

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

EU SUPPORT TO PUBLIC
SERVICE JOURNALISM
IN WESTERN BALKANS

#EU4MediaMindsWB

Application guidelines for the Third call for the International mobility grants for media professionals affiliated with Western Balkan Public Service Media

**Call for proposals issued in the framework of
Innovation. Media. Minds:
EU Support to Public Service Journalism
in the Western Balkans, a project funded by
the European Union**



Funded by
the European Union



Akademie

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Table of Contents

1. General information	4
1.1. About the Innovation. Media. Minds: EU Support to Public Service Journalism in the Western Balkans	4
1.2. Objectives of the grant scheme	5
1.3. International mobility grants	5
1.4. Duration	6
2. Eligibility criteria	6
2.1. Who can apply?	6
2.2. Eligible area – where can applicants travel?	7
2.3. Eligible and ineligible expenditures and principles of funding	8
2.4. Additional information	12
2.5. Visibility	12
3. How to apply?	13
3.1. Application procedure	13
3.1.1. Filling and submission of applications	14
3.1.2. Submission deadline	14
3.1.3. Additional information	14
3.1.4. Application language	15
3.1.5. What happens once the application is submitted?	15
3.1.6. What happens once the application is approved?	17
3.1.7. Changes of the project proposal after grant approval	18
3.2. Principles applying to this grant scheme	20
4. Timetable and implementation	21
5. Data protection	21
6. Who implements the Innovation. Media. Minds: EU Support to Public Service Journalism in the Western Balkans?	21
6.1. About the Goethe-Institut e.V.	21
6.2. About the DW Akademie	22
7. Contact information	22

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Disclaimer

This document was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Goethe-Institut and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Opening date	31 October 2025
Closing date	05 December 2025, 14:00h CET
Mobility duration	Maximum thirty (30) calendar days
Who can apply?	Available exclusively to both contracted and freelance media professionals affiliated with Western Balkan Public Service Media that signed memorandum of understanding with Goethe-Institut and DW Akademie. ¹
Maximum individual grant amount	5,000 EUR
Specific objective of the grant scheme	To enhance the professional abilities and understanding of PSM media professionals in the Western Balkans regarding contemporary EU journalistic standards and practices.
Goethe Application Portal (GAP) link to online application form	https://portal.gap.goethe.de/cases/94ed32b0-7846-4563-a4d8-92e6b4b4a72f/create

1. General information

The Innovation. Media. Minds: EU Support to Public Service Journalism in the Western Balkans Programme 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.

1.1. About the Innovation. Media. Minds: EU Support to Public Service Journalism in the Western Balkans

Funded by the European Union, the Innovation. Media. Minds Programme is managed by the Goethe-Institut on behalf of the European Commission and in collaboration

¹ The following Western Balkan PSMs signed the MoU with Goethe-Institut and DW Akademie: Macedonian Radio Television, Radio and Television of Kosovo*, Radio Television of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Radio Television of Montenegro, Radio Television of Serbia, Radio Television of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Radio Television of Vojvodina, Radio Television Shqiptar.

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

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

with its implementing partner DW Akademie. 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. The Programme will collaborate with public service media in the Western Balkans to specifically address the following objectives:

- a) improve internal governance and organisational performance of public interest journalism;
- b) enhance the professional capacity of journalists, both women and men equally, in public broadcasters and,
- c) expand the cooperation and partnership between public service media in the Western Balkans.

Specific methodologies and areas of institutional and capacity development required for each PSM will be defined based on an initial needs assessment and audience research from the baseline assessment. Using both financial and technical support, a set of priority areas of intervention and corresponding targets will be created in cooperation with each funded PSM based on the comprehensive research. Until the completion of the Programme, a **total of around EUR 900,000** will be distributed within several grant schemes.

1.2. Objectives of the grant scheme

The grants scheme particularly seeks to:

- improve PSMs' internal governance and organisational performance;
- elevate the level of quality and applicability of the content created;
- increase audience participation and engagement;
- support PSM media professionals in the Western Balkans in advancing their professional abilities and gaining insight, expertise and knowledge about contemporary EU journalism standards and practices.

Please refer to Section - [Timetable and Implementation](#) for more specific details regarding the current call for proposals.

1.3. International mobility grants

Through the International Mobility Grants, media professionals from Western Balkan PSMs will have the chance to participate in a job-shadowing programme with either

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

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 maximum grant amount per recipient is **EUR 5,000**.

