 2021](#).

AUTHOR: Volkan Üce

GRANT: € 5.000

ALL-IN

- Belgian première: Film Fest Gent, /10/2021
- World premiere at CHP:DOX, Kopenhagen, 08/05/2021.
- North-American premiere at Hot-Docs, 29/04/2021.

PRESS COVERAGE

[Review All-In](#), Cineuropa, 15/06/2021.

[All-In, Interne Keuken](#), Radio 1, 30/10/2021.

25. MURDER IN BURUNDI

BUJUMBURA - After sixty years, Ludo De Witte opens up about a murder that set Burundi on the road to internal division, ethnic tension and mass killings.

On 13 October 1961, a Greek assassinated Prime Minister Louis Rwagasore of Burundi. The popular leader had just won the elections, to the consternation of Belgium, which governs Burundi. A few hours after the murder, top official Jean-Paul Harroy crossed paths with the Prime Minister's mother in the hospital where Rwagasore lay in state. She gives Harroy a resounding slap on the ear. This slap contains the conviction of many Burundians: the colonial government organised the crime. But Belgium's role was not investigated: the *raison d'état* imposed a duty of silence. Belgium executed the gunman, Burundi the five accomplices.

Sixty years later, Ludo De Witte opens up about a murder that set Burundi on the road to internal division, ethnic tension and mass murder. Confessions of key players and the opening of crucial archives expose the Belgian role in the murder of the charismatic leader. With the battle shadows of Patrice Lumumba and King Baudouin in the background, with supporting roles for then Belgian prime minister Paul-Henri Spaak and diplomat Etienne Davignon.

AUTHOR: Ludo De Witte

GRANT: € 5.120

BOOK

In Dutch

Title: Moord in Burundi (Murder in Burundi)

Subtitle: België en de liquidatie van premier Louis Rwagasore (Belgium and the liquidation of prime minister Louis Rwagasore)

Editor: EPO

EAN: 9789462672918

Date of publication: 06/09/2021

In French:

Title: Meurtre au Burundi

Subtitle: La Belgique et l'assassinat de Rwagasore

Editor: Investig'ation

EAN: 978-2930827872

ISBN: 2930827874

Date of publication: November 2021

PRESS COVERAGE

- [‘Prins Rwagasore moet vermoord worden’](#), De Standaard, 06/09/2021.
- [‘Heeft België een Burundese premier mee gedood? Boudewijn wilde de daders laten overkomen’](#), De Morgen, 07/09/2021.
- [‘Meurtre au Burundi, l’impacable enquête de Ludo De Witte’](#), Le Soir, 07/09/2021.
- [Ludo De Witte te gast bij De Afspraak](#), VRT/Canvas, 07/09/2021.
- [Ludo De Witte te gast bij Met het oog op morgen](#), NOS/Radio 1, 07/09/2021.

26. 9/11 THROUGH THE EYES OF AL-QAEDA

Even after the anniversary of 9/11, one question remains unanswered: how did Osama bin Laden manage to carry out that murderous raid against the most powerful country in the world? Exceptional testimonies from the heart of the al-Qaeda terrorist movement provide an answer.

Why was there an objection among Al-Qaeda to launch the attack against America? Why did Bin Laden insist on carrying out the attack? Will al-Qaeda return after the come-back of the Taliban?

Exceptional testimonies from the heart of the terror group provide answers to these questions. Also, testimonies from the second generation of young people who left with their families to join al-Qaeda in Afghanistan about that period and its effect on them to date.

AUTHORS: Mahmoud Elsobky, Hani Yassin

GRANT: € 8.000

PRINT/ONLINE

[11 september door de ogen van Al Qaida](#), De Morgen, 16/09/2021.

27. HEALING FROM OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER

AMSTERDAM - From the age of twelve until the age of twenty-two, Erwin Roebroeks was in the grip of a compulsive disorder. He showered eight hours a day, drank soapsuds while wearing surgical gowns, and cut open his skin to be able to clean the inside. At first, the medical world wrote him off. Roebroeks will never get rid of his severe obsessive-compulsive disorder (ocd).

And yet, after a long process and three years of in-patient treatment with the most extreme therapies, he manages to do what hardly anyone ever does. He is freed from his compulsion. He leaves the clinic as reborn, but outside he is confronted with the years he has missed. What does the wide world mean for someone who has seen the darkest parts of himself in an isolated clinic? What do friendship and love mean to a man who has known great loneliness? In *Ik dwang*, Roebroeks investigates how it is possible that he has been cured, and what it means to be liberated from an evil that had a hold on him for so long.

AUTHOR: Erwin Roebroeks

GRANT: € 4.500

BOOK

Title: *Ik dwang*

Subtitle: Genezen van een obsessief-compulsieve stoornis

ISBN: 9789403137919

NUR: 320

Type: Paperback

Author: Erwin Roebroeks

Price: 24,99

Pages: 224

Editor: [De Bezige Bij](#)

Date of publication: 16-09-2021

PRESS COVERAGE

- [Erwin Roebroeks in Nooit Meer Slapen](#), VPRO/NPO Radio 1, 16/09/2021.
- [‘Mijn behandeling lijkt sadistisch, maar er was geen andere weg’](#), De Standaard, 02/10/2021.
- [‘Dwangstoornissen zijn hartstikke hip geworden. Een freakshow’](#), NRC, 06/10/2021.
- [Erwin Roebroeks beschrijft hoe hij een extreme angst voor zijn eigen lichaamssappen wist te overwinnen](#), Trouw, 14/10/2021.
- “Ik stond acht uur per dag onder de douche”, Het Laatste Nieuws, 23/10/2021.
- [Erwin Roebroeks - Dwang en muziek, Podium Witteman Podcast](#), NTR, 24/10/2021.

28. HIDDEN SORROW – THE JEZIDI VICTIMS OF BELGIAN JIHADISTS

What is the involvement of Belgian jihadists in the genocide that IS carried out against the Jezidi community? Now that the Belgian parliament has acknowledged the genocide, Brenda Stoter Boscolo and Bruno Struys went to Iraqi Kurdistan with that question in mind. They talked to official sources, but above all had hours of interviews with the Yezidis themselves.

IS has executed Yezidi men en masse and captured and enslaved their wives and children. Several women testify about the horror that some Belgians inflicted on them. Boys tell how they were sent to training camps by IS fighters to serve as cannon fodder. Belgians turn out to be involved in that too. Seven years after the start of the genocide, the Yezidis await trial. For most of them, this chapter is not yet closed.

AUTHORS: Brenda Stoter Boscolo, Bruno Struys

GRANT: € 11.150

PRINT/ONLINE

- [Genocide op de jezidi in Irak: Belgische IS-leden hielden vrouwen als slaven in huis](#), De Morgen, 18/09/2021.
- [IS was erg goed in beïnvloeden van jongens](#), De Morgen, 20/09/2021.
- [Hoe de IS-genocide op jezidi's de positie van de vrouw heeft veranderd. 'Nu ben ik de kostwinner'](#), De Morgen, 21/09/2021.

IMPACT

[Federaal parket onderzoekt Belgische betrokkenheid bij slavernij van jezidi's](#), De Morgen, 24/09/2021.

29. WHY WE FIGHT?

Violence is mental and physical. And who better than a dancer to reflect on how head and body work together? The film shows how violence as a physical reaction occurs when we are short of words to express our dissatisfaction.

Béregère, Samir and Russell, three dancers from Platel's performance *Nicht Schlafen*, danced a violent piece for two years and realised that violence is in each of us. Béregère takes this idea into her new motherhood. Samir, who grew up amidst a polarised Arab community in France, realises that we cannot always blame 'the others'. Russell saw death in the eye during political protests in Congo but experiences racism today as equally violent. Béregère, Samir and Russell weigh up their ideas and questions, and the film occasionally calls on people from other disciplines for help. Historian Philipp Blom explains how rapid changes in society (in terms of gender, politics, science, socio-economics, etc.) lead to fear. Koert Debeuf, Middle East specialist, suggests that violence invariably arises when we want to defend our values and those we consider family. Yet the clash between cultures invariably leads to progress. And precisely the acceptance of opposing views is the essence of democracy, claims Tinneke Beeckman.

How to live together? How to react to everything that happens around us? The composer Mahler transformed the unrest he experienced in the period just before WWI into music. Samir turns his inner anger into a positive struggle, it gives him the strength to become president. Artist Berlinde De Bruyckere tries to elicit a tender gesture from the audience with her violent art. We react to violence in the world and in ourselves, but can we do so in a non-violent way, when words fail us? Or is this only possible for those who create music, dance and art?

Through different layers of images and visual metaphors, *Why We Fight* analyses social change, the lack of emotional processing and the power of man - man who always balances between creating something spectacularly beautiful and something terribly cruel.

AUTHOR: Alain Platel

GRANT: € 4.830

FILM

- World premiere at [Film Fest Gent](#), 14/10/2021.
- [Website](#)

PRESS COVERAGE

[Moeder, waarom vechten wij?](#), De Standaard, 15/10/2021.

30. MOSUL AFTER ISIS: FROM ONE OCCUPATION TO THE NEXT

MOSUL - Many residents of Mosul, Iraq's second city, see the power that Shiite militias have seized in the city as a new occupation. If the terror group ISIS could still be chased away militarily, how they will ever get rid of militias that have put their corrupt tentacles into everything, they do not know.

AUTHOR Judit Neurink and photographer Eddy van Wessel spent a week in Mosul, talking to businessmen, politicians, priests and citizens about the infiltration by the militia at all levels of the city's economy, administration and security. And the corruption that this entails, which is holding back reconstruction and progress. About extortion, which is epidemic. It is a virus, an infection that you have to fight, says one. No, says another: only a miracle can change this.

AUTHORS: Judit Neurink, Eddy van Wessel

GRANT: € 4.670

PRINT/ONLINE

- [Eerst bevrijders, nu bezetters](#), De Groene Amsterdammer, 07/10/2021.
- [Van verlossers tot bezetters: hoe sjjiitische milities het DNA van Mosoel hertekenden](#), MO.be, 08/10/2021.
- [Zes jaar na het bombardement op Hawija wachten de slachtoffers nog altijd op Nederlands geld](#), Trouw, 09/11/2021.
- De nieuwe paria's van Irak, MO*, 01/12/2021.

PRESS COVERAGE

[Hoe de bevrijders van Mosul zich opstellen als bezetters](#), Bureau Buitenland VPRO, 06/10/2021.

31. THE MAN NO ONE COULD BURY

BUDAPEST - There she is, the granddaughter: in Budapest, in front of her grandfather, who died suddenly five days ago. None of his three daughters, who all live in Flanders, travel to Hungary. From one moment to the next, the granddaughter, who has loved her grandfather, takes over the honours.

In a foreign city and in a foreign language she has to arrange all sorts of things. It is the beginning of a search for the past of her grandfather, who fled Hungary in 1956, built a life in Belgium, founded mini football, divorced his wife and returned to Hungary in 1996. It is also the ruin of the grandfather, a tyrant to his family. And gradually the granddaughter finds out that in 1956 in Budapest he did not fulfill the heroic role that he was so proud of. The last years of his life were marked by suspicion, delusions, obsessions – making the revelation of his past all the more urgent. Relentless, driven by a passion for the truth, however painful, the granddaughter digs deeper and deeper - and encounters increasingly painful events...

AUTHOR: Annabell Van den Berghe

GRANT: € 15.475

BOOK

Language: Dutch

Date of publication: 7 oktober 2021

Number of pages: 200

Editor: [Manteau](#)

EAN: 9789022334324

PRESS COVERAGE

- [Annabell on the radio: Onvoltooid verleden tijd](#), NPO Radio 1, 17/10/2021.
- [Annabell on the radio: Bruggenbouwers](#), VRT Radio 1, 11/11/2021.

32. GREETINGS FROM SPAIN

MADRID - Do Spaniards really spit out up to 210 words a minute and what does that mean for foreigners who want to get involved in a discussion? Why does everything in Spain happen in bars? Is it true that there are associations that take women by bus to dying villages to repopulate the countryside? Why did Catalonia ban bullfighting when chasing bulls on ropes through the streets is not an issue there? How is it possible that Benidorm transformed from a village of fishing and cow dung into the Manhattan of the Costa Blanca? Why are Spanish judges so patriarchal? What is the legacy of Franco?

In 2010, VRT correspondent Sven Tuytens moved from Brussels to Madrid. Based on his experiences he tries to lay bare a piece of Spain's soul. About Spaniards who surprised him in a positive way, disappointed him deeply, made him laugh very hard or with whom he wept together. A story with a lot of humour. And lines to Belgium, because this is a book for the people 'at home', although that term has become a bit vague for him after all this time.

AUTHOR: Sven Tuytens

GRANT: € 5.700

BOOK

Language: Dutch

Print: 1

Date of publication: oktober 2021

Pages: 240

Editor: [Epo Uitgeverij](#)

EAN: 9789462673120

PRESS COVERAGE

[Sven Tuytens te gast in interne keuken](#), Radio 1, 20/11/2021.

33. ECHO

In Echo, named after the poem 'Echoes' by Audre Lorde, Neske Beks mercilessly puts her finger on the sore spot. Not only is the white view still dominant in our society, but Black women are doubly disadvantaged: they are not white and they are not men.

In her meandering, personal essays, speeches and letters, Beks shows how systematic is the failure to be seen and heard. While Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou and Gloria Wekker echo in her head, Beks rubs salt in the wounds - always with the aim of building a bridge between Black and White, and to make the Black female voice sound crystal clear.

