



Display Europe

DEMOCRACY
RUNS
ON SCREENS

*CALL FOR
PROPOSALS*

September 2023 — May 2024

We invite you to apply for a grant to produce journalistic content with European relevance, which will be made accessible through the new platform displ.eu. We want to support both local media organisations that are interested in expanding and connecting their work to a European level, as well as outlets that have a proven journalistic record in serving a pan-European audience.

**European
Cultural
Foundation**

Cofunded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union



DEMOCRACY *RUNS* ON SCREENS

Democracies can only function properly if they are underpinned by a public sphere. Europe needs spaces where all its inhabitants – regardless of their economic, social, cultural or national backgrounds – can connect, share ideas, debate opinions, practice culture and find reliable information to hold the powerful to account. Public sphere is necessary as it secures proximity that enables connection, reflection and engagement. This opportunity, of coming together, therefore, engaging with the public space reinstates the self as such, but also in relation with the others, simultaneously. Media outlets and digital infrastructures that are based on shared public values are vital elements for such an inclusive space. In this manner, displ.eu anchors itself as a space for the suggested congregationalism. It creates and maintains a space for stories that stem from a site specific ground, such as locality or region, but create content that reaches over, bridges, and connects.

The architects of “Display Europe – Democracy runs on Screens” believe in a European media, grounded in public values and inclusivity. We need a shared European media that reflects the reality of lives shared within a European public space and that takes care of articulating issues which shape and mark these lives, regardless of the countries they inhabit. Most media in Europe look at the world through a national lens, which means Europeans have very few opportunities to see the Europeanness of issues affecting their lives. Focused national lenses imply exclusivity and biased approach to shared values, leaving the citizens less aware of injustices, common causes and of the multitudes of culture they share.

The stories that displ.eu seeks through its Grant Call need to be ambitious as they push for, through their content, the potential for cultural cross-referenced articulation and understanding. As such, the Call aims to bring in journalistic storytelling that over-arches the strictly national cultural tonality and induces the wider understanding of European identity. Holding onto the public values, the platform aspires to harbour growth, care, curiosity, knowledge, and connection.

The great digital transformations of the last 20 years have cast us all as players in a media landscape that has been enclosed and organised by the big technology companies. No democratic discourse can take place under these conditions. We have rights to our digital citizenship and to the way we use our attention, for stories that empower and promote growth instead of those that counter dialogue and entail exclusivity.

We need an inclusive media, because if the media is not created by people from different backgrounds, it will be less likely to reflect their experiences. Although the digital age has made it easier for anyone to open an account and gather an audience, the media's newsrooms, editorial positions and boards are still drawn from a very narrow demographic. If we are serious about developing a media that supports democracy, special attention should be given to groups that are excluded. Therefore, we need media based on public values, because citizens are different to users, account holders, subscribers and viewers – they act with others in mind, and they have rights.

DISPL.EU

Displ.eu will be a ground-breaking media platform anchored in public values, built by independent, not-for-profit media organisations from across Europe. The platform will provide citizens across the continent with access both to trustworthy information and to a picture of Europe that is not usually conveyed by mainstream or national media organisations. Through translation, syndication and originally-created-content we will gather and disseminate trustworthy community-driven media from Cape Roca to the Ural watershed. Built from a sovereign, self-governed, open-source digital infrastructure, displ.eu will break-free from the Big Tech social media and streaming platforms that currently filter and frame media production across Europe. In this more democratic display of Europe, we will be a force for democracy across the continent.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR

This call supports media platforms to produce high quality journalistic content in all possible formats. This can include both local stories made relevant in for a European audience, as well as content that already has a European scope.

We need the European media sharing on European relevance issues such as culture, diversity and inclusion, digital public sphere, climate and environment, geopolitics in terms of safety and security, economy and livelihood, as well as the future of democracy. If you detect any other theme or aspect that has been overlooked here but that you detect as a part of the unexplored European media-scape, we encourage you to state it in your application.

The grantees will be strongly encouraged and will receive the technical and financial support to make their content available for the search, recommendation and translation functions of displ.eu. The call is open to formal and informal organisations and supports initiatives that produce tangible results as well as have the potential of a sustainable impact.

WHAT DO WE OFFER

Selected proposals will receive a grant up to a maximum of **€12.000** per project. Please note that there is a limited availability of the awarded grants: i.e. seven projects in total may be funded with the maximum grant amount. With a project term of up to six months, grants can be used for financing a wide range of activities. Although co-funding is not a prerequisite for funding, a balanced budget with diversified resources can significantly improve the project's feasibility. Grants can cover production-, rental costs, online co-working and communication tools. They can also be used to cover expert fees, staff- and operational costs. Additionally to the grant scheme, Display Europe has been set up by a consortium of independent media organisations who want to collaborate on a European level. Applying for this call is an opportunity to become part of that family as we intent to expand our and your network with like-minded outlets from across the continent.

OVERALL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

> Applications must be submitted in English through the official application form. Including additional video material in the application is optional. If submitting additional video material please limit the suggested to an MP4 format that may not exceed 1 minute length, and preferably but not mandatorily with English subtitles.

- > Organizations that apply for the grant must be represented by a person older than 18 years of age.
- > The call is open to formal and informal media organisations who already operate in the media or digital sector or any other professional fields and sectors of society.
- > We are open for different formats of journalistic work; audio/video, text and other multi-media outlet options.
- > Applicants can be based anywhere in the world, but their proposal must contribute to criteria related to European relevance of the call;
- > We do not accept proposals submitted by political parties. Our work is strictly non-partisan.

HOW DOES IT WORK







You are invited to fill in a short application form, providing background about your organisation and explaining what type of content you plan to produce, and the projects' timeline. You are also requested to submit a budget specifying how you plan to use the grant.

Proposals will be evaluated by an independent jury of seasoned journalists and journalism experts. They will assess the proposals based on the previously noted European relevance issues and according to the following criteria:

- > Themes of pan-European relevance and urgency.
- > Inventiveness and boldness of the stories or ideas.
- > Proven professional experience and quality of methods and tools.
- > Showcased respect for quality and journalistic standards. Displ.eu follows the standards of the Journalism Trust Initiative.
- > Demonstrated record of collaboration with other newsrooms across Europe and declared willingness for continuing the same approach for the Display Europe project.
- > Priority will be given to media organisations based in countries that implore plurality due to the lack of diversity in their national media landscape.
- > Realistic budget and timing.
- > Strong overview of the publication plan and information about the existing audience / expected reach of the media outlet.

The deadline for submitting the expressions of interest is **Wednesday 6 September 2023 at 13:00 CEST**. Selected organisations will be notified within 30 days after the deadline for submission. Also rejected applications will receive a notification.

TIMELINE

-  6 SEPTEMBER 2023 → DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS
-  5 OCTOBER 2023 → RESULTS ANNOUNCED
-  20 OCTOBER → DEADLINE FOR SIGNING GRANT AGREEMENT
-  1 NOVEMBER 2023 → STARTING DATE OF THE PROJECT
-  30 APRIL 2024 → END DATE OF THE PROJECT
-  31 MAY 2024 → DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF FINAL REPORT

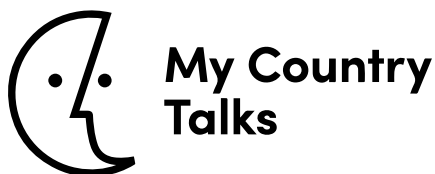
THIS CALL IS MANAGED BY

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