



**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**



[journalismfund.eu](https://journalismfund.eu)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>MISSION</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| · Our mission and vision  | 3         |
| · Our origins   | 3         |
| · The journalism we stand for   | 3         |
| · Our values  | 4         |
| <b>OBJECTIVE I –<br/>PROMOTING INVESTIGATIVE INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM IN EUROPE</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| · Impact  | 5         |
| · Publications with impact  | 6         |
| · Increasing applications for support   | 8         |
| · European cross-border grants (ecbg) – project   | 12        |
| · The pascal decroos fund grant programme   | 21        |
| · Extra call: emergency fund for local journalism   | 48        |
| · Grants for young journalists: stamp media grants  | 49        |
| · Flemish journalism fund   | 49        |
| · Money trail project   | 50        |
| · Journalismfund.Eu local   | 68        |
| · The modern slavery unveiled project   | 69        |
| · Mentoring programme (under ecb grants and tmt grants)   | 69        |
| · Advising and coordinating investigative teams   | 72        |
| · Awards  | 72        |
| · International investigative journalism – training   | 74        |
| <b>OBJECTIVE II –<br/>FACILITATING NETWORKS OF JOURNALISTS IN EUROPE</b>  | <b>75</b> |
| · Grantees at conferences   | 75        |
| · Lectures / external representation  | 75        |
| · Media cafes   | 76        |
| · Difference day  | 76        |
| · Debates   | 76        |
| · Exhibition  | 76        |
| <b>OBJECTIVE III –<br/>AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION</b>   | <b>78</b> |
| · Communication   | 78        |
| · Structure of the organisation   | 83        |
| · Organisational infrastructure   | 86        |
| · Organisational systems  | 87        |
| <b>FINANCES</b>   | <b>88</b> |
| · Annual Accounts   | 88        |
| <b>ANNEXES</b>  | <b>90</b> |
| · Statutory auditor’s report to the general meeting of members of the non-profit organisation Journalismfund.eu for the year ended 31 december 2020 | 90        |



## MISSION

### OUR MISSION AND VISION

Journalismfund.eu vzw is a Brussels-based independent non-profit organisation incorporated by citizens in 1998. The organisation is dedicated to advancing independent cross-border investigative journalism by connecting donors and journalists in order to promote democracy in Europe. It ultimately serves the public interest, furthers accountability as well as transparency, and contributes to critical thinking and well-informed debate.

This is how we work:

- We facilitate donors so that they can play their role supporting investigative journalism to the maximum extent possible. We therefore report very transparently on our projects.
- We facilitate journalists to conduct investigative and cross-border journalism; moreover, we safeguard their independence from donors.
- We help journalists disseminate their stories among citizens.

### OUR ORIGINS

Journalismfund.eu vzw is a Belgian registered independent non-profit organisation originating from the Pascal Decroos Fund for investigative journalism. The fund was set up in 1998 by family, close friends and colleagues of Pascal Decroos to commemorate and further the legacy of this Belgian journalist.

What we stand for is what Pascal Decroos stood for in word and deed. He was dedicated to investigative journalism. He was committed to creating opportunities to develop young journalistic talent and had an ability to bring people from different sectors of society to engage in dialogue and work together.

### THE JOURNALISM WE STAND FOR

The journalism we support is characterised by the two "i"s: investigative and independent.

- **Investigative journalism** is fact-based, well-researched, uses the best available methods and respects the relevant professional, ethical and legal rules.
- **Independent journalism** is credible because it is editorially independent from political, economic or other types of influence. Journalismfund.eu strives to provide the necessary structures to safeguard such editorial independence.

Journalismfund.eu endorses the principles of the Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists as well as the national codes of ethics that are in force (see <https://www.ifj.org/who/rules-and-policy/global-charter-of-ethics-for-journalists.html>).

## OUR VALUES



**Independent.** We operate independently from any political or economic influences, donors or other interests. We respect the editorial independence of the journalists we work with. Our key innovation was the setup of an independent, anonymous jury to assess applications and allocate funds for journalists.



**Transparent.** Our board, staff members, partners and the general public know what we stand for, and how we operate and make decisions. We ask those we work with to be equally transparent. We are aware that transparency in the context of investigative journalism can expose people to risk and are therefore mindful of our requirements.