AUTHOR: Neske Beks

GRANT: € 3.150

BOOK

Language: Dutch

Date of publication: October 2021

Pages: 224

Editor: [Querido](#)

EAN: EAN 9789021429762

34. LIVING AT THE BORDER

MELILLA – The Spanish enclave of Melilla, geographically part of Africa, politically part of the European Union, is located on Morocco’s northern coast. The border between the continents here consists of a triple fence with countless pits and guard posts.

Melilla has been Spanish since the 15th century. Francisco Franco defended the city against rebellious Riffians and later initiated the Spanish Civil War here. In recent times, the city has become known as the gateway to Europe, through which many African migrants hope to make the crossing to the European continent.

Every day, tens of thousands of Moroccans crossed the border with dozens of kilos of ‘hand luggage’. For decades, the duty-free port provided an enormous boost to illegal smuggling to Morocco. Until Morocco unilaterally closed the border in 2018. Rabat wants to put an end to the ‘atypical trade’, with the ultimate goal of annexing the city. With the outbreak of the coronavirus, Spain also closed its side of the border. The consequences are immediate for thousands of people on both sides of the border. They earned their living around what used to be the ‘busiest border crossing in Africa’. Who are the faces that suffer in this geopolitical chess game?

AUTHORS: Arno Van Rensbergen, Robbe Vandegehuchte, Sofyan El Bouchtili

GRANT: € 2.750

TELEVISION/ONLINE

[Leven aan de grens](#), Vranckx, Canvas (Belgian public broadcaster), 23/10/2021.

PRINT/ONLINE

- [Het laatste standbeeld van Franco is weg uit Spanje](#), De Standaard, 26/02/2021.
- [Als Marokkaanse grensbewakers hun post verlaten](#), De Standaard, 20/05/2021.

35. PEOPLE AT THE FOOT OF THE CAUCASUS

STEPANAKERT - Nearly 30 years after Nagorno-Karabakh’s declaration of independence, the region’s simmering conflicts have flared up again. Nagorno-Karabakh is a country that does not officially exist. Still, it is fought over hard. AUTHORS Roel Nollet and Marijn Sillis travel to the Southern Caucasus, an ancient crossroads of cultures where the unrecognized states are a stone’s throw from each other. Through the rugged Armenian mountains, they travel hundreds of kilometers along the border with Azerbaijan to record the stories of the people at the foot of the Caucasus.

“This is my helmet, my raincoat and my sleeping bag. And I hide weapons everywhere,” Surik Ohanjanyan says. He is in charge of the Vorotan Volunteer Forces, a stone’s throw from the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. “If we have to, we’ll be ready to fight again in under a minute.” Nagorno-Karabakh is located at the foot of Caucasus. An unrecognized state where mainly ethnic Armenians live. It is not much more than some expansive mountain landscapes, but these landscapes have seen fierce battles. Nearly 30 years after Nagorno-Karabakh’s declaration of independence, the region’s simmering conflicts have flared up again. Backed by Turkey, Azerbaijan invades the enclave. Drones drop bombs on the capital Stepanakert. At least 70,000 people are displaced. Some set their own houses on fire before they can fall into the hands of the enemy.

AUTHORS Roel Nollet and Marijn Sillis travel the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The military positions of the two countries are close to each other here. “They say they’ll shoot us if we cross the border,” a shepherd tells us. He has a hard time leading his flock in the right direction. Officially there is a truce, but there is still regular shooting. “For me, the war never ended,” says Sona Margaryan, a local **AUTHOR**. “New bombs could fall at any moment,” Robert also thinks. The retired taxi driver and his son Roman are renovating an empty house because theirs was destroyed by a rocket attack.

The Russians are now in control of Nagorno-Karabakh and foreign **AUTHORS** are barred. Fortunately, there is still football. Perhaps our responsibility is greater now,” says Segoy Asryan,

the goalkeeper of the national team. All their players were at the front. "You just want to feel like your country has won. Because only then do we exist."

In six weeks, the conflict has killed more than 5,000 on both sides. Thousands of soldiers lie at the foot of the Caucasus. Their mothers' tears echo across the plains. "If only they weren't heroes, but just our sons."

AUTHORS: Marijn Sillis, Roel Nollet

GRANT: € 11.900

TELEVISION

[Voetvolk](#), Vranckx & De Nomaden, Canvas, 20/10/2021.

ONLINE

[Een jaar na de wapenstilstand in Nagorno-Karabach: 'De oorlog is nooit gestopt'](#), MO.be, 27/10/2021.

36. PRESCRIPTION ADDICTION

BRUSSELS - 1 in 10 Belgians uses heavy painkillers such as oxycodone, tramadol and fentanyl. Effective painkillers, but with a high addiction risk: about 8% of everyone who comes into contact with opioid painkillers becomes dependent on them. The longer you use, the higher the risk. Research AUTHORS Laura Dhaese and Marie Borremans focus on the patient's perspective: how do you get rid of an addiction to painkillers and what kind of care can you get?

Because if you are addicted, where can you go? The study shows that people with an addiction to painkillers hardly ever get through to the right care. General health care pays little attention to addiction and specific addiction care focuses mainly on users of illegal substances. In addition, addiction to opioid painkillers has all the characteristics to remain hidden. In conversations with pain doctors, addiction experts, general practitioners and especially experience experts themselves, we show where the pain points are and search for solutions for a better pain killer policy in Belgium.

AUTHORS: Marie Borremans, Laura D'Haese

GRANT: € 750

PRINT/ONLINE

[Verslaafd aan pijnstillers](#), De Standaard, 13/11/2021.

37. NO LITTLE MAN

BRUSSELS - 70 to 90 per cent of patients with unexplained symptoms are women. Why do female patients receive a (correct) diagnosis less often? What is the impact of this on their lives? How can this be done differently and better in the future? In the podcast Geen kleine man (No little man), AudioCollectief SCHIK and AUTHOR Sofie Peeters take a closer look at this issue.

From the age of 17, Sofie (35) has been plagued by anxiety attacks. First one. Strange. Then another. What is this? Until she is gasping for breath every day in the auditorium, the train, the concert hall... Sofie seeks help: from her GP, the physiotherapist, the psychotherapist. But they are faced with a mystery. For ten years, Sofie tries to live with the fear. Until it suddenly disappears as it came... when she stops taking her contraceptive pill. Why, for ten years, has no medically trained professional made the connection between her hormonal contraceptive and the fear? Why did neither she nor anyone around her think of this?

What do we actually know about the female body and the impact of hormones? Are there other disorders hiding in a woman's body that we know fundamentally too little about, despite our sophisticated health care and emancipated society?

After all, women are ... not little men, right? For a long time, however, the female body was seen as such: the same, only slightly lighter and with different sexual organs than her male counterpart. Medication, diagnoses, examinations: everything is based on the prototype of the male body. As a result, knowledge of the female body lagged behind, resulting in many problems that still exist today. For example, women experience side effects of medication significantly more often than men and certain conditions, such as cardiovascular diseases, endometriosis and ADHD, are difficult to recognise, too late or not at all in women.

In recent years there has been hope: the World Health Organisation has sounded the alarm. There is a need for 'gender sensitive medicine'. What do we now know about women's bodies and what still needs to be researched? In *Geen kleine man*, various professionals help solve this riddle, including Professor Toine-Lagro Janssen, researcher Aranka Ballering, cardiologist io Chahinda Ghossein and many others. Also given a voice are the women whose lives have been marked by a long search for a diagnosis.

No Little Man is a cross between an investigative documentary and a human, compelling story.

AUTHORS: Mirke Kist, Siona Houthuys, Sofie Peeters, Nele Eeckhout.

GRANT: € 8.000

RADIO/PODCAST

[Geen kleine man](#), viaRadio 1 en VPRO, 23/11/2021

PRESS COVERAGE

- [AUTHORe Sofie Peeters: 'Zelfs hart- en vaatziekten worden moeilijk, te laat of niet ontdekt bij vrouwen'](#), De Morgen, 22/11/2021.
- [Podcasttips | Worden vrouwen benadeeld in de zorg?](#), De Standaard, 25/11/2021.
- [Geen kleine man in Interne Keuken](#), Radio 1, 25/11/2021.

38. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TODAY

SWEDEN - Through the project Indigenous People Today, we investigate the effects of climate change on indigenous peoples, their ways of life and unique cultures. These are indigenous peoples in the northern hemisphere, living in arctic or high-altitude areas.

Through the project Indigenous People Today, we investigate the effects of climate change on indigenous peoples, their ways of life and unique cultures. These are indigenous peoples in the northern hemisphere, living in arctic or high-altitude areas. Due to global warming, the landscape and ecosystem in which they live are changing drastically and they are facing major challenges. Not only is their food supply under pressure, but so is their emotional and spiritual bond with nature. With our multimedia project we show reality, with respect for the indigenous peoples, and let the reader/viewer identify with the selected indigenous peoples. We immerse the reader in the culture and experience of the community in question by telling the personal stories of the indigenous peoples themselves. In our opinion an appropriate way to capture such a complex and sensitive subject in text and image.

Part 1:

Climate change is hot. Literally for the Sami herders and their reindeer in northern Sweden. Changing weather patterns is not only affecting the vulnerable nature, but also their culture and livelihoods. How can they survive and at what cost?

AUTHORS: Yvonne Dudock, Nicole Franken

GRANT: € 7.500

ONLINE

[De bikkelharde strijd van de Sami](#), MO.be, 29/11/2021.

39. WELCOME IN CRYPTO COUNTRY

EL ZONTE - El Salvador is the first country in the world to adopt Bitcoin as its official currency: "One thing is certain: it is here to stay."

Since September, El Salvador has become the first country in the world where Bitcoin is legal tender. President Nayib Bukele (40) is enthusiastic and promptly announced the arrival of a 'Bitcoin City' last week. Is the Central American country ahead of its time, or is it rather a dangerous gamble by a hip president? Arnaud De Decker went to El Zonte alias Bitcoin Beach, the cradle of the crypto currency in El Salvador, to soak up the atmosphere.

AUTHOR: Arnaud De Decker

GRANT: € 2.000

ONLINE

- [Welkom in Cryptoland: hoe Bitcoin grip kreeg op El Salvador](#), Vice, 3/12/2021.
- [Bienvenue à Cryptoland : le Salvador est-il vraiment prêt pour le bitcoin ?](#), Vice, 06/12/2021.

40. THE 14 MILLION QUESTION: WHERE IS POVERELLO'S MONEY?

BRUSSELS - AUTHORS at KNACK, LeVif and RTBF have joined forces to investigate the peculiar financial management of the non-profit organisation Poverello. They greedily buy real estate that often remains empty. The organisation appears to be very rich, but hardly ever uses its money for working with the poor.

The non-profit organisation does not want to give any information about the 14 million in liquid assets. Volunteers revolt and are promptly expelled from the organisation. With undercover investigations, network, real estate and financial analyses and archive work, the team tries to penetrate Poverello's well kept secrets.

Who is in charge? Is it the board of directors whose treasurer arranges telephone subscriptions for his entire family? Or does the Church Council know whose chief financial officer does the bookkeeping? Poverello's 'open door' remains closed. But the question rings out: Where is Poverello's money?

RAFAEL

During the investigation the team comes across a second scandal file: vzw Rafaël. In 1997, this idealistic non-profit organisation, led by priest Reginald Rahoens, was assigned the Sint-Annahospitaal in Anderlecht to take care of the poorest of the poor. 300 homeless people, sans-papiers and refugees lived there together. Today, the site is deserted. The Church plans to build 52 social housing units, a parish centre, a childcare centre, a food bank and a social restaurant there.

What happened to the original project, its residents and its financial resources? A story of conflicting interests, mismanagement and exploitation, in which both the new managing director of the non-profit association and the top of the Belgian Church play leading roles.

AUTHORS: Ruben Brugnera, Marieke Brugnera, David Leloup, Thierry Denoël

GRANT: € 8.100

PRINT/ONLINE

- [De vraag van 14 miljoen: waar is het geld van Poverello?](#), Knack, 07/12/2021.
- [Poverello: des dizaines de millions d'euros d'aides aux démunis inutilisés](#), Le Vif, 07/12/2021.
- [Rafaël-schandaal: AUTHOREn leggen de bewijzen op tafel](#), Knack.be, 15/12/2021.

TELEVISIE

[Dons aux pauvres, l'étrange disparition](#), #Investigation, RTBF/La Une (Belgian public broadcaster), 08/12/2021.

IN DE PERS

- [Armoedeorganisaties Poverello en Rafaël vzw liggen onder vuur: "Het gaat heel duidelijk om wanpraktijken"](#), De Ochtend, Radio 1, 08/12/2021.
- [Poverello zit op een berg geld, toch betalen daklozen 300 euro voor een bed](#), De Standaard, 07/12/2021.
- ["Armoedeorganisatie Poverello heeft aan geld geen gebrek, maar het gaat nauwelijks naar armenzorg"](#), Het Laatste Nieuws, 07/12/2021.
- [Poverello zit op een berg geld, medewerkers die om transparantie vroegen moesten vertrekken: armenorganisatie bouwt vastgoedimperium](#), Het Nieuwsblad, 08/12/2021.
- [Wantoestanden bij organisaties Poverello en Rafaël vzw: "Veel geld, behalve voor de armen"](#); VRT NWS, 08/12/2021.
- [Armoedeorganisatie Poverello spaarde miljoenen bijeen dankzij gulle giften, maar waar gaat het geld naartoe?](#), De Morgen, 08/12/2021.
- [Des dizaines de millions d'euros d'aides aux démunis inutilisés par Poverello, ASBL qui lutte contre la pauvreté, 7sur7, 07/12/2021.](#)
- [Geld van armoedeorganisatie Poverello gaat nauwelijks naar armenzorg](#), Bruzz.be, 08/12/2021.
- [Des dizaines de millions d'euros d'aides aux démunis inutilisés](#), L'Avenir, 07/12/2021.
- [Het Journaal Laat](#), Een/VRT, 08/12/2021.
- [Z-Nieuws](#), Kanaal Z, 08/12/2021.
- [L'association d'aide aux sans-abri Poverello mise en cause sur l'utilisation de ses moyens financiers](#), La Libre Belgique, 09/12/2021.
- [Armoede-organisatie Poverello: 'Een grote spaarpot is niet verboden'](#), Bruzz.be, 08/12/2021.
- [Aan de deur gezette vrijwilligers getuigen over gang van zaken bij Poverello, dat over 'een verschillende mening' spreekt](#), Krant van West-Vlaanderen, 08/12/2021.
- [Het punt van Impe](#), Nieuwsblad.be, 09/12/2021.