Activities covered by these grants may include visits to various institutions, such as advanced public service media broadcasters from the EU and the Western Balkan region, reputable media institutes, media training centres, the OSCE media department, the European Federation of Journalists, etc. Applicants may request support/a list of PSMs and media organisations/institutes that accepted to host beneficiaries of mobility grants within IMM programme. For additional information, please contact IMM programme team (contact person Dajana Celebic, dajana.celebic@goethe.de).

Important notes:

- Only media professionals involved in the process of content/programme production/creation/improvement/development and currently employed by the Western Balkan PSMs (whether on a freelance or regular working contract) are eligible to apply for International mobility grants.
- Only media professionals having formal professional relations with the Western Balkan PSMs that signed memorandum of understanding with Goethe-Institut and DW Akademie are eligible to apply.
- Applications from media professionals without a formal professional relationship with a Western Balkan PSM, will not be reviewed or evaluated.

1.4. Duration

Applicants may apply for international mobility grants for a maximum duration of thirty (30) calendar days. There is no minimum duration of the mobility.

2. Eligibility criteria

2.1. Who can 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

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

production/creation/improvement/development within the Western Balkan PSM;

- Have a formal professional relationship with a Western Balkan PSM (regular work contract or freelance) that signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Goethe-Institut and DW Akademie.
- Media professionals that already received a grant within the 1st or 2nd call are not eligible to apply.

2.2. Eligible area – where can applicants travel?

Albania	Kosovo*
Austria	Latvia
Belgium	Lithuania
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Luxembourg
Bulgaria	Malta
Croatia	Montenegro
Cyprus	Netherlands
Czech Republic	North Macedonia
Denmark	Poland
Estonia	Portugal
Finland	Romania
France	Serbia
Germany	Slovakia
Greece	Slovenia
Hungary	Spain
Ireland	Sweden
Italy	

Table 1: Eligible area within the International mobility grants

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Important note: Obtaining the necessary visa(s), if any, and all other travel documents (passport, travel insurance, necessary medical tests, registration of the grant with the relevant institutions) for the intended mobility is the applicants' sole responsibility. Therefore, it is highly advised that successful applicants take all required action to get a visa or visas from the appropriate authorities well in advance. A letter of confirmation from the Programme may be provided upon request if needed. In order to support the visa request of successful applicants, applicants must notify the Programme team about it (i.e., a letter verifying the source and amount of financial support, destination, and duration of the mobility) at least five working days prior to the submission of the visa application. Requests with short notice might not be accepted.

2.3. Eligible and ineligible expenditures and principles of funding

The expenses required must be indicated by applicants in the budget template available on GAP ([Goethe Application Portal](#)) and [IMM website](#). Details on the food allowance and accommodation expenses (the maximum amounts) that can be covered by the budget, are given in the table below.

No.	Destination	City ²	Food allowance ³	Accommodation expenses ⁴
1.	Albania	Any city	€22,00	€112,00
2.	Austria	Any city	€41,00	€117,00
3.	Belgium	Any city	€49,00	€141,00
4.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Any city	€19,00	€75,00
5.	Bulgaria	Any city	€18,00	€115,00
6.	Croatia	Any city	€38,00	€191,00
7.	Cyprus	Any city	€35,00	€125,00
8.	Czech Republic	Any city	€26,00	€77,00
9.	Denmark	Any city	€62,00	€183,00
10.	Estonia	Any city	€24,00	€85,00
11.	Finland	Any city	€45,00	€171,00
12.	France	Paris Départements 75-Paris, 77-	€48,00	€159,00

² If the name of the city is not indicated ("Any city"), the maximum food allowance and accommodation expenses are the same for all cities in the chosen destination.

³ All amounts are stated in EUR, the maximum amounts per day that can be awarded.

⁴ All amounts are stated in EUR, the maximum amounts per day that can be awarded.