**Collaborative.** Collaboration empowers. It amplifies the impacts of journalists and journalism. Our willingness and ability to collaborate with key stakeholders in our field strengthens our strategies. Collaboration within and between our organisational structures strengthens our operations.



**Responsive.** We act on the needs and interests of journalists and donors. We adapt to changing external and internal opportunities and threats. We walk our talk.



**Innovative.** We propagate new journalistic methods and skills. We encourage creative thinking and are willing to try new approaches.

## OBJECTIVE I – PROMOTING INVESTIGATIVE INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM IN EUROPE

### IMPACT

The first step in raising awareness of human rights violations, climate change, organised crime and large-scale fraud is investigating them. Public opinion **must have access to information**, which is an essential condition for a critical democratic debate. And that's exactly what journalists do: they search, dig and examine. They discover, reveal, expose. They tell their stories to readers, listeners and viewers, aid organisations and policy makers, who can then start doing what they each do best to fight those abuses.

Since 1999 Journalismfund.eu has supported journalists in doing this job by giving them the money they need to do their research, by providing networking opportunities, by sharing knowledge and by building their capacities. It's a citizens' initiative that ultimately seeks to see the citizens better informed.

Journalismfund.eu maximally monitors the independence of the investigations it supports and protects journalists from all possible influence by donors. **It functions as an intermediary and a firewall.**

NGOs, governments, and philanthropic organisations that work with Journalismfund.eu therefore share at least two basic principles:

- Change can mainly be achieved by **informing citizens thoroughly and to a high standard**;
- Independent investigative journalism creates **much more impact through its credibility and depth than on-demand journalism**. If you want journalism with maximum impact, the donor is therefore best kept as far away as possible from the journalist. Otherwise there is a danger that the credibility of the journalist will be undermined, resulting in the opposite of what is intended, and weakening instead of strengthening the independent investigative journalist.

The **necessary distance** between the donor and the journalist is what Journalismfund.eu provides. Donors agree that we give the decision about which journalistic investigation we support to external professionals. Only on the day of publication do the donors know which projects the jury members have approved. That is the *raison d'être* and the core identity of Journalismfund.eu – we **facilitate** independent investigative journalism as an intermediary and firewall between donors and journalists.

### Sustainable Development Goals

Journalismfund.eu wants research topics to come primarily from the journalists themselves, and not from the donors. Nevertheless, Journalismfund.eu is open to topics that the United Nations has established as the global Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030 (SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals). There are 17 objectives and 169 underlying targets. A donor who wants to help realise one or more of these objectives can approach Journalismfund.eu. The targets are broad enough (fighting poverty and famine, health, education, gender equality, sustainable management of water and energy, industry, innovation, etc.) so as not to jeopardise the independence of journalistic choices.

### Monitoring impacts

As mentioned, the most important impact of investigative journalism is **that citizens are better informed to make their independent choices**. This impact is not immediately visible and measurable. However, some investigations also lead to more visible forms of impact and change.

To map this out, Journalismfund.eu asks grant recipients to report the impact of their story in these **three areas** six months after publication:

- **Reach:** estimation of the reach of the story, based on the original publication / broadcast, social media, acquisition in other media, etc.;
- **Debate:** articles and mentions in other media; debates; responses from organisations, civil society or politics; presentations at conferences or other forums; journalistic prizes and awards;
- **Accountability:** changes in legislation or policy, layoffs, legal actions.

Finally, the projects that Journalismfund.eu supports have a **fifth important form of impact:** journalists gain valuable experience from them, and they generate cross-border networks and long-term partnerships that develop new journalistic stories in the future.

Like its donors, Journalismfund.eu wants the results of journalistic investigations to have maximum reach and therefore create a greater chance of impact. Journalismfund.eu therefore helps to maximise the reach of publications. To that end, it has a database that it has built up during its more than 20-year existence. Journalismfund.eu not only pushes the stories through existing news platforms, but also helps to alert civil society and other organisations to the newly published studies in their area of interest. This way they can assist not only with the distribution, but also with possible change.

## PUBLICATIONS WITH IMPACT

In 2020 alone, 18 European cross-border investigations were published (in 98 publications) that contributed in a major way to critical thinking and a well-informed debate in Europe. The publications appeared in 23 countries: Albania, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**The following publications that have been realised with the support of Journalismfund.eu have generated a tangible impact:**

### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT THE COMMISSION'S PLANS TO CREATE FACIAL RECOGNITION DATABASES

The *'Facing the Future'* project uncovered the state of facial recognition technology in Europe. MPs in the European Parliament have pressed the Commission for more details on their plans to create facial recognition databases.