41. VOLUNTEERS SAFEGUARD HUMAN RIGHTS IN PRISONS

BRUSSELS - Overcrowding, striking staff, dilapidated infrastructure... With regularity our prisons are in the news in a way that leaves little to the imagination. What is less well known is that each prison has a Supervisory Committee that watches over the welfare of the inmates. About 450 volunteers, including doctors and lawyers, visit the prisons and report on the state of affairs. Complaints Committees were also established at the end of 2020: they are recognised as administrative tribunals within the prison walls.

What is it like to do this as a volunteer? What goes through the head of a supervising doctor who has to face years of failing health care in prison? How does it feel for a prison governor to have to appear before the complaints court? And above all, does this system of supervision contribute to respect for human rights in prisons? In this report Esmeralda Borgo looks at the prison through the eyes of the many volunteers who supervise and complain.

AUTHOR: Esmeralda Borgo

GRANT: € 2.125

ONLINE

[Vrijwilligers bewaken mensenrechten in gevangnissen](#), Apache, 13/12/2021.

42. HOW DO WE FARM IN A WARMER CLIMATE?

BRUSSELS - Climate change is causing extremes in weather, such as more frequent heat waves, periods of drought and intense rainfall. Our farmers notice the consequences of the climate crisis on their fields, in fluctuating yields and failing crops.

Aided by science, they are trying to adapt to this new reality at lightning speed, for example by focusing on crops that can withstand drought better. These crops are imported from warmer regions, or adapted to the drought through breeding. Meanwhile, modern breeding techniques,

such as the Nobel Prize-winning gene editing tool CRISPR/Cas, promise a cheat code. In this two-part series, I examine the state of this search for drought-tolerant crops.

AUTHOR: Tom Peeters

GRANT: € 4.660

PRINT

Boeren in een warmer klimaat: op zoek naar droogtetolerante gewassen (deel 1), EOS, 16/12/2021.

43. AFGHANS IN THE TURKISH WAITING ROOM

ANKARA - One image that will undoubtedly mark 2021 is that of the tens of thousands of desperate Afghans drumming outside the closed gates of Kabul airport to get away. The borders were sealed tight, yet hundreds of thousands of Afghans managed to flee. A number of them reached Turkey in the hope of being able to ask for international protection there. An illusion, as it turns out. After the fall of Kabul, Turkey, with the help of Europe, also sealed its borders and stopped registering Afghan asylum seekers. And the waiting lists for resettlement to Europe are endless, so there is little relief to be expected there either.

Tine Danckaers travelled to Turkey in November 2021, visited the border region with Iran and also went to Istanbul and Ankara to visit Afghans who are stuck. In Zeytinburnu, a district in Istanbul, young Afghan men hope for a way out of illegality and miserable jobs in sewing workshops. Afghan graduates in Turkey watch the clock ticking: their tourist visas will soon expire. A report about the Afghan refugees who nobody wants.

AUTHOR: Tine Danckaers

GRANT: € 2.100

ONLINE

[Wie wil Afghaanse vluchtelingen? Turkije al zeker niet](#), MO.be, 20/12/2021.

EXTRA CALL: EMERGENCY FUND FOR LOCAL JOURNALISM (FLANDERS)

In 2020, many actors in the Belgian media sector were facing problems because of the federal measures taken by the Belgian National Security Council to limit the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19. On 2 June 2020, the Flemish Government made a final decision on the amount of emergency funds to be used to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Flemish Government entrusted Journalismfund.eu, through the Pascal Decroos Fund, with the task of distributing grants for local projects by freelance journalists who have little access to other support measures. 27 projects (for 37 grantees) were awarded a total amount of € 139,357. In 2021, 18 projects were published.

OVERVIEW OF GRANTS PUBLISHED IN 2021

1. HUNTING OF WILD BOAR

BRUSSELS - Hunting of wild boar in Flanders increases exponentially. Despite restrictive measures because of the coronavirus, 2,196 wild boars were shot in 2020. More than twice as many as in 2016. Many hunters have been using modern, prohibited hunting tools such as night vision goggles in recent years. "If there is control, I can quickly shake it off my rifle," he says.

Hunters are displeased with the illegality of hunting aids such as night and heat vision goggles. "At least half of the hunters do it anyway," a source tells us.

Nature experts and hunters deduce from the increasing numbers of shoots that the population of wild boar in Flanders is also increasing sharply. "As long as there is enough food, the population will continue to increase," says Koen Van Den Berge, wildlife biologist at the Institute for Nature and Forest Research (INBO). According to Van Den Berge, hunting slows down that increase. "But its influence is limited."

Flemish Minister of Environment Zuhal Demir wants to stop the spread of the wild boar across Flanders. To this end, she announced the Wild Boar Plan last year. Hunters and nature experts fear that it is too late to stop the spread. Hunter Bernd Hermans: "In three years time they will be everywhere".

AUTHOR: Arno Meijnen

GRANT: € 3.425

PUBLICATION: ONLINE

[Verstopt in de nacht; het verbod op warmtekijkers bij everzwijnenjacht](#), 15/02/2021.

2. WATER SHORTAGE IN BELGIUM

FLEMISH-BRABANT - 20 May 2020. Inhabitants of Flemish Brabant municipalities received a compelling call to strictly limit their water consumption. Despite this, water consumption was abnormally high during this period. Citizens were worried, because in some municipalities there was hardly any water coming out of the tap for a few days. Rainwater wells were empty in many places.

The water provider could not use its full capacity due to the renovation of a water production centre. At the same time, the sale and rental of private swimming pools was promoted extensively and the water bill was far too high according to citizens. Residents reported water wastage at construction sites. Sports fields and front gardens remained far too green. Action against drought in municipalities is slow or nonexistent. Minister Zuhal Demir was indignant and decided to put water policy on the agenda after four years of drought. A tangle of contradictions that raises more and more questions about individual, municipal and Flemish water management and called for an investigation.

AUTHOR: Sofia Van Nuffel

GRANT: € 4.200

PUBLICATION: ONLINE

- [Watersnood in Vlaams-Brabant](#), Misflits, 26/02/2021.
- [Watersnood in Vlaams-Brabant - Deel 2](#), Misflits, 10/03/2021.

3. WHO WILL STAND UP FOR THE TREES IN THE STREET?

BRUSSELS - In the coming years, more forest should be created in Flanders. Minister Demir wants to invest 121 million euros to create 4,000 extra hectares of forest by 2024. A good thing, but how good are we at protecting and planting trees outside the forest?

In recent years, hundreds of hectares of trees have already disappeared in Belgium. In 2021, trees along streets, drives, squares, parks and playgrounds may also run a greater risk of being felled. This article explores what the change in the law might mean - and why it is important that trees outside the forest are also preserved.

AUTHOR: Selma Franssen

GRANT: € 3000

PUBLICATION: ONLINE

[Wie komt er op voor de boom in de straat?](#), De Wereld Morgen, 03/03/2021.

4. BOMBS IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS - On 22 March 2016, bombs explode at Zaventem airport and at Brussels' Maelbeek metro station. After the attacks in Paris and in other European cities, Belgium too is not escaping the terror of the Islamic State (IS). The explosions killed 35 people. More than three hundred people were wounded.

Brussels was locked down, the threat level in the country was raised from three to four. Everyone remembers where they were when the news broke.

How do victims, surviving relatives and aid workers look back on the attacks five years later? How did politicians and security people experience 9/11 in Belgium? Where do we stand since then in terms of security and terrorism? Journalist Joanie de Rijke and doctor Tine Gregoor go in search for answers.

AUTHOR: Joanie de Rijke

GRANT: € 4.500

BOOK

Language: Dutch

Date of publication: 16 March 2021

Pages: 224

Author: Joanie de Rijke

Editor: Uitgeverij Vrijdag

EAN: EAN 9789460019821

PRESS COVERAGE

- [Joanie De Rijke in De Afspraak](#), VRT/Canvas, 16/03/2021.
- ['Met preventie win je geen verkiezingen'](#), voorpublicatie, Knack, 17/03/2021.
- [Oorlogsjournaliste en arts: 'Veel slachtoffers zitten nog met een trauma'](#), Bruzz, 17/03/2021.

5. EVALUATION OF THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OF THE CITY OF LEUVEN.

LEUVEN - The European Commission gave Leuven the prestigious Green Leaf Award 2018 for its climate policy and, in its motivation for naming the city the European Capital of Innovation in 2020, referred to 'inspiring governance models' for getting residents, businesses and knowledge institutions to participate in that policy. However, Leuven's excellent climate performance is not evident from the figures of the past decade.

According to the Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO), CO2 emissions decreased by only 1.9 percent in the period 2011-2018, which means that Leuven is doing much less well than other centre cities such as Kortrijk (-9.4 percent) and Bruges (-8 percent). The city does not have good figures for renewable energy production either. While in 2015 VITO estimated the potential for renewable energy at 19 and 22 percent of the electricity and heat consumption respectively, this was only 2.1 and 0.5 percent at that time. In this paper we list the obstacles and make numerous policy suggestions.

AUTHOR: Luc Vanheerentals

GRANT: € 750

PUBLICATION:
ONLINE

[Hinderpalen op weg naar meer hernieuwbare energieproductie in Leuven](#), De Wereld Morgen, 22/03/2021.

6. BACK TO BLEED

BRUSSELS - 'Back to Bled' is a contemporary story about the connection between the city and the countryside, starting in multicultural Brussels. The core of the documentary is friction; friction between city and countryside, ecology and economy, healthy versus cheap, connected versus uprooted.

The corona crisis has raised questions among many people about our contemporary lifestyle and what role food plays in it. During the lockdown, articles regularly appeared on 'how to live differently, consume differently, produce more sustainably'. Local farmers saw their turnover increase, many new customers suddenly saw the short chain light.

At the same time, especially in the cities, it became clear how a large group of people were dependent on food distribution.

The news, if it ever came out, was less hopeful and painfully exposed the weak spots in our society. Where one saw hope and the chance to do things differently and better from now on, the other saw themselves sinking deeper into the web of problems.

Lisa Matthys and Lotte Knaepen follow the trail of our food together with some young people from Molenbeek, who are also in their own way looking for more connection. They explore how food can be the ultimate lever to rethink our relationship with each other and with the planet. They set off together from their 'bled', their world and their vision of society. Along the way, they stop at the field of an activist farmer, compare prices in an organic shop and meet some Brussels food experts. They discover the principle of agroecology, a movement that seeks to produce food in cooperation with nature, that wants to be viable in the long term for the land, the environment and the farmers. And wants to show solidarity with all city dwellers.

AUTHORS: Lisa Matthys and Lotte Knaepen

GRANT: € 7.000

PUBLICATION:

ONLINE/PODCAST (in Dutch)
[Back to Bled](#), Apache, 27/05/2021.

7. AFGHANS IN ANTWERP

ANTWERP - The 40-year war in Afghanistan is pushing more and more Afghans to become refugees. Their numbers are also increasing in Belgium. In the port city of Antwerp, Afghans have become the fifth largest nationality group. Gie Goris went to Antwerp and listened to older and younger, male and female, Pashtu and Dari-speaking refugees and migrants from the war-torn country.

'The Afghan community in Antwerp does not exist,' says Hakim Nawabi. He fled the Taliban in 2000 and has been working for years as a counsellor in the asylum center in Arendonk. With his statement, Nawabi refers to the many differences and contradictions that divide Afghans: Pashtuns versus Hazaras, Dari speakers of different political persuasions, minorities versus majorities, recently arrived youth versus older people who have been here for several decades, conservative men

versus women who want to spread their wings, former communists versus fundamentalists ... These differences do not lead to real conflicts, but neither do they help shape one community that can be represented by a singular voice. Perhaps it is better to speak of the Afghan population, with all the differences that are implied therein: origin, socio-economic status, talent, philosophy of life ...

AUTHOR: Gie Goris

GRANT: € 2.000

PUBLICATION: ONLINE

- ['t Stad is ook van Afghanen](#), MO.be, 02/03/2021.
- [Afghans in Antwerp: the journey begins once we reach our destination](#), MO.be, 02/03/2021. (Engelse vertaling)
- [Niet iedereen heeft de kracht om zijn zware rugzak te dragen](#), MO.be, 04/04/2021.
- [Elke Afghaan is een boek. Niet elk verhaal heeft een happy end](#), MO.be, 09/05/2021.
- [Een goede voorzet is nodig om te kunnen scoren bij integratie](#), MO.be, 29/97/2021.