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

		Seine-et-Marne, 78-Yvelines, 91-l'Essonne, 92-Hauts-de-Seine, 93-Seine-Saint-Denis, 94-Val-de-Marne, 95-Val-d'Oise		
		Other cities	€44,00	€105,00
13.	Germany	Aachen	€28,00	€90,00
		Augsburg	€28,00	€94,00
		Berlin	€28,00	€106,00
		Bonn	€28,00	€99,00
		Cologne	€28,00	€95,00
		Dortmund	€28,00	€92,00
		Dresden	€28,00	€85,00
		Dusseldorf	€28,00	€91,00
		Frankfurt	€28,00	€99,00
		Hamburg	€28,00	€95,00
		Hannover	€28,00	€93,00
		Leipzig	€28,00	€90,00
		Limburg	€28,00	€85,00
		Munich	€28,00	€95,00
		Stuttgart	€28,00	€89,00
		Other cities	€28,00	€70,00
14.	Greece	Athens	€33,00	€139,00
		Other cities	€30,00	€150,00
15.	Hungary	Any city	€26,00	€85,00
16.	Ireland	Any city	€48,00	€129,00
17.	Italy	Milano	€35,00	€191,00
		Rome	€40,00	€150,00
		Other cities	€35,00	€150,00
18.	Kosovo*	Any city	€20,00	€71,00
19.	Latvia	Any city	€29,00	€76,00
20.	Lithuania	Any city	€21,00	€109,00
21.	Luxembourg	Any city	€52,00	€139,00
22.	Malta	Any city	€38,00	€114,00

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

23.	Montenegro	Any city	€26,00	€85,00
24.	Netherlands	Any city	€39,00	€122,00
25.	North Macedonia	Any city	€22,00	€89,00
26.	Poland	Warsaw	€33,00	€143,00
		Wroclaw	€28,00	€124,00
		Other cities	€28,00	€124,00
27.	Portugal	Any city	€26,00	€111,00
28.	Romania	Bucharest	€26,00	€92,00
		Other cities	€22,00	€89,00
29.	Serbia	Any city	€22,00	€97,00
30.	Slovakia	Any city	€27,00	€121,00
31.	Slovenia	Any city	€31,00	€126,00
32.	Spain	Barcelona	€28,00	€144,00
		Madrid	€35,00	€131,00
		Other cities	€28,00	€103,00
33.	Sweden	Any city	€55,00	€140,00

Table 2: Food and accommodation expenses

Transportation costs are also eligible costs within this grant scheme, i.e., transportation from the city of residence to chosen destination (airplane tickets (return ticket), economy class only), transportation from airport to accommodation in destination city (train, bus, metro tickets (public transportation); taxi costs will be accepted only in exceptional cases, i.e., if there is no public transportation from airport), local public transportation costs within the destination city (public transportation only). Additionally, other costs such as *travel insurance*, *training fees*, *participation fees for events*, etc. are also eligible within this grant scheme.

Detailed explanation on budgeting of mobility costs will be available in “GAP application form and budget guidelines” document available at the [IMM Programme website](#) and GAP.

Ineligible costs	
Category	Explanation
VAT costs	VAT (value added costs) will not be accepted within this project. Recipients of EU funds in the Western Balkans are exempt from paying VAT.

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Entertainment	Entertainment costs such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gifts. - Alcohol. - Restaurant bills or hospitality costs for personnel not directly participating in the project.
Other travel expenses	Travel of a companion/dependents, translations, preparation of documents for visa, etc.
Double funding	Expenses that are already fully covered by another source, grant, or programme.
Not approved project expenses	Expenses that have not been indicated in the budget and approved, as well as expenses that are not directly related to the proposed and approved project activities by the grant contract.
Other	Foreign currency exchange losses, debts and debt service charges (interest), provisions for losses, debts or potential future liabilities, credit to third parties, benefits in kind, performance-related bonuses that are included in staffing expenses.

Table 3: Ineligible expenses

Can the original budget be modified or adjusted during the implementation stage?

The overall budget cannot be increased after the project application and budget are approved. It may, however, be modified or altered if, for instance, the mobility does not occur as planned, or if the number of days spent in the destination is less than what was specified in the application. The recipient of funds may reorganize the amounts under each "real costs" budget line by up to 10% of the total amount originally specified.

Travel and accommodation costs cannot be increased. Instead, these costs will be decreased if the mobility does not take place as foreseen. Example: If the applicant's mobility was planned for 18 days, but lasted only 15 days, the costs for these three days (cost of stay) will be deducted from the final cost calculation. If the applicant decides to stay longer in the destination, it will be at the applicant's own expense.

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Please note:

Co-funding of the projects from other source(s) is possible, e.g., co-funding of registration fee for the targeted conference, travel costs, costs of stay.