At the end of February Euractiv [reported](#) on the impact of a Journalismfund.eu-supported European cross-border investigation to uncover the state of facial recognition technology in Europe. MPs in the European Parliament have pressed the Commission for more details on their plans to create facial recognition databases.

The team of journalists from Germany, Spain and the UK unearthed the stories behind the development and deployment of facial recognition technologies in the EU. Caitlin Chandler, Zachary Campbell and Chris Jones obtained leaked internal EU documents that reveal law enforcement is lobbying to create a network of national police facial recognition databases. More information about the project can be found [here](#).

.....

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION WANTS INVESTIGATION INTO MALTESE-MONTENEGRIN ENERGY DEAL

Thanks to another cross-border investigation '[Funding China's energy at Europe's expense](#)' funded by ECBG, the European Commission reacted on the Montenegro energy deal and expected the Montenegrin authorities to answer to accusations of corruption related to the joint Maltese-Montenegrin wind power project. In mid-July 2020 the Commission said it expected the Mozura wind farm deal in Montenegro to be reviewed by independent and professional institutions in an investigation that may carry implications for those in Malta involved in the project.

## BULGARIAN OPPOSITION REQUESTS AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE PRIME MINISTER

As a consequence of the story 'Is Europe a dangerous place for Turkish dissidents?' Bulgarian political party Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria (DSB) has asked the prosecution to investigate the actions of the Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and former Chief Prosecutor Sotir Tsatsarov for crimes against the Republic.

In September 2020 journalists Dimitar Ganev and Maximilian Popp published their research with secret dispatches revealing the role of the Bulgarian government in persecuting Turkish opposition figures. In this investigation they suggested that the Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and former Chief Prosecutor Sotir Tsatsarov had helped Turkey persecute several opponents of the regime in Ankara, violating international conventions and legal principles. After their publication at [Der Spiegel](#) magazine [Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty's](#) Bulgarian Service also [reported](#) on the impact of the story. Read more at [Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty](#) (in Bulgarian) in general about the project [here](#).

## MANUFACTURER TO STOP PRODUCING PESTICIDE LINKED TO BRAIN DAMAGE

Journalismfund.eu has reported about the great political impact of this story before. Last December the EU banned the insecticides chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl from the market. The two products were supposed to get their market approval renewed in January 2020, but an investigation supported by our European Cross-Border Grant programme decided otherwise.

This year Journalismfund.eu had additional impact to report. In total, this investigation produced more than 16 original stories in more than 6 countries.

A major manufacturer of the insecticide chlorpyrifos, Corteva Inc, will stop making the chemical at the end of the year. A Journalismfund.eu-supported cross-border investigative team of journalists from Poland, Denmark and Slovenia made their own contribution to the story.

Their journalistic research explained the devastating effects of chlorpyrifos for consumers across Europe and found serious health effects in children, including impaired brain development. After this year, farmers will not be allowed to use this agricultural pesticide. Read the full story [here](#).

## SHAREHOLDERS ENI HAVE SOME QUESTIONS

Impact of the Money Trail project 'The Nigerian Cartel': the investigation into Agip raised a number of questions at [the annual shareholders meeting of Eni](#) on 13 May 2020 (see pp. 125-128).

## A BETTING NATION: KENYAN GOVERNMENT BACK-PEDALLED ON TAX CUT FOR BETTING COMPANIES

In July 2020 an investigation 'A betting Nation' had an immediate impact: the Kenyan government back-pedalled on a controversial tax cut less than 48 hours after the president had signed it into law.

The investigation series by journalists Lionel Faull (UK) and Paul Wafula (Kenya) was published in the *Daily Nation*, Kenya's leading independent newspaper. The first leg revealed the true numbers of Kenya's enormous betting addiction, based on leaked figures from the betting regulator. In a follow-up article, the journalists revealed that at the same time the Kenyan government removed a tax for betting companies, a cousin of Kenya's president accumulated a financial stake in betting giant SportPesa. The final leg of the investigation revealed that SportPesa has been sucking profits out of its lucrative Kenyan business by paying millions of pounds to a software company it owns in the UK – an arrangement that has significantly reduced its tax bills.