PRINT

Het onvervulde verlangen, MO*, 02/06/2021.

8. EXPENSIVE HOUSING IN LEUVEN

LEUVEN - The fact that Leuven is an expensive city to live in has, among other consequences, forced many to move elsewhere. The 2017 City Monitor showed that 15 percent of the inhabitants had plans to do so. No less than 56 percent cited financial reasons for this.

AUTHOR: Luc Vanheerentals

GRANT: € 750

PUBLICATION: ONLINE

[Het dure wonen in Leuven maakt vele slachtoffers](#), De Wereld Morgen, 7/06/2021.

9. LEDEBERG

Ledeberg has a long history. In the Middle Ages, in the shadow of the city walls of Ghent, two rural settlements arose along the roads to Brussels and Geraardsbergen. Between 1860 and 1870, in the context of the industrial revolution, Ledeberg became one of the fastest growing suburbs of Ghent. Cotton factories, a brickworks and several shipbuilding yards sprang up along the banks of the Scheldt. Straight streets were laid out, connected by countless narrow alleys, in order to build as many small and cheap workers' dwellings as possible. Ledeberg changed into a densely populated urban area. Only the chaussée de Bruxelles remained a green lung for a while because of the many large flower shops that were located there.

AUTHORS: Jeroen Janssen, Arezoo Moradi

GRANT: € 3.000

PUBLICATION:

PRINT

Mijn autostradelandje, [Apache Magazine](#), 15/06/2021.

ONLINE

[Mijn autostradelandje](#), Apache, 06/072021.

10. ANTWERP UNDERMINED

ANTWERP - Antwerp is being undermined. The port of Antwerp is the biggest cocaine import port in Europe. The drug crime creates invisible criminality that affects life in the city.

Drug criminals try to pump many millions of euros into the local economy through money laundering. Influenced teenagers see drugs and wealth all around them. In some neighbourhoods, citizens and traders are really fed up with the nuisance and some fear for their lives. And are our security services sufficiently equipped to deal with the drug criminals?

AUTHOR: Luk Dewulf

GRANT: € 3.750

PUBLICATION: PRINT/ONLINE

- Antwerpen ondermijnd, vanaf 18/06/2021, Gazet Van Antwerpen.
- [De Seefhoek](#), GVA.be, 18/06/2021.
- [Handelaars](#), GVA.be, 19/06/2021.
- [De financiële stromen van drugsgeld](#), GVA.be, 20/06/2021.

TELEVISION

[Antwerpen ondermijnd](#), ATV, 20/06/2021.

11. WHO OWNS FLANDERS?

BRUSSELS - In the almost built-up Flanders (northern region of Belgium), land is a precious commodity. Who are the large landowners who own hundreds, sometimes even thousands, of hectares of land in Flanders? Who are the real estate investors who own whole streets in cities or have their eye on certain neighbourhoods? Why do they do it? What is the return?

Apache focuses on land ownership and property in four Flemish provinces: West and East Flanders, Antwerp and Limburg. A gigantic amount of leaked land registry data allows us to visualise for the first time who the most important and largest owners of real estate and land are in large parts of Flanders.

We go in search of the major landowners in the countryside and the major homeowners and speculators in the cities. How much and which land does the old nobility own? How big are the land banks of property developers? Who are the new land speculators? In addition, we also chart public land ownership, from local to federal, and look at the holdings of church councils, religious institutions and other interest groups.

AUTHORS: Steven Vanden Bussche, Tom Cochez

GRANT: € 19.830

PUBLICATION: ONLINE

- Wie bezit Vlaanderen?, Apache, 08/03/2021.
- [Blauw bloed heerst over Vlaamse grond](#), Apache, 08/03/2021.
- [Grond als lucratief beleggingsproduct](#), Apache, 08/03/2021.
- [Verhoging fiscale druk zal veel eigenaars doen afhaken](#), Apache 08/03/2021.
- [Private Antwerpse grond is van adel en bedrijven](#), Apache, 09/03/2021.
- [Ook investeerders en industriëlen lusten landbouwgrond](#), Apache, 09/03/2021
- [Multinationals en ondernemers kleuren Oost-Vlaams grondbezit](#), Apache, 10/03/2021.
- [De zandboeren van Vlaanderen](#), Apache, 23/03/2021.
- [De verborgen schat van de Keizerin](#), Apache, 29/03/2021.
- [Wie bezit de Meir](#), Apache, 29/06/2021.
- [Wie bezit de Steenstraat in Brugge?](#), Apache, 20/07/2021.

12. THE FORGOTTEN GENERATION

BRUSSELS - In 2013, the Belgian television programme Panorama delved into the world of urban black gangs. The members spoke openly about life and survival on the streets of Brussels. Now, eight years later, they look back on their tough youth. Did they succeed in choosing the right path? Does the past still haunt them?

Dalsim, Diedonné and AKC are children of the Congolese diaspora, which gained momentum after Congo's independence in 1960. Their parents ended up in a strange country with a strange culture. Because of their own search for a place in Belgian society, their children often did not get the attention they deserved and needed. They saw and see themselves as the forgotten generation. Many sought support from each other and forged a sense of belonging in the squares of our capital city. But soon they slipped into a spiral of violence and criminality. Prison was often the sad end of their quest for status and recognition.

AUTHORS: Débora Votquenne, Frank Kazadi en Bjorn Van Laere

GRANT: € 6.000

PUBLICATION:
TELEVISION

[De Vergeten Generatie](#), 26/07/2021 om 20u in Terzake op Canvas en op VRTNU.

13. LA VRAIE GALÈRE

BRUSSELS - Last summer, a fire breather suddenly appeared in Brussels. Photographer Kristof Vadino became intrigued by the mysterious entertainer and started following the man.

It turned out to be 42-year-old Chrystoff, who lost his job as a cook in the first lockdown. Of course, in times of financial scarcity, it is not easy to raise another son. But as Chrystoff committed himself to cooking fresh for his child every day - 'Never frozen or tinned food!' - he went to work on his talents.

As soon as the terraces opened again, Chrystoff would tie up the loose ends with a spectacle of fire-breathing and juggling. Even though you don't bring in the big bucks with that and you are completely empty-handed when it rains.

After the catering industry was forced to close its doors again in October, Chrystoff drifted further towards 'la vraie galère' - real misery. It was impossible to get a replacement income and, for a Frenchman, the administrative merry-go-round was extra complicated. To top it all off, Chrystoff's son ended up in hospital. How the son and the father are doing at the moment is unknown. Vadino did not manage to reach the fire-breather on his two songs. This seems to extinguish the man's flame, at least for a while.

AUTHOR: Kristof Vadino

GRANT: € 3.000

PUBLICATION:
ONLINE/PRINT

[La vraie galère](#), De Standaard, dd. 06/08/2021, p. 18-19.

14. SLEEPING POISON

BRUSSELS - In elderly care, sleeping pills, sedatives, antidepressants and antipsychotics are widely used. This is not a new phenomenon. Already in 2006, a study brought alarming figures to light. Since then, the pill shop in Flemish residential care centres has been running smoothly. Is the prescription of these psychopharmaceuticals to elderly people justified? Is it done for the right reasons, or just to keep them calm?

These drugs have side effects such as anxiety, confusion, hallucinations and memory problems, they increase the risk of falling and even death. In some other countries there are guidelines to completely avoid benzodiazepine-type sleeping aids and sedatives (or benzos for short) for elderly people, because the benefits do not outweigh the risks. But in some Flemish nursing homes, more than half of the residents chronically take a benzo. Still, things are moving, albeit very slowly. Ilse Prinsen talked to many players in the field. And it is clear: these dangerous drugs are by no means always necessary, and phasing them out often greatly enhances the quality of life of the elderly.

AUTHOR: Ilse Prinsen

GRANT: € 3.200

PRINT/ONLINE

[‘Er wordt vaak gedacht: een pilletje zal wel helpen’](#) - De Standaard, 07/08/2021.

15. YOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE IN FLANDERS

RONSE - Is the voice of the children still heard? For some time now, there has been no real motivation to invest in youth. That results in a salvo of cries for help from youth councils and youth movements. Robbe Vandegehuchte investigates in Knack the local youth infrastructure through various cases in Ronse.

In Ronse, three youth movements will soon be out on the street. No new youth centre will be built on the site of the old swimming pool. And the creative place that the youths built themselves will soon be demolished. Is the situation in ‘Petit Bruxelles’ representative for Flemish youth policy?

AUTHOR: Robbe Vandegehuchte

GRANT: € 950

PUBLICATION: PRINT

[Jongeren moeten een beetje ‘chance’ hebben met hun stad](#), Knack, 18/08/2021.

16. WITHOUT HOME

GHENT - In the autumn of 2020, in the midst of a severe lockdown, dozens of Ghent-based organisations joined forces to map out homelessness and precarious housing situations.

They counted more than 1,800 people wandering around Ghent without a fixed residence. Among them are some 400 children. In the meantime, the scarcity on an increasingly expensive rental market remains considerable.

In the photo series Zonder (t)huis Brecht De Vleeschouwer follows a number of inhabitants of Ghent who have to fight for a place on the rental market.

AUTHOR: Brecht De Vleeschouwer

GRANT: € 5.050

PUBLICATION: PRINT

Zonder (t)huis, Apache magazine, 16/09/2021.

17. LET'S CELEBRATE

BRUSSELS - Joy and intimacy between family members and friends was an obvious thing before the corona crisis, but became a scarce commodity during it. Journalist Arkasha Keyzers and photographer Aurélie Geurts captured the coming together of family and friends as soon as it was allowed again.

They went to five family parties in Belgium, with customs and rituals from various cultures. They showed that although each party looks different, the need to come together, hug, laugh, dance and celebrate is universal. The result is a photo reportage full of humour and hope that was published on ten pages in De Morgen Magazine on 4 December 2021.

AUTHORS: Arkasha Keyzers en Aurélie Geurts

GRANT: € 3.262

PUBLICATION: PRINT/ONLINE

[Feest!](#), De Morgen Magazine, 05/12/2021.

18. OLDER

ANTWERP - In 2017, Francis Njotea is rushed to hospital. He is in a coma for a week. When he wakes up, confused, he shares a secret with his son Raf. That contrary to what his children and ex-wife have always thought, he is not 63 but 73 years old. He later dismisses his claim as a hallucination. Francis' children and ex-wife have no idea if what he said is true or not. It shows how little they know about his life story, a story that has been shrouded in mystery for as long as they can remember.

Having moved to Belgium from Nigeria in the 1970s, Francis Njotea is part of a group of West-African migrants about which not a lot of data is available. Does Francis turn out to be someone else than the father Raf has known his entire life? Why all the secrecy about his past? Was he forced to flee from a thorny situation in Nigeria? Or did he spin a web of half-truths and white lies to shield himself from whatever might have come his way in a country in which he never felt truly welcome, truly at home?

In this five-episode podcast for Flemish Radio 1, and with the help of his good friend Lander Kennis, Raf Njotea sets out to clear up his Nigerian father's obscure migration story. In the hope of truly getting to know his father. Before it's too late.

AUTHOR: Lander Kennis

GRANT: € 4.663

PUBLICATION: RADIO/PODCAST

[Ouder](#), Zandman, VRT Radio 1 (Belgian public broadcaster), 13/12/2021.

GRANTS FOR YOUNG JOURNALISTS: STAMP MEDIA GRANTS

PURPOSE

With this grant programme, StampMedia wants to encourage young people (aged 18 to 26) to carry out a special journalistic project. The subject should relate to the world of young people from Flanders and Brussels in a super-diverse society. The voice of the young people must be prominent in the final journalistic product. The Belgian non-profit organisation StampMedia vzw entrusted Journalismfund.eu vzw, through the Pascal Decroos Fund, with managing its grant programme. In 2021, 3 projects (4 grantees) were awarded a total amount of € 3,800. In 2021 2 projects were published.

OVERVIEW OF GRANTS PUBLISHED IN 2021

1. VIOLENCE BY AND AGAINST POLICE IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS - Protests police are flaring up and are increasingly visible on the streets of Brussels. Among the demonstrators there are strikingly many young people. "We want change, and that only seems possible if we take matters into our own hands," shouts law student Amira (19), who is at the front of the demonstration following the death of Ibrahima Barrie on 13 January.

Ibrahima tried to flee from a police checkpoint on Saturday afternoon, 9 January. The police caught him and took him to the police station where he later died of a heart attack. Many young people fear that he was the victim of police brutality, and that the truth about the circumstances of his death is being covered up. "Justice for Ibrahima!" chanted a mass of irate youths, with a clear message of revenge to the police. "We are afraid that we might suffer the same fate as Ibrahima," sighs Samir (18) from Anderlecht. "And who do you call if the police kill you?" The demonstration ended in disappointment.

Outraged reactions from the police unions are heard; a cry for stronger action against the violence is heard. "We must send a strong political signal to the perpetrators of violence," says Vincent Houssin, vice-president of the VSOA police union. "The violence against the police is not decreasing and is becoming more and more insidious", he said. Minister of Justice Vincent Van Quickenborne (Open Vld) calls for a zero tolerance. But is a repressive policy the right answer to reducing violence?

Confidence in the police has been shaken more than once. Since the terror policy came into force after the Paris attacks in 2015, nerves between young people and the police have been tight in Brussels.

What frustrations lie behind all this violence? Why is confidence in blue uniforms declining? And what policy offers a sustainable solution to calm the tempers?

