

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

EU SUPPORT TO PUBLIC
SERVICE JOURNALISM
IN WESTERN BALKANS

#EU4MediaMindsWB

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Questions and Answers _ International mobility grants for freelance and contracted media professionals affiliated with Western Balkan Public Service Media

1. What is the objective of Innovation. Media. Minds. Programme?

Innovation. Media. Minds: EU Support to Public Service Journalism in Western Balkans seeks to promote an environment that is supportive of media freedom and improve participatory democracies and the EU approximation process in the region through a strengthened contribution by civil society and media. Its objective is to assist Public Service Media (PSM) in enhancing organisational performance and internal governance while also enhancing the individual capacities of journalists, technical personnel, top and middle management, and staff members. For more information, please refer to Guidelines (Please refer to Guidelines, section 1.1).

2. What is the objective of International mobility grants?

Through the International Mobility Grants media professionals (at least 1 year of relevant work experience) involved in the process of content/program production/creation/improvement/development from Western Balkan PSMs that signed a memorandum of understanding with Goethe-Institut and DW Akademie will have the chance to participate in a job-shadowing programme with either the EU or Western Balkan PSMs. The primary aim of these grants is to enhance the professional abilities and understanding of PSM media professionals in the Western Balkans regarding contemporary EU journalistic standards and practices.

*The following Western Balkan PSMs signed the memorandum of understanding: Radio and Television of **Kosovo***[1], Radio Televizija Crne Gore, Radio Televizija Srbije, Radio*

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Televizija Vojvodine, Radio Televizioni Shqiptar, Radiotelevizija Bosne i Hercegovine, Radio-televizija Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine, Macedonian Radio Television.

[1] *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999.

3. Who can apply?

Media professionals currently employed by the Western Balkan PSMs (whether on a freelance or regular working contract) are eligible to apply for International Mobility Grants.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Mid-career and young media professionals (at least 1 year of relevant work experience) involved in the process of content/programme production/creation/improvement/development;
- Have a formal professional relationship with a Western Balkan PSM (work contract or freelance contract) that signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Goethe-Institut and DW Akademie.

Applications from media professionals without a formal professional relationship with a Western Balkan PSM will not be reviewed or evaluated. However, independent investigative Western Balkan media outlets will have the opportunity to apply for different grant schemes available within the Programme.

NOTE: PSMs cannot apply on behalf of media professionals. International mobility grants are only available for natural persons, not legal entities.

4. How to apply?

To apply for the call for proposals, applicants should:

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

1. Register in the Goethe Application Portal (GAP) <https://gap-online.goethe.de/en/>
2. Access the application form for Mobility project grants using the following [link](#),
3. Provide information and required documentation according to the instructions or guiding questions provided in the GAP.

For more details, please refer to the application guidelines and criteria, section 3 (the PDF document is available after the text of the [call for proposals](#)).

5. Where can the mobility take place?

Applicants who are applying for International mobility grants can visit various institutions, such as public service media from the EU, reputable media institutes, media training centres, the OSCE media department, the European Federation of Journalists, etc.

Please refer to application guidelines and criteria, section 2.2. Eligible area - where can applicants travel (the PDF document is available after the text of the [call for proposals](#)).

6. What expenses are covered within this grant scheme?

Applicants can cover expenses related to the mobility such as travel costs, cost of stay, visa, special needs, registrations fees and medical travel insurance.

Please refer to application guidelines and criteria, section 2.3. Eligible and ineligible expenditures and principles of funding (the PDF document is available after the text of the [call for proposals](#)).

7. How will the project ideas that will be funded within this grant scheme be chosen?

All submitted applications will undergo a standard assessment procedure, which is composed of:

1. Formal and eligibility assessment - checking whether the application fulfils the formal eligibility criteria;

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

2. Quality assessment – evaluation of received applications' content;
3. Final selection – based on the quality assessment, but taking into consideration geographical balance, gender balance and inclusion.

Please refer to application guidelines and criteria, section 3.1.5. (the PDF document is available after the text of the [call for proposals](#)).

8. What is the maximum amount for a mobility grant?

The International Mobility Grants have a **total budget of EUR 120,000**, which will be distributed across two calls for proposals. The maximum grant amount per recipient is **EUR 5,000**. In the first call, twelve (12) grants will be awarded. Subsequently, an additional twelve (12) grants will be awarded in the second call. Twenty-four (24) grants will be awarded in total.

Note: Each applicant may request a smaller amount of funding, with a maximum limit of 5,000 EUR.

9. Are VAT expenses acceptable within this grant scheme?

Even though VAT is not an acceptable cost in EU funded projects, be advised that the VAT is an eligible cost, if the expenses are incurred outside beneficiaries' permanent residence.