Read more at the [Daily Nation](#) (Kenya's leading independent newspaper), at [Finance Uncovered](#) and in general about all three legs of this investigation and its impact [here](#). The investigation was supported by Journalismfund.eu's Money Trail Grants Programme.

## ZIMBABWEAN GOVERNMENT BANS RIVERBED AND ALLUVIAL MINING

In their *Mail & Guardian* publication journalists Stephen Tsoroti and Ankita Anand investigated how an estimate of 50% of artisanal and small-scale mined gold in Zimbabwe was lost to smuggling, causing bloody turf wars that have claimed hundreds of lives.

This story had immediate impact. In September 2020 environment groups in Zimbabwe made presentations to the Zimbabwean Cabinet, also using the report from the above investigation. As a result, [the Cabinet has banned of riverbed and alluvial mining](#), and directed holders of mining titles to obtain environmental clearance.

Read more about the project [here](#).

The project was supported by Journalismfund.eu's Money Trail Grants Programme.

[Zimbabwe bans coal mining in Hwange and other game parks](#) – BBC News, 9 September 2020

[Government bans mining in National Parks](#) – ZBC News, 9 September 2020

[Govt pressured to cancel mining in National Parks](#) – Tourism Focus, 9 September 2020

## INCREASING APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORT

### Applications

In 2020 Journalismfund.eu received **285 applications (from 632 applicants)** for 7 grant programmes (including 2 very small ones). The applicants are domiciled in **74 different countries**: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Malawi, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, North Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States, Zambia.

**The average age of the applicants is 34.**



## Grantees

In 2020, we supported 153 projects or 319 grantees (199 male, 120 female). The grantees are domiciled in 48 different countries.

The average age of the applicants is 34, 81% are freelance journalist, 62% male and 38% female. 18% are novices, 82% are experienced (more than 2 years of experience).

| 2020           | FPD(*)     | ECBG         | SM       | LOCAL     | NF         | SFD       | TMT        | TOTAL               |
|----------------|------------|--------------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| <b>APPLIED</b> |            |              |          |           |            |           |            |                     |
| #budget        | 652,358.00 | 1,338,995.09 | 5,820.00 | 52,634.00 | 147,610.00 | 14,580.00 | 600,491.05 | <b>2,812,488.14</b> |
| #applications  | 102        | 92           | 5        | 4         | 27         | 1         | 54         | <b>285</b>          |
| #applicants    | 152        | 281          | 10       | 28        | 37         | 1         | 123        | <b>632</b>          |
| <b>GRANTED</b> |            |              |          |           |            |           |            |                     |
| #budget        | 277,685.00 | 183,238.00   | 4,000.00 | 52,676.00 | 139,357.00 | 4,428.57  | 263,910.00 | <b>925,294.57</b>   |
| #projects      | 58         | 25           | 3        | 4         | 27         | 1         | 35         | <b>153</b>          |
| #grantees      | 87         | 75           | 5        | 28        | 37         | 1         | 86         | <b>319</b>          |
| Av. age        | 37         | 36           | 21       | 35        | 42         | 30        | 38         |                     |

|                          | 2019      | 2020      |   |       |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|-------|
| <b>APPLIED</b>           |           |           |   |       |
| # Budget                 | 3,234,570 | 2,812,488 | ↓ | - 13% |
| # Applications           | 269       | 285       | ↑ | + 6%  |
| # Applicants (+Grantees) | 547       | 632       | ↑ | + 16% |
| <b>GRANTED</b>           |           |           |   |       |
| # Budget                 | 920,651   | 925,294   | ↑ | + 1%  |
| # Projects               | 111       | 153       | ↑ | + 38% |
| # Grantees               | 262       | 319       | ↑ | + 22% |

(\*) FPD = The Pascal Decroos Grants Programme (see below)

ECBG = European Cross-Border Grants Programme (see below)

SM = Stamp Media Grants Programme (see below)

LOCAL = Journalismfund.eu LOCAL Grants Programme (pilot)

NF = Emergency Fund (NoodFonds) Grants Programme (COVID-19 – see below)

FD = Filip De Cock Fund Grant (see below)

TMT = The Money Trail Grants Programme (see below)