AUTHOR: Eugenie D'Hooghe

GRANT: € 1.500

PUBLICATION: ONLINE (in Dutch)

['Ooit droomde ik ervan om politieagent te worden': geweld door en tegen politie in Brussel, Apache, 02/03/2021.](#)

2. SOCIAL ISSUES

ANTWERPEN - After images of her were non-stop circulating online, 13-year-old Destiny took her own life. For her, it was the only way out of all the judgements and hurtful comments. In a physical murder, the killer is visible. But who is to blame when everyone online has participated in the murder of your child?

Why are likes so important? Why do we still believe everything we see online? And why do we feel like we're still behind after hours of scrolling? The documentary 'Social Issues' tries to answer these questions by looking at the dangers of social media and the root cause of all those additional feelings.

Because what you see on social media is by no means all splendour. Social Issues gives us an insight into the inner conflict we have with social media. And offers us a new perspective on how we can deal with these platforms in the future.

AUTHORS: Amazonia Monguya, Alex Huynh, Sara Van Acoleyen

GRANT: € 1.000

PUBLICATION:
DOCUMENTARY
[Première](#), CC Deurne, 19/11/2021.

MONEY TRAIL PROJECT

PURPOSE

Money Trail is a collaborative project between highly regarded journalism and training organisations – Journalismfund.eu, Finance Uncovered, Free Press Unlimited – and Oxfam Novib. It is supported by the Dutch 'Nationale Postcode Loterij'.

Investigative journalism is a powerful weapon in the fight against financial injustice. This was clearly shown by investigations such as Lux Leaks, the Bahama files, Football Leaks and the Panama Papers, which placed tax evasion high on the international political agenda. Due to the huge attention in the media for the relevant politicians and companies in Europe and the United States, the impression was created that the main victims were Western governments that were deprived of tax revenues. But the real victims were the developing countries: they are deprived of 100 billion dollars each year because of tax evasion and fraud by international companies. Money that they need urgently for public facilities such as education, health care and infrastructure. The project aims to contribute to the end of tax evasion, financial scandals, corruption and dubious investments.

In Money Trail, Journalismfund.eu offers working grants for (teams of) African, Asian and European journalists to investigate cross-border illicit financial flows, tax abuse money laundering and corruption in Africa, Asia and Europe. Grants are awarded to journalists solely by Journalismfund.eu, with no input or oversight at any stage from the consortium as a whole.

The primary goal of this grant is to expose illicit finance, tax abuse, corruption and money laundering.

GRANTS

The COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the planned activities and budget of the total Money Trail project, which was scheduled to end on 31 March 2021. The Money Trail consortium partners therefore agreed with the Dutch Postcode Lottery on a no-cost extension of the project until 30 September 2021. This enabled Journalismfund.eu to organise an extra, eleventh grant call, with an application deadline on 14 December 2020. The jury convened for this round on 19 January 2021.

This extra eleventh grant call attracted substantial interest. In general, in 2021 Journalismfund.eu received 18 applications from 39 applicants, for a total requested amount of €174,087.

The jury finally awarded a grant to 8 projects by 21 journalists. In all, a total amount granted was 59,730 euros.

JURY

An independent, anonymous panel of four jury members with comprehensive experience in investigative journalism in Africa, Asia and Europe assesses all entries. Applications are submitted in English so that all jury members can read and understand them. The jury members are selected by Journalismfund.eu upon a proposal from the advisory board of Journalismfund.eu. They remain anonymous until they leave the jury.

The jury decides based on the following journalistic criteria:

1. Added value compared to mainstream coverage / a forgotten story	13
2. Relevance in society	13
3. Originality and innovative ideas, research methods	9
4. Feasibility	11
5. Experience of the applicants, references	5
6. Saleability, newsworthiness	11
7. Work effort requirement	8
8. Cross-border stories, cooperation between colleagues in different countries, pooling research capacity and knowledge	15
9. Being a watchdog of institutions, policies, money	15
TOTAL	100

STATISTICS

	2018	2019	2020	2021
# applications	29	42	54	18
# applicants	94	104	123	39
# granted projects	12	24	35	8
# grantees	37	75	86	21
Amount granted	€117,481	€195,764	€263,910	€59,730
Minimum project support	€4,993	€2,200	€340	€3,250
Maximum project support	€19,070	€13,900	€15,000	€12,000
Average project support	€9,790	€8,157	€7,540	€7,466
Amount applied for	€664,839	€981,943	€610,491	€174,087
Av. amount applied for per project	€22,925	€23,380	€11,300	€9,671
Number of rounds	3	3	4	1 (extra call)

Profile of applicants:

Of the 39 applicants, 29 were men, 10 women. 10 journalists worked as a permanent member of staff and 29 as freelance journalists.

WORK SITUATION

2021	GRANTED	DENIED	TOTAL
Freelance	14	15	29
Employee	7	3	10
Student	0	0	0
Retired	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
SUM	21	18	39

GENDER

	GRANTED	DENIED	TOTAL
Male	14	15	29
Female	7	3	10
X	0	0	0
TOTAL	21	18	39

Profile of the grantees:

The journalists who received a grant could be subdivided into 14 freelance and 7 permanently employed journalists. 14 were men, 7 were women. (see overview above) In 2021, we had a diverse group of applicants. They came from 46 different countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

		DENIED	GRANTED	TOTAL
1	Bangladesh	1	0	1
2	Cameroon	0	1	1
3	France	2	0	2
4	Gambia, The	0	1	1
5	Ghana	0	2	2
6	India	0	1	1
7	Indonesia	1	0	1
8	Kenya	1	4	5
9	Liberia	3	0	3
10	Myanmar	0	2	2
11	Netherlands	0	1	1
12	Nigeria	1	2	3
13	Rwanda	1	0	1
14	Sierra Leone	1	0	1
15	Spain	0	2	2
16	Tanzania	2	0	2
17	Thailand	2	0	2
18	Uganda	1	0	1
19	Ukraine	0	1	1
20	United Kingdom	2	2	4
21	United States	0	1	1
22	Zambia	0	1	1
	TOTAL	18	21	39

IMPACT

Ministry of Transport in Lebanon issued a warning to ticket sales agents in Sweden

In May, 2021 the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport in Lebanon issued an official statement with a warning for agents in Sweden and Germany, who sell airline tickets to Syria via Beirut. The goal of these ticket sales offices is to defraud Swedish residents, the Ministry said.

It happened just after two weeks of [Daraj](#) publication in line with a Money Trail-supported cross-border investigation '[The way to Damascus](#)'. Also, one of the biggest ticket sales agents located in Jönköping Elias Dawod (Sweden) arranging flights to Syria removed all the labels from the front of its building and closed its office.

Read more [here](#).

OVERVIEW OF SUPPORTED STORIES PUBLISHED IN 2021

27 investigations were published in 2021. See the overview below.

1. SYPHONING DEVELOPMENT MONEY: TANZANIAN INVOLVED IN ROBBING OF \$176 MILLION

This investigation shows that the New York branch of Barclays Bank has issued a "suspicious activity report" about a certain Janmohamed Mohamed Ali Rahemtulla, whose personal details show he is living in Dar es Salaam, business capital of Tanzania, situated along the shore of Indian Ocean – at a villa located at 124 Uganda Avenue.

A cross-border team of journalists revealed that this man was a "ghost." He is not living in Tanzania and is nowhere to be found, but the money was withdrawn by him – for consecutive three years. He disappeared after being questioned by the bank.

A grant of 2,820 euros was awarded on 11/03/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/syphoning-development-money>

2. 87 % OF THE REVENUE FROM RECYCLED CLOTHING STAYS IN EUROPE

On each collection bin where European citizens in good faith can dispose of their used clothing, thinking that as much as possible will go to foreign aid, Humana tells a story about farmers clubs, education projects and health actions being made in the global south.

But by going through the public accessible financial statements of the European Humana organisations with close comb the journalists conclude that only 13 percent of the earnings end up in the developing world.

A grant of 11.000 euros was awarded on 20/11/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/revenue-from-recycled-clothing-stays-in-Europe>

3. WAY TO EUROPE. HOW CRIMINALS AND TERRORISTS FROM AFRICA AND ASIA ENTER THE EU

More than 70% of the members of criminal groups detained and convicted are foreigners themselves. That is, citizens of other countries who have residence permits in Ukraine. Foreign students or seasonal workers are involved in transporting their compatriots to the European

Union. People from Africa are usually mostly convicted in Ukraine. These are Cameroonians, Algerians, Moroccans, Hannians, Guineans, Congolese, Nigerians, Somalis, Ethiopians. They are direct members of criminal groups and take part in the transfer of compatriots abroad. Other foreigners are from Jordan, Iraq, Turkey, Palestine, Syria, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, China.

In their investigation a cross-border team of journalists from Ukraine and Ghana describes how much migrants from other countries who go to Europe in the hope of a better life have to go through.

A grant of 10,800 euros was awarded on 28/10/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/way-europe-how-criminals-and-terrorists-africa-and-asia-enter-eu>

4. THE BATTLE OF BANGUI (BOOK)

The book describes at length how control of the country's lucrative diamond trade not only led to the conflict, but how it was used to finance the rebellion. The authors describe how President Françoise Bozize's ham-fisted attempt to seize control of the diamond trade in favour of politically connected companies (some with ties to the African National Congress) came at the expense of the predominantly Muslim traders that dominated it.

In an investigation spanning more than seven years, the authors gained exclusive access to the soldiers who fought valiantly against overwhelming odds; travelled to Bangui to obtain documentation and meet the rebel leaders who took part in the battle; interviewed a deposed dictator living in exile in Paris; and spoke to the widows of the fallen soldiers. They also met influential fixers and dealmakers, and unearthed secret files containing bribe agreements to unravel an intricate web of corruption and patronage reaching the highest echelons of power in South Africa and the CAR.

A grant of 3.000 euros was allocated on 14/01/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/battle-bangui>

5. RUSSIA SECRETLY UPGRADED LIBYAN FIGHTER JETS PRIOR TO PEACE DEAL

Fighter jets commanded by the Libyan military general Khalifa Haftar were secretly upgraded and serviced using parts shipped in by Russia over 2019 and 2020, violating the existing UN arms embargo, according to security sources with knowledge of the operations. The parts were flown into the Benina airbase, located south of Benghazi, and at least three models of aircraft received upgrades.

A grant of 10.000 euros was allocated on 28/10/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/russia-secretly-upgraded-libyan-fighter-jets-prior-peace-deal>

6. EUROPE'S DIRTY GOLD FROM KYRGYZSTAN

A two-part investigation unveiled how European taxpayers and consumers have unintentionally contributed to unlawful and environmentally dangerous gold extraction at Kumtor (Kyrgyzstan), the world's largest open-pit ice-mining site.

A cross-border French-Italian and Kyrgyz team of journalists found out that the European Bank for

Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), whose main shareholders are the EU and its member states, provided loans to the project according to government permits which breached national law protecting glaciers and water resources from pollution.

A grant of 9,100 euros was allocated on 15/01/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/europes-dirty-gold-kyrgyzstan>

7. THE WAY TO DAMASCUS

In Sweden there are more than 200,000 Syrians. They are considered to be the largest immigrant Arabic-speaking community in that country. The Swedish tourist bureaus provide services to transport a large number of Syrians to their home countries.

In this investigation, a cross-border team monitored eight tourist bureaus, working as unofficial fronts within Swedish territories for an airline company that is listed in the US sanctions list.

A grant of 8,615 euros was allocated on 24/09/2019.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/way-damascus>

8. HOW SCORPIONS AND GHOSTBUSTERS FIGHT CORRUPTION IN SIERRA LEONE'S EDUCATION SECTOR

Sierra Leone is one of the least developed countries in the world. Two of the main out of many challenges the West African state is facing are rampant corruption and some of the lowest educational outcomes worldwide. Both are intertwined since the school system is highly prone to corrupt practices. Poorly (if at all) paid teachers sell exam questions or take bribes for better grades, girls from poor families who can't afford to pay are being sexually exploited.

The investigation was conducted by a cross-border journalists from Germany and Sierra Leone.

A grant of 7,564 euros was allocated on 15/01/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/how-scorpions-and-ghostbusters-fight-corruption-sierra-leones-education-sector>

9. HOW THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IS FUELING CONFLICTS IN WEST AFRICA

This story puts the spotlight on a clandestine network of gunsmiths and arms traffickers operating in West Africa in contravention of local laws. It shows how these gunsmiths and traffickers exploit the porous borders across the West Africa and Sahel region to traffic illicit small arms and light weapons, which continues to fuel conflicts across the region.

This investigation (conducted by a cross-border Ghanian-Nigerian team of journalists) also shows that unrest in places like northern Nigeria, Chad, Côte D'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Mali instigated by non-state armed groups has increased the demand for small arms and light weapons (SALW) and significantly weakened the ability of their central governments to control their respective territories and the borders heightening insecurity in the sub-region.

A grant of 3,880 euros was allocated on 19/01/2021.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/how-illicit-trade-small-arms-and-light-weapons-fueling-conflicts>

10. HOW CHINA'S APPETITE FOR PEANUTS SLAMS SENEGAL'S OWN ARACHIS OIL INDUSTRY

During the last decade, Chinese appetite makes peanuts the new "gold" in Senegal. The two countries signed an agreement in 2014, and now China becomes the leading import country of Senegal's peanuts.

Currently there are about one hundred Chinese companies registered in Senegal. China imported about 323,000 tons of peanuts from Senegal from January to November of 2020, nearly tripling the amount from 2015. Senegal is the third largest peanut country in Africa, and peanut farming involves more than half of the rural population - around 4 million livelihoods - and is considered the backbone of the national economy. A large number of peanuts is used for export, 90% of them are shipped to China.

