

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

“TIMON Support for Individual Journalists and Content Creators”

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Publication Date: 22.05.2024

1.0 Summary Data

1.1 Funder (Prime Funder): Internews

1.2 Funder Project Name: Trusted Independent Media for Objective News (TIMON)

1.3 Announcement Type: Fellowship

1.4 RFA Number: RFA-TIMON-3

1.5 CFDA Number: 19.345

1.6 Application Submission Deadline: 06.10.2024, 19:00, Vilnius time

2.0 Program Overview

2.1 Project Goal:

The goal of Internews’ activities in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania is to build the capacity of quality media serving Russian and Polish speakers in the Baltics. Internews’ activities are funded by an award from the US Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Affairs (DRL).

2.2 Project Description:

Internews is implementing the “Trusted Independent Media for Objective News (TIMON)” project in the Baltic Countries, namely Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Internews will support Russian and Polish-language individual journalists and content creators in the Baltics through training, fellowships, and mentorship. TIMON will organize regional networking event for these journalists and other stakeholders, support joint projects between minority and national language media outlets, and local initiatives by minority language media to strengthen community members’ trust in local media.

2.3 Scope of Activities:

Internews is seeking to select Russian- and Polish-speaking individual journalists and content creators who serve youth and other vulnerable audiences (see below) and/or those living in communities where another quality local Russian/Polish-language news option does not exist. These content creators may themselves be youth or members of vulnerable communities and already producing some kind of content that serves their peers. Internews’ goal is to help them increase their reach and prominence among their target audience and develop better quality content products that genuinely serve their audiences’ needs and amplify their voices among the broader community. Internews strives to include representatives of groups whose experiences and perspectives are underrepresented in mainstream media content, including women, LGBTQ individuals, people with disabilities, etc.

Internews will provide winning applicants with mentorship on content production, distribution, and promotion as well as fellowships to support their development. The associated fellowship can cover a variety of costs (remuneration for work and services, purchase of low price equipment, travel costs, subscriptions to online services, social media promotion costs, etc.) but should be tied to the project goals. The winning applicants may also be linked with media outlets for potential collaborations and connected with relevant local civic groups who may be able to offer them additional resources, advice, opportunities, etc.

3.0 Support Information

3.1 Funding Amount:

Under this RFA, Internews anticipates awarding up to six (6) fellowships, up to \$5,000 each.

3.2 Support Duration:

Internews anticipates fellowships awarded under this RFA to have a performance period of up to 6 months.

3.3 Eligibility Information:

Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be considered eligible for a support resulting from this RFA:

1. Be a local independent journalist or content creator.
2. Adhere to ethical principles of content creation and sharing, not use hate speech, strive to provide factual information.
3. Have one or more distribution channels including social media accounts, accounts on video/audio services like YouTube, website, or others.
4. Not be listed with active exclusions on the UN Security Designation List, Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List, System for Award Management (SAM), or Internews List of Debarred Subrecipients
5. Have a primary target audience of Russian- or Polish-speakers settled in the Baltic states.

3.4 Evaluation Criteria:

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a technical committee on a range of selection criteria. Each application will receive a score, with a maximum potential score of 30 points. Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Clarity of proposed project: 10 points
2. Ability to achieve objectives: 10 points
3. The uniqueness and importance of the proposed project for the media landscape in the region: 5 points
4. Serving needs of youth and other vulnerable audiences and/or those living in communities where another quality local Russian/Polish-language news option does not exist – 5 points

Fellowships shall be made to the respondents whose applications are most responsive to the RFA.

3.5 Additional Considerations:**3.5.4 Reporting**

Fellowships awarded as a result of this RFA will include programmatic reporting requirements. Narrative reports will be submitted, per Internews' judgement, on a quarterly basis.

3.5.5 Any Other Considerations**4.0 Application Information****4.1 Application Content Requirements:**

Application(s) must meet the following requirements:

1. Include a page which bears title and full contact information of the respondent, including email address and phone number.
2. Include a completed Application Template, Attachment 2 hereto.

4.2 Application Submission Requirements:

Applications must be submitted by email to LT-Call@internews.org.

Individual messages may not exceed 5MB. The subject line must include the words "Response to RFA "TIMON Support for Individual Journalists and Content Creators". The documents constituting the application must be included as attachments. The email must list and describe the documents to be included as parts of the application. If more than one message is required to transmit the application, each message must be identified as part of a multi-part submission. (E.g. "message 1 of 3")

Any portion of the application containing confidential or proprietary information should be clearly marked within the application itself either by highlighting or italics. The email must describe specifically how these sections are identified.

5.0 Award Notification and Responses:

All applications submitted will be acknowledged within two (2) days and will note the documents submitted. The respondent is responsible for ensuring and confirming that the emails comprising the application are received by Internews.

Successful respondent(s) will be notified of selection within ten (10) working days following the deadline for submission of applications.

The successful respondent(s) must confirm the application and acceptance of the selection within five (5) working days of selection notification or the selection will be withdrawn due to non-responsive respondent and offered to the next most qualified respondent.

Once selection is finalized, unsuccessful applicants will be notified that an award has been made.

NOTICE OF SELECTION OF THE APPLICATION IS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS A SUPPORT CONTRACT. Once the selection is confirmed, a final agreement will be negotiated and signed with the successful respondent, subject to environmental clearances, and successful vetting of eligibility.

6.0 Inquiries:

All questions regarding this RFA should be directed via email to LT-Call@internews.org.

7.0 Attachments:

1. Application Template

End of RFA