### WORK SITUATION / GRANTEES

| 2020         | FPD(*)    | ECBG      | SM       | LOCAL     | NF        | SFD      | TMT       | TOTAL      |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Freelance    | 74        | 66        | 1        | 22        | 34        | 1        | 61        | <b>259</b> |
| Employee     | 12        | 9         | 1        | 6         | 3         | 0        | 23        | <b>54</b>  |
| Student      | 1         | 0         | 3        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | <b>4</b>   |
| Retired      | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | <b>0</b>   |
| Other        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 2         | <b>2</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>87</b> | <b>75</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>319</b> |

## WORK SITUATION GRANTEES IN %

| 2020         | #          | %          |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Freelance    | 259        | 81         |
| Employee     | 54         | 17         |
| Student      | 4          | 1          |
| Retired      | 0          | 0          |
| Other        | 2          | 1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>319</b> | <b>100</b> |

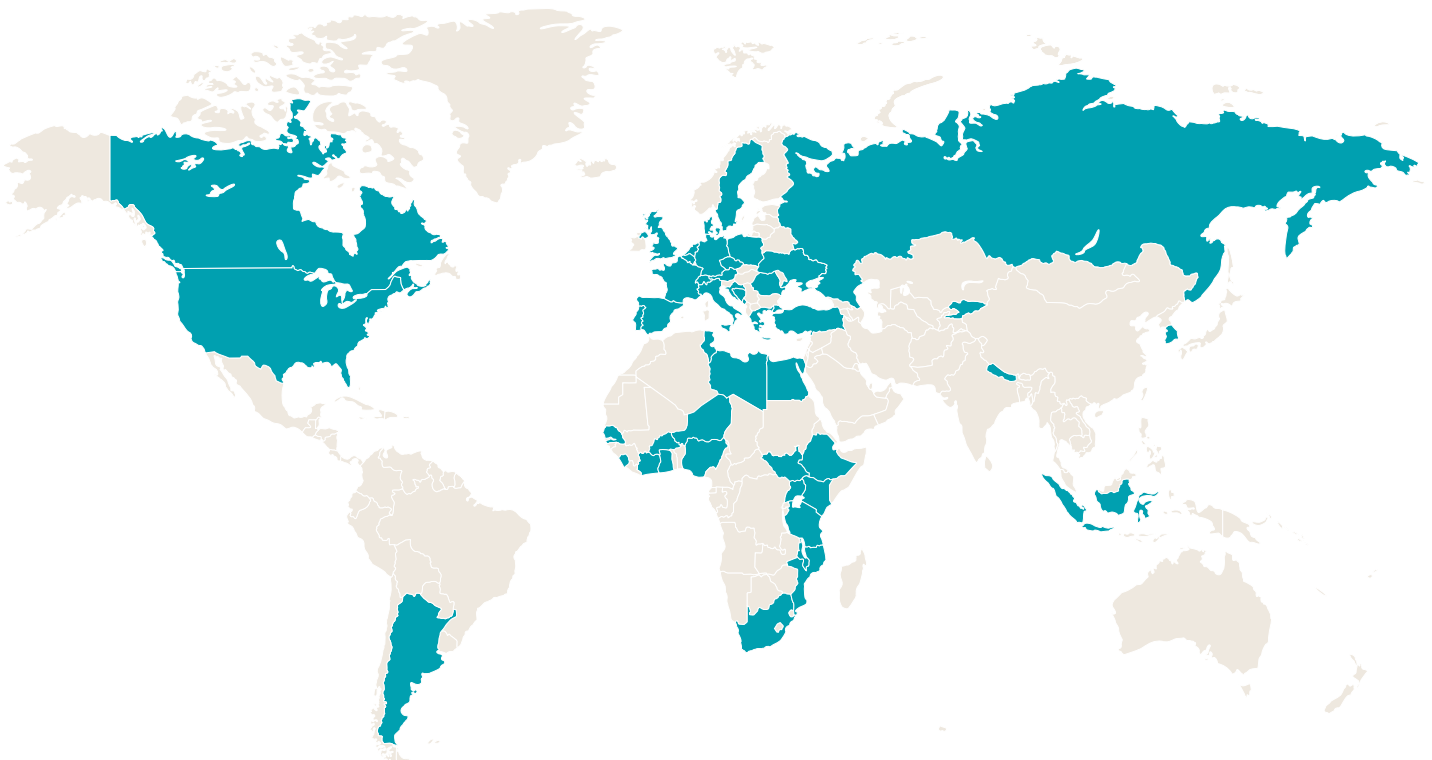
## GENDER BALANCE OF THE GRANTEES

| 2020          | FPD(*)    | ECBG      | SM       | LOCAL     | NF        | SFD      | TMT       | TOTAL      |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| #male         | 57        | 37        | 1        | 18        | 24        | 1        | 61        | <b>199</b> |
| #female       | 30        | 38        | 4        | 10        | 13        | 0        | 25        | <b>120</b> |
| #X            | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | <b>0</b>   |
| <b>#TOTAL</b> | <b>87</b> | <b>75</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>319</b> |

## NOVICE VERSUS EXPERIENCED / GRANTEES

| 2020        | FPD(*) | ECBG | SM | LOCAL | NF | SFD | TMT | TOTAL      |
|-------------|--------|------|----|-------|----|-----|-----|------------|
| Novice      | 26     | 4    | 5  | 5     | 11 | 1   | 4   | <b>56</b>  |
| Experienced | 61     | 71   | 0  | 23    | 26 | 0   | 82  | <b>263</b> |
| Total       | 87     | 75   | 5  | 28    | 37 | 1   | 86  | <b>319</b> |
| Av. age     | 37     | 36   | 21 | 35    | 42 | 30  | 38  |            |

## DOMICILE



|    | DOMICILE           | ECB       | FPD       | LOCAL     | MT        | NF        | SFD      | SM       | TOTAL      |
|----|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|
| 1  | Argentina          | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 2  | Austria            | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 3  | Belgium            | 4         | 78        | 14        | 3         | 37        | 1        | 5        | 142        |
| 4  | Bosnia Herzegovina | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 5  | Burkina Faso       | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 6  | Canada             | 0         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 7  | Côte d'Ivoire      | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 8  | Croatia            | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 9  | Czech Republic     | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 10 | Denmark            | 0         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 11 | Egypt              | 1         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 12 | Ethiopia           | 0         | 0         | 0         | 3         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 3          |
| 13 | France             | 15        | 0         | 0         | 6         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 21         |
| 14 | Germany            | 11        | 1         | 0         | 5         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 17         |
| 15 | Ghana              | 0         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 16 | Greece             | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 17 | Indonesia          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 4         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 4          |
