

Externally Funded Project department International Affairs Unit

University of Jordan



Europe Aid **European Commission**

Support to Independent Media serving the public interest

With the rise of hyper-nationalism, populism, disinformation and state sponsored propaganda threatening freedom of press and curbing people's access to reliable information globally, professional and principled journalism is more important than ever in order to provide the populations with access to verified and independent information, in order to foster civic mindset and thus ultimately contribute to the democratic aspirations of the societies around the globe.

Independent media actors are facing difficulties specific to the socio-political and economic environment where they operate. In its World Press Freedom Index 2019, Reporters Without Borders notes a deterioration in conditions for media in many countries of the EU Southern Neighbourhood, with increasing persecution of government critics and authoritarian control over news and information. In the most restrictive environments, independent media are banned, denied licenses, and/or harassed through denial of premises. They are also exposed to raids on their offices, and to false legal charges against journalists, followed by their arrest. Attacks and intimidation of journalists are common, often with apparent impunity, and self-censorship is often necessary for these media to survive.

Given the narrow parameters in which they operate, journalists struggle to put up a credible defence against disinformation campaigns. Faced with staid or editorially compromised content that fails to reflect their interests or concerns, young people have gravitated towards social media where they seek out like-minded peers and look for validation of their views. However, the unfettered nature of the social media space leaves them vulnerable to agenda-driven narratives propagated by state and non-state actors.





CALL OBJECTIVES

The global objective of this call for proposals is: To support pluralism, independence and resilience of independent media, which act in the public interest as bulwark against authoritarianism, hate speech and dis-information

The **specific objective** of this call for proposals is: To strengthen the independence of independent media and journalists serving the public



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Independent and verified information and high quality content (reliable, fact-based, fact-checked, timely and gender responsive) is produced and shared within/out of the region of the Southern Neighbourhood reaching relevant audience (including underserved populations, e.g. language minorities, etc.).
- 2. Independent media outlets have improved the viability of their business by exploring, developing and implementing new business models, and new revenue generator models. Particularly, independent media professionals and outlets serving the public interest, including a specific segment of population that would not have access to independent and verified information otherwise continue their service with improved resilience and viability.
- 3. Strengthening of existing (and creation of new if absolutely necessary) channels, platforms, networks and communities of practice, as well as of coalitions, alliances and global partnerships for knowledge transfer, experience and good practice sharing, promotion of innovative and creative approaches and solutions, as well as for opportunities to develop business collaboration and/or content co-production, among independent media actors, both women

please note:



Concept note application deadline: 08/12/2020

for more information please:
 view call site

further questions can be sent to
ear-eni-south-tenders@ec.europa.eu
 21 days before deadline
 or contact externally funded projects department on e-mail
 efp@ju.edu.jo
 or phone +9625355000 ext.
 21060/21056

Eligible Actions

Sectors or themes

- Media sector
- Journalism
- Quality content production
- Media development
- Media business, marketing and advertising
- Audience research
- Training, coaching, mentoring
- Networking, coalition building
- Core funding
- Production funding
- Subgranting or third party financing

Location

Actions must take place in at least eight of the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine , Syria and Tunisia. Actions may take place in EU countries, where relevant.

Types of action

- Funding schemes to improve the financial viability of independent media, paired with
- Enhanced capacity building (in person and online) of independent media outlets, journalists and professionals in terms of business viability, and
- Enhanced capacity building aiming to improve the quality and relevance of the content produced.
- Additional capacity building depending on the needs (protection and safety of journalists, legal assistance, security including cyber-security, social rights, gender equality, operating a new software/apps/equipment, data protection, copyright, etc.)
- Networking opportunities both in person and online for with peer-to-peer learning, exchanges, best practices, as well as options to establish or further creative coalition and alliance co-operation and collaboration (e.g. on content co-production or joint income generator