2.4. Additional information

Applicants may only **submit one application**. If an applicant submits several applications for the same grant type within this call, only the last submitted application will be considered.

The Programme team may revise the procedure, the application structure, or the financial support mechanism used for upcoming calls for proposals in response to new regulations or other situations. Every call for proposals has its own set of guidelines that are issued individually. As a result, we strongly advise applicants to carefully consult the guidelines of the relevant call for proposals if they want to apply to future calls for proposals. Any conflict of interest must be avoided at all times.

2.5. Visibility

Beneficiaries of the Innovation. Media. Minds (IMM) Programme grant scheme must clearly acknowledge the European Union's contribution in all publications or in conjunction with activities for which the financial support is used. In this respect, beneficiaries of the grant scheme are required to highlight the name and use the logo of the European Union on all their publications, posters, programme, and other products produced under the financed project.

To do this, beneficiaries must follow the [Communication and Visibility Manual](#) for IMM Programme Beneficiaries. Non-compliance with these requirements can have financial/administrative consequences.

Finally, beneficiaries are also encouraged to post on social media mentioning the EU and the IMM Programme with the hashtag #EU4MediaMindsWB.

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

After the completion of project activities, IMM Programme will publish the following information for each of the IPA⁵ beneficiary part of the Programme:

- Total number of projects funded, and total amount of financial support provided;
- Objectives and main activities of the projects;
- Main results of the projects.

3. How to apply?

3.1. Application procedure

To respond to this call for proposals, applicants must follow these steps:

- Check the thematic compliance of the project (cf. Section 1.3.);
- Secure written confirmations or agreements with international partners, hosting partner(s) and/or institutions involved in the IMM Programme;
- Develop a budget for the project that adheres to the eligibility of the costs and funding principles detailed in section 2.3;
- Fill in and submit the application form and additional documentation before the deadline via **GAP**.

In their application, applicants applying for international mobility grants must clearly demonstrate how proposed project activities/mobility will improve/affect their professional development, career path (creation, training, collaborations, career or job perspectives, networking, etc.). Applicants applying for international mobility grants need to submit the following supporting documents:

- A letter or any other official document or email communication which confirms that a host organisation is ready to host the applicant.
- For conferences, trainings, master classes etc., any document that verifies the event (public announcement, web link, programme).
- CV and/or portfolio of the applicant;
- Any official document (signed) which confirms the applicant has a formal professional relationship with a Western Balkan PSM.

⁵ The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) is the means by which the EU has been supporting reforms in the enlargement region with financial and technical assistance since 2007. For this grant scheme, eligible IPA beneficiaries are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Note: the IMM Programme reserves the right to request the original versions of submitted documents from applicants. Clarifications will only be requested when the information/documents provided is not sufficient to conduct an objective assessment.

3.1.1. Filling and submission of applications

To apply for the Call for Proposals, applicants should:

1. Register in the Goethe Application Portal (GAP) <https://gap-online.goethe.de/en/>,
2. Access the application form for the International mobility grants at the following link: <https://portal.gap.goethe.de/cases/94ed32b0-7846-4563-a4d8-92e6b4b4a72f/create>
3. Provide information according to the instructions and guiding questions provided in the GAP.

After submitting their online application, applicants *will receive an automatic confirmation of submission (confirmation email)*. In case of technical problems, please contact the IMM Programme team.

3.1.2. Submission deadline

The submission deadline is **05 December 2025, 14:00 CET**. Applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the last day to submit their application.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be evaluated.

3.1.3. Additional information

The Programme team will deliver *joint online informative sessions* after the publication of call for proposals. The informative sessions will cover the following topics:

- Understanding the nature, aims and benefits of funding opportunities within the call for proposals;
- Drafting an international mobility project, including networking, finding hosts/joint projects;
- Developing project proposal and applying.

Additionally, potential applicants *may submit questions by e-mail* (see Section 7 – Contact Information).

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Individual online consultations in the framework of this call for proposals will also be available. Additionally, to ensure that all applicants have needed and relevant information, all questions, and answers (**Q&A section**) as well as other important information will be published on the IMM website and accessible to everyone.

3.1.4. Application language

The application form and all supporting documents (CV/portfolio, agreement with the mobility partner, festival/course programme or letter of invitation from the host organisation (with signature or stamp), budget) must be submitted in English. Documents confirming a professional relationship with a Western Balkan PSM can be submitted in the official local language.