A grant of 7.000 euros was allocated on 16/03/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/china-peanuts-senegal-arachis-oil-industry>

11. SYRIANS PAY TAX TO REBUILD AFTER WAR BUT SEE LITTLE BENEFIT

The Syrian government has raised billions of Syrian pounds to rebuild war-stricken cities through a "reconstruction tax." But where does the money really go? A joint investigation by OCCRP, SIRAJ, and Finance Uncovered, supported by Journalismfund.eu's Money Trail grant programme.

Mohammad Bassiki, an exiled Syrian journalist and founder of investigative news site Siraj, attended [Finance Uncovered's](#) Money Trail illicit finance training in September 2018. During his week in London, Moha mentioned story ideas he thought FU could help him pursue. A few months later he obtained a Money Trail grant from Journalismfund.eu. That's how this investigation started.

A grant of 4.960 euros was allocated on 25/03/2019.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/syrians-pay-tax-rebuild-after-war-see-little-benefit>

12. HARD LABOUR: HOW LACK OF REGULATION PUTS KENYAN SURROGATES AT RISK

This story uncovers a multitude of worrying allegations about the unregulated surrogacy industry in Kenya.

The story reveals the owners, agents and middlemen behind the surrogacy business in Kenya. This story also highlights how the lack of a legal framework might be exposing Kenyan children to the risk of human trafficking.

The author of this investigation Naipanoi Lepapa attended a Money Trail training course by [Finance Uncovered](#) in Abuja in 2019. Over the course of the next 18 months she delved into the murky world of surrogacy in Kenya.

A grant of 6,837 euros was allocated on 24/09/2019.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/hard-labour-how-lack-regulation-puts-kenyan-surrogates-risk>

13. TAX AVOIDANCE IN THE ARMS INDUSTRY

The Netherlands is an important financial centre behind the international arms trade. Research from [The Investigative Desk](#) (the Netherlands) and an Indian news outlet shows how some of

the biggest arms companies in the world use the Netherlands as an intermediary to wire profits to tax havens.

Sometimes this money is earned at arms deals with dubious regimes, such as Saoedi-Arabia, Somalia and Egypt. While the Netherlands does not make arms deals with these countries directly, the money does flow in and out of Dutch companies, raising the question of responsibility for financial matters behind dubious arms deals.

A grant of 7.000 euros was allocated on 16/10/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/tax-avoidance-arms-industry>

14. ERDOGAN'S GLOBAL PURGE

Turkey has been using its vast presence in Europe and official institutions such as mosques, consulates and institutions in an effort to track its dissidents using covert Turkish intelligence activities.

A cross-border team of journalists from the UK, US and Germany has investigated the Turkish government's activities abroad, and has found that they spied on, harassed, intimidated and in dozens of cases abducted dissidents or perceived regime opponents abroad. Thus far at least 139 Turkish or dual citizens residing abroad have been rendered back to Turkey – many under dubious circumstances. Although the majority of targets stand accused of being FETO terrorists, Kurdish rights and left-wing activists have also been targeted.

A grant of 15.000 euros was allocated on 16/10/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/erdogans-global-purge>

15. THE MYTH OF EU MIGRATION POLICY AGAINST CRIMINAL NETWORKS

Irregular migration from West Africa to the Spanish Canary Islands has risen from 2,700 boat refugees in 2019 to over 23,000 in 2020. This has caused a great deal of social and political concern.

The fieldwork of a Dutch-Gambian cross-border team shows that the reality of migration from Senegal and The Gambia to the Canary Islands has nothing to do with Europe's criminal network frame. Migration mafias are a myth, at least in this part of the world. And yet they form the basis of EU migration policy. This has far-reaching consequences. And would European citizens accept billions of tax money to be spent on fighting refugees and poor migrants, instead of criminal smuggling networks?

A grant of 9.200 euros was allocated on 19/01/2021.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/myth-eu-migration-policy-against-criminal-networks>

16. CLEAN CARS, DIRTY BATTERIES

To make the batteries for electric cars, manufacturers need cobalt. This documentary shows the efforts of the European car industry to ensure proper supply chains, and documents in the cobalt mines in the Congo that this is impossible.

The 45 minute long documentary "Clean cars, dirty batteries - cobalt mining in the Congo" aired on the German public TV channel ZDFinfo. It shows the efforts of the European car industry to ensure proper supply chains, and documents in the cobalt mines in the Congo that this is

impossible. The investigation had been conducted by a cross-border team of journalists from Germany and Congo.

A grant of 8.000 euros was allocated on 14/12/2018.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/clean-cars-dirty-batteries>

17. HEZBOLLAH IN AFRICA: FORGOTTEN LINK IN COCAINE TRAFFICKING TO ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM

The money that European nightlife spends for its favorite drug finances Hezbollah's wars on the side of Iran. An insider from the Lebanese community in Ivory Coast, one of the new cocaine hubs in West Africa, speaks and paints a chilling picture that spans half the globe, from the slums of Abidjan to Beirut, via the ports of Rotterdam and Antwerp.

According to this cross-border independent investigation by a cross-border team of journalists from Belgium and Nigeria, Hezbollah is financing busing services to the various mafias that use the ports. Both in facilitating cocaine traffic and in providing money-laundering services. All this results in an organised money laundering operation on a large scale.

A grant of 9.400 euros was allocated on 16/03/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/hezbollah-africa-forgotten-link-cocaine-trafficking-antwerp-and-rotterdam>

18. THE COCAINE PORTS

This two-part series, based on two years of research by reporters from IrpiMedia and OCCRP, explores how the 'Ndrangheta's network operates.

The first part of the investigation focuses on the group in Europe, showing how a well-connected clan shuttles cocaine across the continent and moves the proceeds into the legal economy. The second part of the research plunges into the Latin American and African sides of the operation, showing how the 'Ndrangheta's top brokers and suppliers — led in part by Calabria's Romeo-Staccu clan — dominate ports where corruption allows the cocaine trade to thrive.

A grant of 10.652 euros was allocated on 25/06/2019.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/cocaine-ports>

19. NEPALIS ABUSED BY NEPALIS IN LUXEMBOURG

During her trip to Finland in 2019, a freelance Nepalese journalist *Namrata Sharma* had exposed the fate some Nepali workers faced from Nepali Restaurant owners there. As a follow-up, the journalist explored the conditions in Luxembourg.

Finally, after almost two years of digging Namrata has discovered how some Nepali workers who had entered Luxembourg with legal work permits could be victims of human trafficking. The stories of a few of these Nepalis prove that there are Nepalis who themselves rose the ranks to be restaurant owners but could now be preying on vulnerable and desperate people from the home country.

A grant of 7.000 euros was allocated on 25/03/2019.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/nepalis-abused-nepalis-luxembourg>

20. GARBAGE OUT, GARBAGE IN: HOW EUROPE'S E-WASTE PROBLEM IS A BURDEN FOR AFRICA

This investigation puts the spotlight on the dumping of e-waste, particularly discarded cooling appliances by Europe's e-waste exporters in Africa in contravention of EU's law and the Basel Convention while port officials in Europe turn a blind eye to the shipment of these discarded appliances.

The investigation also shows that recent EU Guideline on the Transboundary Movement of WEEE led by Germany introduces a "Repairable Loophole" which risks undermining gains of the Basel Convention and threatens to, "guide unscrupulous traders to export all manner of hazardous broken or untested consumer electronics outside of the control procedures of the Basel Convention simply by making a claim of export for repair".

The story reveals the negative impact that harmful refrigerants found in discarded cooling appliances have on climate change and the environment – having the capacity to warm the atmosphere thousands of times greater than carbon dioxide, and already accounting for around 10% of global CO2 emissions.

This big investigation was conducted by a cross-border team of journalists from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Cameroon.

A grant of 12.000 euros was allocated on 19/01/2021.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/garbage-out-garbage-how-europes-e-waste-problem-burden-africa>

21. HOW THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT IS LOSING REVENUE AS KHAT SMUGGLING TO SOMALIA ESCALATES

The smuggling of Khat, locally known as Miraa, is being carried out openly in Kenya's coastal town of Lamu. The smuggling has been heightened due to the fact that Miraa export to Somalia was banned in 2020 following a diplomatic row between the two states. This story started in Meru County, Igembe South where Miraa is grown, and then cartels and brokers buy from farmers while exploiting them without any trade regulations on prices and taxes.

The cartels and brokers take advantage of the lack of regulation in the Miraa sector to buy the crop from farmers at very low prices, leaving farmers in desperation. Mary Mwendwa, freelance journalist from Nairobi, Kenya, found out that the smugglers who transport Miraa to Somalia do not pay regulated government taxes that are supposed to earn Kenya revenue. They use very dangerous sea routes with hired captains who are paid per day for the work.

A grant of 7.000 euros was allocated on 19/01/2021.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/how-kenyan-government-losing-revenue-khat-smuggling-somalia-escalates>

22. EUROPE'S WAR IN THE SAHEL: TRACKING FINANCIAL FLOWS FOR SECURITY FORCES AND THEIR IMPACT

In September 2020, the Nigerien public opinion discovered that it's own security forces were guilty of massacre of population in the north of the Country, in Inatès.

This is a year-long cross-border independent investigation into EU money invested in Niger for security purposes. The research was conducted by a team of journalists from Rome, Paris and Niamey.

A grant of 11.520 euros was allocated on 16/10/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/europes-war-sahel-tracking-financial-flows-security-forces-and-their-impact>

23. INSIDE 25 YEARS OF GMOS IN AFRICA

This transnational three-part investigation looks at agricultural biotechnologies, better known as Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) from the African perspective using Burkina Faso, South Africa and Uganda as case studies.

The research was conducted by a cross-border team of journalists from three respective countries.

A grant of 6.160 euros was allocated on 16/10/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/inside-25-years-gmos-africa>

24. A LENS INTO SOUTH SUDAN GOLD MINING

Despite being known primarily as an oil producer; South Sudan has substantial gold deposits with activities largely dominated by artisanal mining. In addition to artisanal mining, there are industrial-like operations concentrated in the Gorom and the Kapoeta areas where deposits are believed to be in abundance.

But the government has limited control over how transactions in gold are done, or who is involved. Local dealers buy gold from artisanal miners and sell it to larger buyers in regional towns, such as Kapoeta and Juba. Most of the gold produced in South Sudan is smuggled out of the country. The main supply chains run from South Sudan across Uganda and Kenya and it also moves to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, and then to international markets in Dubai and China.

A grant of 7.000 euros was allocated on 15/01/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/lens-south-sudan-gold-mining>

25. THE MILITARY ECONOMIC REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

After Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was elected President in May 2014, several amendments to the public procurement law were made that allowed the Egyptian military to further strengthen its grip on the economy. The amendments helped companies affiliated with the army reap the lion's share of major public contracts, including the construction of the new administrative capital in Cairo, real estate projects, highways and infrastructure, that were granted under direct, non-competitive bidding.

This in-depth cross-border independent investigation looks at the monopoly of both the Egyptian Armed Forces, and the General Intelligence Directorate on state projects and public contracting works, often charging higher prices than private companies, and profiting in ways that some experts consider illegal.

A grant of 6.000 euros was allocated on 16/10/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/military-economic-republic-egypt>

26. THE HUNT FOR GADDAFI'S LOST TREASURE

Before his death, Libyan dictator Muammar al-Gaddafi moved a giant fortune out of the country. It is gold, diamonds and cash worth billions of dollars – financed with revenues from the sale of oil. Although the international community has committed to returning assets stolen from autocrats, the whereabouts of much of it is unclear. And the hunt for Gaddafi's treasure is taking place in secret.

This cross-border independent research from Germany and South Africa describes how two treasure hunters from Germany are working together to track down and remove huge assets out of Southern Africa. They apparently also wanted to use gunmen in the process. The two men have connections to right-wing extremist circles and are supposedly working on behalf of the Gaddafi family. The recovered assets are purportedly to be used by them to support pro-Gaddafi candidates in future elections. Gaddafi's eldest son Saif al-Islam is running for Libyan president.

A grant of 6.290 euros was allocated on 15/01/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/hunt-gaddafis-lost-treasure>

27. SOUTHERN TUNISIA: UNREGULATED EXTRACTIVISM BY FRENCH-BRITISH COMPANY PERENCO

Despite being owned by one of the richest French families, the Perrodos, the French-British company Perenco has a long history of secrecy and discretion...

To the extent that any villager living in El Farouar, at the gates of the Tunisian Sahara, will be more knowledgeable than just about any French citizen on the wrong doings of the company nearby. Hydraulic Fracturing, unconventional gas extraction, experimental shale well and compact gas extraction...

A grant of 12.640 euros was allocated on 23/07/2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/southern-tunisia-unregulated-extractivism-french-british-company-perenco>

JOURNALISMFUND.EU LOCAL

PURPOSE

More and more global problems are pushed in the direction of local governments and cities (migration, climate, employment, education, housing, mobility, etc.). The facts, as well as many reports, point to a shortage or non-existence of local independent journalism, and a fortiori of independent investigative journalism. The idea is to stimulate cross-border collaboration between journalists from different countries in Europe. In this way, cities in the different European countries can form a benchmark for each other. Journalismfund.eu focuses on local journalists on the media payroll and especially on freelance journalists.