10. Which types of documents are necessary for reporting?

Within one month of the project's conclusion, beneficiaries are required to submit a final activity report consisting of a narrative and financial report, along with necessary supporting documents. Payments will be made in Euros to the account specified in the grant contract. Applicants should make sure that they keep all relevant documentation for financial and narrative reporting.

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Please refer to application guidelines and criteria, section 3.1.7. Reporting and final payment (the PDF document is available after the text of the [call for proposals](#)).

| List of proofs (examples) | |
|--|--|
| Proof of travel from the place of origin to the destination city and return (economy class only) | Boarding passes, train tickets, passport stamps, bus tickets, ferry tickets, etc. |
| Proof of daily expenses (cost of stay) | Proof of the number of days spent abroad (hotel bookings, Airbnb, etc.); Transport tickets can also be a proof if they clearly indicate the dates. |
| Proof of other costs (registration, visa, travel insurance) | Invoices, proof of payment (bank statements; for cash payment - cash receipts) |

11. Which document can be used as evidence of my professional relationship with a Western Balkan PSM?

In order to prove your professional relationship with a Western Balkan PSM, you can submit one of the following documents:

- scanned version of your signed work/freelance contract (please do not disclose the information on your salary),
- a certificate/statement from a Western Balkan PSM that confirms your professional relationship (issued for example by a legal or human resources department).

Evidence of professional relationship with a Western Balkan PSM does not have to be provided in English.

12. Is it possible to have job shadowing at two public media broadcasters during one mobility project/stay?

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Media professionals can apply to do job shadowing at two different public service media outlets in destinations specified in the Application guidelines and criteria. Also, applicants (media professionals) can apply for a job shadowing at one media outlet in one destination and a master class/training/conference located in a different destination.

If an applicant decides to do his/her mobility in two destinations, this information has to be specified in the application form (Section “Mobility description”) and expenses for both locations have to be specified and planned in the Excel sheet budget template.

13. Since the minimum duration of mobility is seven calendar days, does that include travel days?

Yes, it means if you apply for 7 days, it includes 2 days of travelling and 5 days of job shadowing or training, conference, etc.

14. Can applicants apply only for capacity building activities such as trainings/master classes/conferences, etc. if public service media broadcasters do not reply to applicant’s request for job shadowing?

Yes, applicants can apply only for different capacity building activities instead of job shadowing. Applicants should search for capacity building activities that correspond to their desired mobility topics. Please find some of the suggested capacity building activities that applicants can apply for:

List of potential events for grantees:

- Feb 2025: Zagreb, Croatia
Euro Festival of Journalism and Media Literacy
<https://voicesfestival.eu/>
- 12 – 13 March, Cologne, Germany European Broadcast Summit 2025
<https://www.thedpp.com/events/european-broadcaster-summit-2025/>
- April 2025: Perugia, Italy Intl. Journalism Festival
<https://www.journalismfestival.com/>
- May 2025, Mechelen, Belgium Dataharvest: The European Investigative Journalism Conference
<https://dataharvest.eu/2024/07/18/save-the-date-for-dataharvest-2025/>

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

- October, 2025: Bologna, Italy News Summit: Fighting Climate Misinformation <https://ejc.net/events/news-impact-summit-fighting-climate-misinformation/register>
- EBU Events (**Note: Please check eligible events for this grant**) [Courses and programmes | EBU Academy](#)
- Centre for Media Pluralism and Freedom (different events and trainings) [News - Centre for Media Pluralism and Freedom \(eui.eu\)](#)
- Deutsche Journalistenschule (DJS) <https://djs-online.de/en/about-us/>
- 23-25 October 2024 | Munich, Germany Medientage München; [Startseite - Medientage](#)
- 10 – 11 November 2024, Tirana - Albania Western Balkans Media Conference [wb-mediaconference – Tirana, 10-11 November 2022](#)
- European Centre for Press and Media Freedom ECPMF
The Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe (CASE) and the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF) together with the Council of Europe are co-organising the second European Anti-SLAPP Conference, to be held on 14 November 2024 in the premises of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. <https://anti-slapp-con.ecpmf.eu/>

Additionally, we are kindly advising all interested applicants to **reach out to departments for international relations** of their respective public service media broadcasters (PSMs they are working at) for additional support and help in contacting EU public service media broadcasters.

15. What is the last deadline for implementation of mobility activities within the International mobility grants?

The beneficiary who signed the grant contract and received approval of the proposed project idea is required to carry out the project activities stated in the approved project proposal until 30 October 2025 at the latest.

16. Do applicants have to enlist the follow-up activities of mobility projects during project proposal submission or this can be done after the grant is approved and activities implemented?

No, applicants can enlist follow up activities later on after the mobility activities are implemented during the narrative reporting period. In this case, the follow-up activities would be considered an added value to the implemented mobility activities.