3.1.5. What happens once the application is submitted?

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;
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.

Formal and eligibility assessment

The formal and eligibility assessment will be performed according to the following criteria:

No.	Formal and eligibility criteria
1.	The application has been submitted within the deadline.
2.	The application and supporting documents are submitted in English
3.	The application fulfils the eligibility criteria (applicant, target destination, duration).
4.	The application form is complete, and all required documents are uploaded.

Table 4: Formal and eligibility criteria

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Any application that passes this check will be evaluated further as part of the quality assessment.

Quality assessment

The applications that pass the formal and eligibility assessment will be further evaluated by the selection committee, according to the evaluation sheet below.

The evaluation criteria are divided into four headings: each heading will be given a score between 1 and 5 (1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = excellent).

Assessment scale	Score Scale	Percentage	Interpretation
	1	0 - 20	Very poor
	2	21 - 40	Poor
	3	41 - 60	Moderate
	4	61 - 80	Good
	5	81 - 100	Excellent

Table 5: Assessment scale

Evaluation sheet

Criteria	Maximum no. of points
<i>Plan of activities/plausibility and feasibility</i> How clear and realistic is the suggested mobility programme? How clear and realistic is the suggested project timeline? Is the proposed budget accurate, plausible, and feasible?	35
<i>Results</i> How clear is the purpose of the mobility and the expected results?	25

<i>Sustainability</i> How realistic are the applicant's plans to use the experience gained/results produced after the end of the mobility project?	25
<i>Motivation</i> How clear is the personal and professional motivation of the applicant? How clear is the personal motivation of the applicant to share the experience gained after the end of the mobility project?	15
Maximum total:	100

Table 6: Evaluation sheet

The score attributed to each application will correspond to the average of the scores attributed by each independent expert who is part of the selection committee.

If the scores attributed to an application by each expert differ by more than 20 points, the application will be assessed a third time. In this case, the score of the application will correspond to the average of the two closest scores.

Final selection

The final selection of projects will be based on the scores obtained in the evaluation, but geographical balance, inclusion, and gender balance will also be considered.

The applicants will be informed of the results of the assessment via GAP.

3.1.6. What happens once the application is approved?

Signing of the grant contract

If the applicant is selected for funding:

- The budget will be reviewed, and the approved funding amount will be confirmed.
- The applicant will receive the draft of the grant agreement to be completed with relevant information, signed, and returned to Goethe-Institut.
- After the grant agreement has been signed by both parties (the applicant and Goethe-Institut), the applicant becomes a beneficiary of the Programme's grant

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

scheme. Beneficiaries who applied for international mobility grants will receive 85% of the approved funding amount after signing the grant agreement. The second instalment will be paid upon completion of all mobility activities and approval of the financial and narrative reports.

- The applicant can begin implementing the project activities. The applicants who need visa for the destination and need to undergo other administrative procedures, are highly advised to start their mobility projects at least two months after receiving the official notification/confirmation from the Programme team.

3.1.7. Changes of the project proposal after grant approval

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 31 May 2026 at the latest**.

Mobility should commence from the location specified in the application form and return to the same place. Changes to the already approved project proposal or activities can only be considered in justified cases and must be discussed in advance with the Programme team. Otherwise, costs for project activities such as mobility starting from a different place than stated in the initial application form, cannot be accepted, or will be recalculated and deducted from the final calculation.

Changing the destination or the duration of mobility will not be permitted. If the beneficiary is unable to travel to the initial destination or stay for the requested number of days, they must inform the Programme team well in advance. Failure to do so may be considered withdrawal from the Programme. If the beneficiary decides to extend their stay in the destination, it will be at their own expense, but they must inform Programme team of these changes.

The beneficiary may request a change in the timing of the mobility (i.e. when to start the mobility project) but must inform the Programme Team of the new indicative dates. In such cases, the beneficiary must provide an official reason and circumstances explaining why the planned mobility cannot be implemented. After official approval by the Programme team, the beneficiary can start the mobility within the updated period. Before accepting the changes, the beneficiary should provide the Programme team with an updated invitation letter from the host organisation with the updated mobility dates.

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

Reporting and final payment

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.

The report consists of two parts:

1) Narrative report:

- Description of the activities implemented and results achieved;
- Attachments: A short video about the mobility or a short article about the mobility activities with a minimum of 3 photos, social media posts demonstrating some activities during the project.

