



Kingdom of the Netherlands

HR HELSINKI FOUNDATION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SMALL GRANTS FUND FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDEPENDENT BELARUSIAN MEDIA

The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (hereinafter - HFHR) announces the opening of the **Independent Belarusian Media Support Programme** (hereinafter - IBMSP), the main goal of which is to promote sustainable development of small Belarusian media working in exile.

The competition is funded by a programme of the Human Rights Fund of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Who is eligible for funding?

IBMSP is intended for independent representatives of small* Belarusian media and media projects that operate in exile and whose activities are aimed at the audience in Belarus and have a positive impact on the development of civic values.

The competition is open to independent Belarusian media having the legal status of a foundation or a firm (registration in KRS - Krajowy Rejestr Sądowy or its analogues in other EU countries) or registration of entrepreneurial activity, in which case registration in the relevant register (CEIDG or its analogues in other EU countries) is required. In case of consortia**, at least one entity forming part of the consortium must have this status.

* Small media are defined as editorial boards with no more than 10 members.

**A consortium is a project that brings together several publications and media projects under a Memorandum of Understanding.

What projects is funding for?

Projects, regardless of the type of activity, should have a long-term goal - to **contribute to the sustainable development of Belarusian independent journalism in exile** and demonstrate high monetisation potential (quality financial sustainability plans - business plans), strategic development plans and innovative ideas that promote sustainable growth and cooperation within consortia.

Projects should be consistent with the principles of non-discrimination, human rights values and democratisation, including gender balance, women's leadership and addressing the needs of marginalised groups.



Under IBMSP, journalists can receive funding for projects on topics such as:

1. Development and implementation of media projects, including:
 - i. *Purchase of hardware and software to implement projects and improve their quality,*
 - ii. *Payment of travel expenses related to the implementation of media projects,*
 - iii. *Increased audience reach, information dissemination and influence in promoting democratic values, anti-war and human rights agenda.*
2. Institutional support, including:
 - i. *Administrative Costs,*
 - ii. *Developing a strategy for sustainable project development,*
 - iii. *Creating a business plan for an editorial board or consortium that promotes sustainability,*
 - iv. *Innovative ideas for media growth and co-operation,*
 - v. *Increase media's financial stability and long-term viability,*
 - vi. *Effective project management,*
 - vii. *Strengthening the visibility and self-presentation of Belarusian media in accordance with the Polish and European systems.*
3. Fostering co-operation and consortia, including:
 - i. *Formation of partnerships and consortia, including partnerships with human rights organisations, media in Poland, etc,*
 - ii. *Increased audience reach, information dissemination and influence in promoting democratic values, anti-war and human rights agenda.*
4. And other topics within the overall goal of IBMSP.

All project expenditures will be scrutinised to ensure that they are in line with the main objectives of the competition, namely the sustainable development of independent Belarusian media.

The list of topics is not exhaustive: IBMSP can also support other initiatives aimed at ensuring the development and sustainability of small independent Belarusian media in exile.



Main criteria for granting funding

The following criteria will be considered when deciding whether to provide funding:

- the extent to which the application is in line with IBMSP's main objective, which is the sustainable development of small independent Belarusian media in exile, in particular to address the challenges and fragmentation they face while working in exile,
- the importance of the proposed idea and the quality of the preparation of the project proposal,
- the compliance of projects with the principles of non-discrimination and human rights values,
- the extent to which the described idea contributes to building a sustainable connection with the audience, primarily in Belarus,
- the consistency of the budget with the idea described in the project proposal,
- budget feasibility.

How is the decision regarding funding made?

Following the call for proposals, interested grantees will be invited to an information meeting to be held:

- Developing a proposal that meets the needs of beneficiaries and is in line with IBMSP objectives.
- Creating well-structured and coherent project proposals.
- Effective project budgeting.

During the information workshop, time will be set aside for *pitching*, during which grantees will be able to identify potential partners for their projects and initiate co-operation within the consortium.

The funding will be decided by a specially created Commission.

Once those interested have sent their application to the email address given in the next part of the document, the further procedure will be as follows:

In the first stage: grant applications will be selected to a short-list of applications that have been best evaluated by the Commission (short-list).

In the second stage: interviews will be conducted with shortlisted candidates in the form of a *pitching event* (short online presentation of projects to the selection committee).



How to apply?

To apply, we ask you to fill in and send to hrhub@hfhr.pl two documents: a project proposal and a budget (they are in the annex). Applications are accepted in English and Russian.

Applications for participation in the tender with the attached budget must be sent no later than 16:00 hours Warsaw time on 28 October 2024. The project proposal may not be more than 10 pages in length (Font 12, Times New Roman, spacing 1.5).

The project budget should be drawn up in Polish zloty, according to the attached template. The total planned project costs should not exceed **43,000 PLN for single editorial boards and 64,000 PLN for consortia.**

The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights will organise an online information meeting on the conditions for participation in the competition on **11 October at 2 pm**. In the second part of this meeting there will be an opportunity to present projects to potential partners with the aim of creating a consortium (online pitching). Registration for the above-mentioned online meeting is available at the following link: <https://forms.gle/5cWK11fchJFnvcZE8>.

Presentations in the form of pitching before the selection committee of shortlisted projects will take place **on 20 November 2024**. The announcement of the competition results and signing of grant agreements will take place **by the end of November 2024**.

- The project implementation period should **not exceed 5 months (from 1 December 2024 to 30 April 2025)**. **The project implementation report, narrative and financial reports should be submitted to the grantor by 15 May 2025.**
- During project implementation, the grantee will be obliged to submit a progress report 2.5 months after receiving the grant (for the period from 1 December 2024 to 15 February 2025. The report will have to be submitted by 28 February 2025).

Data administrator

The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights is the administrator of your data. By submitting your grant application you give the HFHR the right to administer your data.

We guarantee the security of your data, your data will not be passed on to third parties and/or organisations without notice. You have the right to request the deletion of the information transmitted to us at any time, for this purpose you can write to hrhub@hfhr.pl to request the deletion of your data.

If your data is destroyed at your request before the competition results are announced, we will not be able to consider your application and will not be able to award grant funds. If you sign a grant agreement, your personal data (including your application) will be stored by the Foundation for five years, with no possibility of deletion on request.