After the summer of 2020, our organisation launched a pilot project with the aim to support local journalism, and more specifically local investigative journalism. The project included the following activities: stimulating local journalists to engage in investigative journalism and learn from colleagues in other countries; stimulating them to compare with other cities in other countries where the problem is the same; encouraging local journalists to better distribute their stories in order to inspire others. We first tested the programme in the Netherlands and Belgium. The intention is that we find local foundations in 10 European countries that want to help finance this. As an outcome, the public will be better informed and at the same time new (international) networks of journalists will be created. In the long term, it will broaden the spectrum of the local journalist and will strengthen the international network of investigative journalists who inspire each other. This concept of comparison will also inspire citizens and local politicians.

JURY

The applications are assessed by an independent jury of four people with ample experience in investigative journalism. The jury members are chosen by Journalismfund.eu. They remain anonymous until they leave the jury.

CRITERIA

1. Added value compared to mainstream coverage / a forgotten story
2. Relevance in society
3. Originality and innovative methods
4. Daringness
5. Feasibility
6. Newsworthiness
7. Experience of the applicants, references
8. Saleability
9. Time-consuming

STATISTICS

YEAR	#ROUNDS	#APPLI- CATIONS	#GRANTS	AMOUNT APPLIED FOR	GRANTED	AVERAGE GRANT	LARGEST GRANT	#APPLI- CANTS	#GRANTEES	AVERAGE AMOUNT APPLIED FOR PER PERSON
TO- TAL	2	9	8	82,975	74,001	9,250	22,500	39	37	2,243
2020	1	4	4	52,634	52,676	13,169	22,500	28	28	1880
2021	1	5	4	30,341	21,325	5,331	7,750	11	9	3371

At the end of 2021 we organized a second round (the first was in 2020). We received 5 applications of which 4 were granted for a total of € 21,325.

2021	GRANTEES	APPLICANTS	TOTAL
Freelance	9	2	11
Employee	0	0	0
Student	0	0	0
Retired	0	0	0
Company	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Total	9	2	11

OVERVIEW OF GRANTS PUBLISHED IN 2021

In 2021 4 projects were published.

1. ILLEGAL PLASTIC WASTE TRADE AVOIDS DETECTION IN PORT OF ANTWERP

ANTWERP/ROTTERDAM - Heavily contaminated plastic waste from the Netherlands and the rest of Europe can be illegally exported via the port of Antwerp, unnoticed by inspectors, to countries where it ends up being dumped. Antwerp is an important hub for the international trade in plastic waste. But compared to the port of Rotterdam for example, it has too few inspectors and resources, which opens the door to criminal trade in plastic.

Dutch and Belgian journalists have joined forces for this investigation into the port of Antwerp, a weak link in the plastic waste trade. Traders here evade inspections and checks on their plastic waste. Dutch traders also make frequent use of the problems in Antwerp and export thousands of tonnes of plastic waste unnoticed. Heavily contaminated plastic waste can thus illegally end up in countries like Malaysia and Indonesia that are unable to process it, our research shows. Government bodies in the Netherlands and Belgium have little idea of what happens to exports of plastic waste. The risk is that our plastic waste is not recycled, despite strict international requirements. Police organisation Interpol has sounded the alarm: the international waste trade is increasingly in the hands of criminals who use methods like those used in Antwerp, to reap financial rewards from an environmentally damaging trade in plastic.

The first collaboration between Dutch and Belgian journalists with a focus on the two world ports Rotterdam and Antwerp and plastic waste was carried out by journalist collective Lighthouse Reports together with De Tijd, Humo, Pointer and De Groene Amsterdammer. During months of lockdown, the journalists used many online sources: export databases, online waste marketplaces, satellite images, and ship, container and GPS tracking information. There were dozens of interviews with sources in the industry, inspection services and customs about the problems in the Antwerp hub and the falsification of export documents.

AUTHORS: Laura Hoogenraad, Nouska du Saar, Dominique Soenens, Sarah Lamote, Karen Geurtsen, Odette Bloemen-Joosten

GRANT: € 10.000

PUBLICATION: TV

[Pointer: Plasticplaag: Zo verdienen je geld aan plastic afval de zee over sturen](#), NPO2, 08/02/2021

PRINT:

- [Antwerpse haven draaischijf voor Europees plasticafval](#), Tijd, 08/02/2021
- [Containers vol illegaal plasticafval vertrekken uit de haven van Antwerpen: 'Er zijn maar vijf controleurs'](#), Humo, 08/02/2021.

2. BRUSSELS AND AMSTERDAM SHOW EACH OTHER THE WAY FORWARD

A'DAM - BRUSSELS - More and more people are moving to the city, but what does the future of these growing cities look like? Thanks to Journalismfund.eu's LOCAL grant programme, two media organisations (BRUZZ from Brussels and AT5 from Amsterdam) have teamed up for the first time to investigate the two cities. In a five-part series of videos and articles, the two city media delved into the crucial challenges for the city of tomorrow: mobility, housing, waste, tourism and language.

How will we move through our cities in 2040 and what place will the car have? Where will all these new city dwellers live and how do we keep a home in the city affordable? What are sustainable solutions for our urban waste and the litter on our streets? How can we prevent the flow of tourists from becoming a nuisance that dominates entire neighbourhoods? Last but not least, how should cities deal with the growth of English and dozens of other languages that the increasingly diverse population brings to the city?

In their tour of the two cities, BRUZZ and AT5 look for the lessons that Brussels and Amsterdam, two cities of comparable size, can learn from each other. They do so by talking to residents, policymakers and experts, but also to visionaries who focus on the city of 2040.

AUTHORS: Kris Hendrickx, Eveline Welschen, Luuk Koenen, Margot Otten, Menko Arends, Lotte Rigter, Aanaa Ahmed

GRANT: € 22.500

PUBLICATION:

ONLINE

- [BRUZZ en Amsterdamse AT5 gaan op zoek naar 'De Stad van de Toekomst'](#) - BRUZZ.be, 31/03/2021;
- [AT5 en Bruzz gaan samen op zoek naar de stad van de toekomst](#) - AT5, 18/04/2021

VIDEO EPISODES:

- [De Stad van de Toekomst deel 1: hoe bouwen we een leefbare en betaalbare stad?](#) - AT5 (1st episode), 20/04/2021;
- [Wonen: hoe bouwen Amsterdam en Brussel aan een leefbare en betaalbare stad?](#) - BRUZZ.be (1st episode), 20/04/2021;
- [Stad van de Toekomst deel 2: auto's temmen in Brussel en Amsterdam](#) - AT5 (2nd episode), 25/04/2021;
- [Mobiliteit: auto's temmen in Brussel en Amsterdam](#) - BRUZZ.be (2nd episode), 27/04/2021;
- [Stad van de Toekomst deel 3: "Wie zich thuis voelt, vervuult niet"](#) - AT5 (3rd episode), 2/05/2021;
- [Hoe krijgen we Brussel en Amsterdam proper? 'Wie zich thuis voelt, vervuult niet'](#) - BRUZZ.be (3rd episode), 3/05/2021;
- [Stad van de toekomst deel 4: Hoe vind je miljoenen 'goede' toeristen?](#) - AT5 (4th episode), 9/05/2021
- [Toerisme: hoe vermijd je dat de stad een pretpark wordt?](#) - BRUZZ.be (4th episode), 11/05/2021;
- [Stad van de Toekomst deel 5: meertaligheid wordt de norm](#) - AT5 (5th episode), 16/05/2021
- [Brussel én Amsterdam: 'De toekomst is meertalig'](#) - BRUZZ.be (5th episode), 18/05/2021

3. MORE DUTCH CATTLE FARMERS MOVE TO BELGIUM SINCE NITROGEN CRISIS

Since the start of the nitrogen crisis in 2018, more Dutch livestock farmers moved to Belgium than in previous years. This is evident from new research by Spit and Apache. Environmental organisations have been warning for some time that Belgium has become a 'nitrogen paradise' for large-scale polluters. An inventory of the available data supports this fear.

Spit and Apache analysed 969 permit applications from large-scale Dutch pig and poultry farmers and made an inventory of the publicly available business documents of 1,494 cattle farmers in the border region - including the very intensively cultivated Noorderkempen region.

Since 2010, there has been a clear increase in the annual number of people moving cattle farmers. In the past five years, the number of new farms has even doubled compared to the previous five years.

Due to a lack of publicly available data, there are probably many more Dutch companies in Belgium that remain under the radar. Moreover, there are also 'hidden' forms of farm migration. When a Belgian company is taken over by a Dutchman, it is not always necessary to apply for a new permit, so the change in ownership may go unnoticed. It is also not visible when a Dutchman rents a location in Belgium and hires personnel to manage the stables.

AUTHORS: Steven Vanden Bussche, Hester den Boer, Stef Arends, Parcival Weijnen

GRANT: € 10.174

PUBLICATION: ONLINE

- [Meer Nederlandse veehouders naar België sinds stikstofcrisis](#) - Apache.be, 28/05/2021;
- [Nederlandse veehouders verhuizen naar België](#) - De Groene Amsterdammer, 28/05/2021

4. LEAKY PORTS, COMPETITORS OR PARTNERS IN SECURITY?

ROTTERDAM - In the fight against drugs crime in their ports, the mayors of Rotterdam (Aboutaleb) and Antwerp (De Wever), kicked off in 2019 a more intensive collaboration between their ports. The big meeting took place behind closed doors at the Feyenoord Stadium.

This collaboration is obvious, because both ports are estimated to account for more than half of the import of cocaine into Europe and act as communicating vessels: if controls in one port become more stricter, criminals move to the other.

The Rotterdam in depth hyperlocal 'VersBeton' and the Flemish investigative news site 'Apache' used the freedom of information act to receive the report of the meeting and other documents. They read how administrators and entrepreneurs sounded the alarm. However, the establishment of a cross-border body was not forthcoming.

The scale of cocaine smuggling seems to increase. In the ports, bigger catches are made year after year, while the street value doesn't increase.

Criminological research shows that information sharing between different investigative services within national borders doesn't always work well. Sharing information between countries is even more difficult. Researchers' assessment of Dutch-Belgian cooperation is positive at the operational level.

In the fight against drugs smuggling, the governments are appealing increasingly to enterprises in the ports. At the same time, the ports remain competitors. An approach involving all the northwest European Ports would be more effective.

Rotterdam and Antwerp may want to work together as much as they can, but their cooperation runs into limits. The cities are depending on the national governments, which in turn is dependent on international cooperation.

AUTHORS: Frank de Kruif, Steven Vanden Bussche

GRANT: € 10.000

PUBLICATION: ONLINE

- [Antwerpen en Rotterdam strijden tegen drugs: partners in crime?](#), Apache, 08/07/2021;
- [Hoe Rotterdam en Antwerpen de gezamenlijke strijd tegen cocaïne niet van de grond krijgen](#), Vers Beton, 08/07/2021;
- [Rotterdam en Antwerpen krijgen de gezamenlijke strijd tegen drugsmokkel maar niet van de grond](#) - OPEN Rotterdam, 08/07/2021

SCIENCE JOURNALISM

PURPOSE

With this pilot project Journalismfund.eu offers grants for science journalists. It's meant for projects that have great newsworthiness and depth but that cannot be realised in regular media. The projects should be original, innovative and time-consuming and must involve investigative reporting on science and its impact on society.

STATISTICS

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS AWARDED

YEAR	#ROUNDS	#APPLI- CATIONS	#GRANTS	AMOUNT APPLIED FOR	GRANTED	AVERAGE GRANT	LARGEST GRANT	#APPLI- CANTS	#GRANT- EES	AVERAGE AMOUNT APPLIED FOR PER PERSON
TO- TAL	2	18	13	95,612	64,360	4,951	22,500	20	14	6,829
2021	2	18	13	95,612	64,360	4,951	22,500	20	14	6829

In 2021, 2 rounds were organised. 18 projects were submitted by 20 people for a total amount of € 95,612. This represents an average requested amount of € 6,829.

Of these, 13 projects were approved by the jury, for a total amount of €64,360, which corresponds to an average amount awarded of € 4,951 per project.

Profile of the applicants:

- > Average age: 34.8 years
- > 9 men, 6 women
- > 12 freelancers, 3 employees
- > Nationality: Belgium: 11 Netherlands: 2 Italy: 1 Bulgaria: 1

CRITERIA

1. Scientific theme
2. Added value compared to mainstream coverage / a forgotten story
3. Relevance in society
4. Originality and innovative methods
5. Daringness
6. Feasibility
7. Newsworthiness
8. Experience of the applicants, references
9. Saleability
10. Time-consuming

JURY

The applications are assessed by an independent jury of four people with ample experience in investigative journalism. The jury members are chosen by Journalismfund.eu. They remain anonymous until they leave the jury.

OVERVIEW OF GRANTS PUBLISHED IN 2021

In 2021 2 projects were published.

1. A JOURNEY THROUGH BELGIUM WITH(OUT) WATER (WEG VAN WATER)

BRUSSELS - Open your tap and close it again. The water you just saw was yours for two seconds before draining again. But what do you know about that water? Where does it come from and where does it go? And how long will it continue to flow from the tap?

In *Weg van water*, Toon Verlinden and Marjolein Vanoppen take you on a journey through Belgium to answer those questions. They go out with divers who swim in sewers, dig a sand castle in Ostend and drink a very special glass of water in Kuurne. And along the way, they discover that our rainy land is much drier than we might think.

AUTHORS: Toon Verlinden, Marjolein Vanoppen

GRANT: € 3.910

PUBLICATION: BOOK

Title: *Weg van Water*

Subtitle: *Op reis door België (z)onder water*

Pages: 240

Language: Dutch

Date of publication: 17/05/2021

EAN: 9789401475907

Nur-code: 934

Editor: Academia Press

Edition: 1

2. THE WAR ON DRUG WASTE

BRUSSELS - "When discussing drug production, we rarely look at the environmental damage and costs. Belgium, together with The Netherlands, is the main producer of synthetic drugs in Europe, and the chemical waste deriving as a by-product from the production here remains.