2) Financial report:

All costs must be supported by proof of payment (bank statements; for cash payment – cash receipts). The financial report should include the minimum following supporting documents:

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, bus, ferry, train tickets, etc.
Proof of daily expenses (cost of stay)	Proof of the number of days spent abroad (hotel bookings, Airbnb, etc.); Local transport tickets can also be proof if they clearly indicate the dates.
Proof of other costs (registration, visa, travel insurance, training fees)	Invoices, fiscal bills, correspondences, etc.

Table 7: List of supporting documents for financial report (examples)

Important note: Expenses not made/paid in EUR but in the local currency, must be converted to EUR using the exchange rate provided by the Goethe-Institut after transferring the funds to the beneficiary's account.

3.2. Principles applying to this grant scheme

Non retroactivity

Beneficiaries may begin implementing their project only after their grant agreement is signed. Costs incurred before the signature of the grant agreement will not be eligible.

Non-cumulative award

Programme will not cover costs that are otherwise covered, for example by other grant schemes. To avoid the risk of double funding, the applicant must indicate in the relevant section of the application form, the sources and the amounts of any other funding received or applied for in the year.

Multiple submissions

In case several applications from the same applicant have been submitted, the Programme will assess the last submitted application. Applications with identical or similar content submitted by different applicants will be subject to a special assessment and may be rejected, due to suspicion of fraud.

No-Profit

Mobility projects supported by the European Union must not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the project implemented by the beneficiary.

The Goethe-Institut is responsible through the EU Commission for indirect fund management of EU funds in accordance with Article 62 in conjunction with Article 157 of the Financial Regulation (FR)⁶. For this reason, appropriate requirements and processes are applied when awarding EU funds to ensure compliance with EU budgetary law. In this context, the Goethe-Institut observes the principles to which grants are subject.

⁶ The Financial Regulation can be accessed through the following link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202402509.

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

4. Timetable and implementation

The indicative time schedule of the first call for proposals is as follows:

	Date
Launch of the call for proposals	31 October 2025
Deadline for submission	05 December 2025
Earliest possible start of the mobility project	01 February 2026
Latest possible end to the mobility project	31 May 2026

5. Data protection

Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the specifications of the call for applications will be processed solely for that purpose by the Program evaluation team. Details concerning the processing of personal data are available within the Data protection clause within the GAP application form ([Data protection](#)).

For any inquiries related to data protection and processing, please contact our data protection officer by E-mail at datenschutz@goethe.de.

6. Who implements the Innovation. Media. Minds: EU Support to Public Service Journalism in the Western Balkans?

The Innovation. Media. Minds: EU Support to Public Service Journalism in Western Balkans Programme is implemented on behalf of the European Commission by the Goethe-Institut, in collaboration with its implementing partner DW Akademie.

6.1. About the Goethe-Institut e.V.

As the cultural arm of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Goethe-Institut runs 151 institutes in more than 98 countries. The Goethe-Institut has 70 years of experience in supporting international cultural relations, strengthening education, creating

INNOVATION. MEDIA. MINDS.

educational exchanges, fostering creativity, and reinforcing vital civil societies. We convey information about cultural, social, and political life in Germany, and promote German-language teaching and learning. Furthermore, the Goethe-Institut has a long-standing presence and is a recognized and trusted Institution in the Western Balkans with offices in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia. The regional center for the Western Balkans is the Goethe-Institut Athens. There are additional Goethe-Centers in Albania and Kosovo*, opened in 2005 and 2013 respectively. While these are legally and administratively independent entities, they receive funding support from the Goethe-Institut for their core programmatic activities.

6.2. About the DW Akademie

DW Akademie is Deutsche Welle's center for international media development, journalism training and knowledge transfer. Our projects strengthen the human right to freedom of expression and unhindered access to information. DW Akademie empowers people worldwide to make independent decisions based on reliable facts and constructive dialogue. DW Akademie is a strategic partner of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. We also receive funding from the Federal Foreign Office and the European Union and are active in more than 70 developing countries and emerging economies.

7. Contact information

If you experience technical difficulties during the submission process, please contact IMM Programme team. If you need language support, the Programme team will invest additional effort to provide assistance in applicant's native language.

IMM Programme contact person: Dajana Celebic, dajana.celebic@goethe.de