



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND
 TECHNOLOGY

Media Policy
Audiovisual and Media Services Policy

Brussels,
 ARES

Journalismfund.eu
 M. Ides Debruyne
 Leopoldstraat 6
 1000 Brussels-Belgium

Email : ides.debryne@journalismfund.eu

Subject: Grant procedure: *Media freedom and investigative journalism*

Ref.: Connect/2019/3793967-Action 2 (proposal ref **Ares(2019)6381882**)

Dear Mr Debruyne,

We regret to inform you that your application has not been successful in the above procedure for the following reason:

- In view of its place in the overall ranking, despite the high quality of your proposal, your application cannot be financed due to lack of budget.

Please find below the summary conclusions of the evaluation of your application. These are all the details we can provide you with on the grounds of our decision.

Award criterion	Comments	max. score	threshold
(1) Relevance of the project and the contribution of its expected results to the objectives of the call	The proposal is relevant to the Call for Proposals. The expected results are broadly in line with the objectives of the call as described in Action 2.	20	10
		16	

<p>(2) Effectiveness and rationale of the proposed methodology and organisation (including the timetable and monitoring)</p>	<p>It is positive that the applicants envisage the full life-cycle of the journalistic pieces.</p> <p><u>Design</u></p>	20	10
	<p>The proposal envisages two tracks for the grants allocation: one for teams of individual journalists, one for media outlets. This is an innovative and interesting idea. More information on the types of media that could benefit from the scheme should be provided though.</p> <p>Another positive aspect of the proposal is organising exchanges and meetings between the grantees.</p> <p>The application process for the Individual Journalists' Track is well-described and is credible. The media outlets scheme is not totally convincing though.</p> <p>Use of a secure platform for proposals' submissions and evaluation is welcome.</p> <p><u>Support and training</u></p> <p>The flexible offer suggested by the proposal (the "tailor-made package") is promising and looks adapted to most situations. The mentorship, especially if provided at very short notice, would be useful.</p> <p><u>Disbursement of funds</u></p> <p>The funding scheme is credible and the partners are experienced. However, the separation of tasks (selection and funding) between the two partners might create coordination issues and should have been better described.</p> <p><u>Dissemination</u></p> <p>The applicants suggest participating in various conferences but are not planning to organise their own, which is regrettable. They suggest building a project website and a social media strategy, involving international partners but here again more</p>	16	

	details would be needed.		
(3) Geographical coverage (coverage of as many Member States as possible)	N-OST and Journalismfund.eu are two organisations located in the same geographical sphere. The applicants indicate that they would be supported by their partners (BIRN and Bosch Alumni Network) to expand their geographical coverage. However, details on how journalists from all over the EU and CC would be reached were not provided in the proposal.	20	10
		14	
(4) Impact and dissemination of the expected results	The expected results are ambitious, and if achieved, will likely have a significant impact. The applicants indicate that up to 58 projects of all sizes would be funded, which was deemed to represent a good target.	20	10
		16	
(5) Cost effectiveness of the proposed action, in particular the relevance and quality of the means of implementation and the resources deployed in relation to the objectives envisaged	The two partners have demonstrated their experience as operators in the field of journalism funding. The budget is credible and devotes the main part of the budget to journalistic works. The monitoring part /risk section is a bit vague and doesn't give clear evidence of its potential effectiveness.	20	10
		15	
TOTAL	77	100	60

For your information, after evaluation of all received applications, the available budget is sufficient to finance only one proposal which has received a score of **84**.

If you believe that there was maladministration, you may lodge a complaint to the European Ombudsman within two years of the date when you became aware of the facts on which the complaint is based (see <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu>).

You may bring an action for annulment under Article 263 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('Article 263 TFEU action') against the Commission:

- within two months of receiving this letter.

The court responsible for hearing annulment procedures is the General Court of the European Union:

General Court
Rue du Fort Niedergrünwald
L-2925 Luxembourg
tel.: (+352) 4303 1 fax: (+352) 4303 2100
e-mail: GeneralCourt.Registry@curia.europa.eu
URL: <http://curia.europa.eu>

Thank you for your interest in our call for proposals. We hope that you will take part in future calls launched by the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

e-Signed

Griet van Caenegem
Authorising Officer