Multimedia actions

The EU's multimedia actions aim to strengthen news reporting on EU affairs from pan-European points of view.

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Through its “multimedia actions”, the EU aims to provide citizens with independent information about European topics beyond local and national angles, thus reinforcing Europe's democratic principles. Media financed under this heading retain full editorial independence, guaranteed by an editorial charter of independence in all grants.

Currently, the following types of actions receive support:

1. the TV channel Euronews
2. coverage of EU affairs through a radio network
3. data-driven news on EU affairs
4. multilingual content across European platforms

The TV channel Euronews

Euronews is an independent news TV channel producing information since 1993. Its offer includes content in 12 languages, out of which 8 official EU languages: English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. Euronews is available in around 400 Million households globally on TV. It registers a monthly average of 25.5 million unique visitors across its digital platforms.

Over the years, the European Commission and Euronews have signed successive Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs). The last FPA was signed in July 2021 with a duration of three years. Partnerships are implemented through specific, annual grant agreements, which are monitored through external audits and evaluations.

The European Commission currently funds the production and broadcast of European programmes, a network of correspondents and several language services (Hungarian, Greek, Portuguese and Arabic). The EU also supports production and broadcast of the Farsi service and thematic TV magazines through other budget lines.

The 2022 Financing Decision on Multimedia Actions allocates €14.6 million to support actions under the existing FPA.
Coverage of EU affairs through a radio network

According to successive Eurobarometers, radio remains the most trusted media in Europe and an important source of content. At the same time, most radio stations operate in one language, making it a challenge to cover cross-border perspectives. In July 2021, the Commission published a call for proposals to support radio content on EU affairs. Following this call, a one-year grant agreement worth EUR 2.2 million was signed with the radio network Euranet Plus, covering 2022.

Under this agreement, each of the radio stations that are part of the Euranet Plus network has to produce and broadcast at least 10 minutes per week. Members produce reports, talk shows and interviews that explain EU affairs to their listeners through multiple viewpoints. Euranet Plus currently gathers 13 radio stations from 13 Member States. These members reach approximately 9 million daily listeners, out of which Euranet Plus expects to reach at least 1.1 million listeners each month. The network has a central office in Brussels to help radio stations in their journalistic work, to exchange best practices and to produce multilingual podcasts.

The 2022 Financing Decision on Multimedia Actions allocates €4.4 million for a new Call for Proposals in 2022, to support a radio network over two years (2023-2024).

Data-driven news on EU affairs

In a time of ever faster news consumption and increasing media convergence, new forms of production (such as data journalism) are gaining ground across different channels. The Commission is supporting the production and distribution of data-driven news on EU affairs across borders. Further to a call for proposals in 2020, the Commission is currently supporting two media consortia. The projects, European Data News Hub and European Data Journalism Network (EDJNet), will run until 2023. The total amount of EU co-financing is €700,000 per project. More information about the projects.

The 2022 Financing Decision on Multimedia Actions allocates €1.4 million for a new Call for Proposals in 2022, to support data-driven news over two years (2023-2024).

Multilingual content across European platforms

Since 2020, the Commission is inviting applicants to come with new ideas to increase the curation, production and circulation of professional news content and non-fictional programming through European open and digital media platforms and production hubs.

In 2021, following an open call for proposals, support worth 1.76 million was granted to a consortium of 16 news agencies, coordinated by the German Press Agency. The partners will establish the 'European Newsroom', a space for correspondents to work and train together in Brussels with a view to producing and disseminating news on EU affairs. The EU co-financing is covering two years (2022-2023).

2022 Financing Decision on Multimedia Actions
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Tackling online disinformation

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