In the past five years, the number of drug labs and drug dumpings in Belgium has increased sharply, posing an economic burden on small towns at the border regions of Flanders. But beyond the costs that can be easily quantified, to what extent is the environment affected?

Sometime drug waste is found in barrels, but now more than ever, gangs have started dumping it directly within nature. The diversification of drug production in the country could even pose more dangerous effects. No standardised procedure or method to assess environmental hazard of such substances is existing at a national level. Local authorities, citizens and regional politicians are now trying to find ways to fight the battle.

This is the first attempt to investigate the environmental impact deriving from illicit drug production within Belgium. The research also extends to The Netherlands and Germany.

AUTHOR: Daniela De Lorenzo

GRANT: € 6.000

PUBLICATION: ONLINE

- [Hoe illegale drugslabs het milieu schaden](#), Apache.be, 18/06/2021.
- [MDMA Gangs Are Literally Polluting Europe](#), Vice, 18/06/2021.
- [L'Europa ha un problema con l'inquinamento da droga](#), Wired.it, 26/06/2021.
- [Allô la police, j'ai trouvé un labo de drogue](#), Médor, 17/08/2021.
- [Drogue : pollution du sol au plafond](#), Médor, 19/08/2021.
- [Narco-déchets : politique dans la brume](#), Médor, 20/08/2021.

THE MODERN SLAVERY UNVEILED PROJECT

PURPOSE

This grant programme aims to enable independent journalistic investigations into the exploitation of Asian victims of human trafficking and forced labour in Europe.

Cross-border teams of professional journalists can apply for a grant to cover working time and/or expenses to investigate, document and expose aspects and cases of forced labour, cross-continental trafficking and other issues related to the exploitation of Asian victims in Europe.

Next to a grant, teams can also apply for a mentor to provide assistance with either the focus of the investigation or the need for competences in a specific skill.

In 2021, Modern Slavery Unveiled Grant programme received 29 applications, from which 23 applications were shared with the jury board. Out of 23 applications, 10 projects were granted. The first call was on 18 March and the second deadline was on 16 September.

JURY

The applications are assessed by an independent jury of experts in investigative journalism from Europe and Asia. The jury members are chosen by Journalismfund.eu. They remain anonymous until they leave the jury.

Both Journalismfund.eu and the jury are bound to strict confidentiality – before, during and after evaluation of the proposals. Jury members are bound to Journalismfund.eu's strict conflict of interest policy, which is designed to assure the highest standards in terms of ethical conduct and to ensure the independence and objectivity of decision making. Every proposal is quoted by four jury members. Journalismfund.eu has no influence on the evaluation and selection of proposals.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The jury assesses the applications based on these criteria:

- › Relevance for the thematic focus of this programme, i.e. the exploitation of Asian victims of human trafficking and/or forced labour in Europe
- › Added value compared to mainstream coverage
- › Cross-border or cross-continent aspect
- › Quality of research methods and presentation/storytelling
- › Feasibility of the investigation, timeline and budget
- › Team structure and experience of the applicants
- › Work effort requirement
- › Pooling research capacity and knowledge
- › Being a watchdog of institutions, policies and money

Finally, the jury will also take into consideration the variety within the global selection of granted projects. This means diversity in terms of:

- › Region (both regarding stories and team members)
- › Topics
- › Methods and approaches
- › Publication forms
- › Team composition

STATISTICS

(applicants/grantees, nationalities, gender, work status, novice/experienced)

	FIRST ROUND MARCH	SECOND ROUND SEPTEMBER	TOTAL 2021
# Applications	15	14	29
# Applicants	44	37	82
# Grantees	19	13	32
# Granted projects	5	5	10
Amount granted	€ 60.645	€ 57.416	€ 118.061
Minimum project support	€ 8.900	€ 9.060	€ 8.900
Maximum project support	€ 15.390	€ 15.106	€ 15.390
Amount applied for	€ 333.767	€ 121.798	€ 455.565

PROFILE OF THE APPLICANTS

2021	GRANTEES	APPLICANTS	TOTAL
Freelance	27	39	66
Employee	5	11	16
Student	0	0	0
Retired	0	0	0
Company	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Total	32	50	82

Of the 82 applicants, 45 were men and 37 women. 16 journalists worked as a permanent member of staff and 66 as freelance journalists.

WORK SITUATION (APPLICANTS & GRANTEES)

2021	GRANTEES	APPLICANTS	TOTAL
man	13	32	45
woman	19	18	37
X	0	0	0
Total	32	50	82

DOMICILE (APPLICANTS & GRANTEES)

		GRANTEES	APPLICANTS	TOTAL
1	Albania	1	0	1
2	Australia	0	1	1
3	Bangladesh	1	0	1
4	Belgium	0	2	2
5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	1	1
6	Bulgaria	0	2	2
7	Cambodia	0	1	1
8	Czech Republic	3	0	3
9	France	0	1	1
10	Germany	1	2	3
11	Greece	0	2	2
12	India	5	2	7
13	Italy	9	4	13
14	Lebanon	0	1	1
15	Nepal	1	3	4
16	Netherlands	0	2	2
17	Pakistan	2	3	5
18	Philippines	0	2	2
19	Poland	0	1	1
20	Portugal	0	1	1
21	Romania	3	3	6
22	Spain	0	1	1
23	Ukraine	0	6	6
24	United Arab Emirates	0	2	2
25	United Kingdom	4	6	10
26	United States	1	0	1
27	Vietnam	1	1	2
	TOTAL	32	50	82

OVERVIEW OF GRANTS PUBLISHED IN 2021

Modern Slavery Unveiled had two calls during 2021, so far only one of the granted projects has been published. In the first trimester of 2022, more new projects are expected to be published in different media outlets from Asia and Europe. Below you can find the information of the project published in November and December 2021.

A HIGH STAKES 'GAME' - HOW TRAFFICKERS EXPLOIT YOUNG BANGLADESHIS' DREAMS OF ESCAPE TO EUROPE

BANGLADESH - Faced with poverty and lack of opportunities, young Bangladeshis often dream of a better life in Europe that will allow them to provide for their families. Dalaals or 'travel agents' encourage and capitalise upon these hopes. Among those that take the risky journey to Italy known as 'the game' are hundreds of unaccompanied minors. The reality that greets them is often one of misery, exploitation, and slavery.

Seen as unworthy of asylum, those that make it are often sent back to Libya or are trapped in underground networks of exploitation in Italy. The authorities are also failing these migrants, especially the many minors among them. Bangladeshis entering the country by boat often get sent back to Libya, and minors go unprotected, leaving the criminal gangs free reign to exploit them.

AUTHORS: Ismail Einashe, Muhammad Owasim Uddin Bhuyan & Kate Stanworth

GRANT: € 8,900

PUBLICATIONS:

ONLINE

- Unaccompanied minors from Bangladesh smuggled to Italy - Prothom Alo, 28/11/2021
- How Bangladeshis are lured into slavery in Libya. - BBC News, 8/12/2021
- লবিয়ায় গিয়ে যভোবে 'দাস' হয়ে উঠছেন বাংলাদেশিরা (The way Bangladeshis are becoming 'slaves' in Libya) - Photom Alo, 9/12/2021
- كيف يتم استغلال اللاجئين في ليبيا؟ اي بي بي في ليبيا: كيف يتم استغلال اللاجئين في ليبيا (How Bangladeshis are being lured into the trap of slavery in Lybia) - BBC Arabic News, 9/12/2021
- بنگلاديشي يوتھ ٹریفکڈ لیبیا کے لیے کام (Bangladeshi youth trafficked to Lybia for employment) - BBC Urdu News, 9/12/2021
- Bangladesh asked to prosecute smugglers of unaccompanied minors to Europe - Photom Alo, 10/12/2021

RADIO

- Focus on Africa - BBC World Service, 2/12/21

INVESTIGATIONS GRANTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM

PURPOSE

The investigation grant for environmental journalism programme aims at cross-border teams of investigative journalists and newsrooms to investigate and document illegal, unreported and unregulated abuse of nature that involves European affairs in and outside Europe. In addition to investigations that cut across borders; the programme can support and stimulate comparative investigations into local environmental issues and policies between two or more regions. Next to investigations of environmental issues that transcend borders, this programme can also support and stimulate comparative investigations into local environmental issues and policies between two or more regions or cities. The grants can also offer support to preliminary work in the development of new investigative projects.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- › Environmental angle
- › Added value compared to mainstream coverage
- › Relevance to society
- › Originality and innovative ideas, research methods
- › Feasibility
- › Experience of the applicants
- › Newsworthiness
- › Work effort requirement

- › Cross-border research, cross-border stories
- › Networking between countries, pooling research capacity and knowledge
- › Watchdog of institutions, policies, money
- › Audience engagement strategy
- › Quality and rationality of the budget
- › Necessity of (co-)funding

JURY

The juries of Journalismfund.eu's different grant programmes are composed of persons in the field of investigative journalism, related academia or other relevant media personalities. A jury consists of at least four respected personalities. The jury embodies different fields of expertise to assess the relevant aspects of the project proposals. The jury decides independently about the granting of the submitted project proposals, based on the assessment criteria and the available budget predetermined by Journalismfund.eu. Journalismfund.eu's jury members have a mandate of four years. The jury has a rotating membership: every two years two jury members leave and two new members are appointed.

Jury members can not apply for Journalismfund.eu's working grants. They need to adhere to Journalismfund.eu's conflict of interest policy and recuse themselves from decisions when conflict of interest may exist. The juries for Journalismfund.eu's grant facilities for specific journalistic investigations are anonymous. This is to safeguard both the independence of the jury process and the confidentiality of the investigations.

OVERVIEW AND STATISTICS

The programme aims to open 4 calls for proposals per year for 6 years. As part of the first call for proposals in environmental journalism in October 2021, Journalismfund.eu received 23 projects applications from 49 journalists and 21 media outlets, from 25 different countries; the total amount requested from the applicants was up €422.424. The jury selected 14 projects involving 32 journalists and allocated a total of €278.249 to the grantees.

WORK SITUATION (APPLICANTS & GRANTEES)

2021	GRANTEES	APPLICANTS	TOTAL
Freelance	33	12	45
Employee	1	2	3
Student	0	0	0
Retired	1	0	1
Company	11	10	21
Other	0	0	0
TOTAL	46	24	70

DOMICILE (APPLICANTS & GRANTEES)

		GRANTEES	APPLICANT	TOTAL
1	Albania	0	1	1
2	Argentina	1	0	1
3	Austria	0	0	0

4	Bangladesh	0	0	0
5	Belarus	1	0	1
6	Belgium	5	0	5
7	Cameroon	0	0	0
8	Croatia	0	0	0
9	Czech Republic	0	0	0
10	Denmark	2	2	4
11	Ethiopia	0	0	0
12	France	4	1	5
13	Gambia, The	0	0	0
14	Germany	6	1	7
15	Ghana	0	1	1
16	Greece	1	2	3
17	India	0	0	0
18	Ireland	1	0	1
19	Italy	7	5	12
20	Kenya	0	0	0
21	Lebanon	1	0	1
22	Myanmar	0	0	0
23	Nepal	0	0	0
24	Netherlands	2	0	2
25	Nigeria	0	1	1
26	North Macedonia	0	1	1
27	Pakistan	0	0	0
28	Poland	1	3	4
29	Portugal	1	0	1
30	Romania	1	0	1
31	Serbia	0	0	0
32	Slovakia	0	0	0
33	Slovenia	1	2	3
34	South Africa	0	0	0
35	Spain	2	0	2
36	Sweden	0	1	1
37	Switzerland	0	0	0
38	Tunisia	1	0	1
39	Turkey	0	0	0
40	Ukraine	1	1	2
41	United Kingdom	5	2	7
42	United States	1	0	1
43	Vietnam	0	0	0
44	Zambia	0	0	0
	TOTAL	45	24	69

ENABLING SERVICES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM

PURPOSE

The services grants programme aims to support activities and services for environmental investigative journalism. It supports and incites initiatives generating from organisations in the field, and seeks to promote a collective development and support services for environmental investigative journalism, by providing funding to project ideas from organisation and institutions for training and professional development programmes, i.e. skills-focused professional training or fellowship programmes targeted at enabling investigative journalists to upskill with regards to reporting on environment related issues.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- › Track record and relevance of the partners involved
- › Feasibility
- › Complementarity and added value to existing and already supported enabling activities for investigative environmental journalism
- › Quality and realism of budget plan
- › Necessity of (co-)funding

JURY

The conditions mentioned above apply equally for this grant programme. However, a separate jury from the investigation grant will decide upon the allocation of the grants, within a pre-established designated framework and based on a clear checklist of criteria.

OVERVIEW AND STATISTICS

The services grant programme will open 3 calls for proposals per year with the ambition to grant approximately €83.000 per call. In October 2021, Journalismfund.eu launched a first call for proposals for the enabling services grant programme for environmental journalism. With a deadline set in November 2021, the coordination team worked to prepare the first jury, by compiling all applications in a comprehensive database. Journalismfund.eu received 15 project applications from 15 organisations in 12 countries, with a total requested amount of €403.128,87. Following an in-depth revision of all eligible applications, and based on the criteria, the jury allocated grants to 4 organisations for a total budget of € 82.345.