| 18 | Italy              | 7         | 0         | 0         | 3         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 10         |
| 19 | Kenya              | 0         | 0         | 0         | 5         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 5          |
| 20 | Kyrgyzstan         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 21 | Libya              | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 22 | Malawi             | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 23 | Malta              | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 24 | Montenegro         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 25 | Mozambique         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 3         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 3          |
| 26 | Nairobi            | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 27 | Nepal              | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 28 | Netherlands        | 4         | 3         | 14        | 13        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 34         |
| 29 | Niger              | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 30 | Nigeria            | 0         | 2         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 4          |
| 31 | Poland             | 3         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 3          |
| 32 | Portugal           | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 33 | Republic of Korea  | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 34 | Romania            | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 35 | Russian Federation | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 36 | Senegal            | 0         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 37 | Sierra Leone       | 0         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 38 | South Africa       | 0         | 0         | 0         | 4         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 4          |
| 39 | South Sudan        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 40 | Spain              | 2         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 3          |
| 41 | Sweden             | 1         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 42 | Switzerland        | 3         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 3          |
| 43 | Tanzania           | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 44 | Tunisia            | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 45 | Turkey             | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 1          |
| 46 | Uganda             | 0         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
| 47 | Ukraine            | 3         | 0         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 4          |
| 48 | United Kingdom     | 7         | 0         | 0         | 5         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 12         |
| 49 | United States      | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 2          |
|    | <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>75</b> | <b>87</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>319</b> |

## EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER GRANTS (ECBG) – PROJECT

Journalismfund.eu has a strong belief in cross-border cooperation between European journalists as the best way to tell the major international stories of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The organisation supports teams of journalists from different countries, who usually work on a joint story from their respective countries. This enables them to combine their investigative skills and to publish the publication in different countries, which is considered important when addressing the different European target groups and for generating maximum impact.

### STATISTICS ECB GRANTS (APPLICANTS VERSUS GRANTEES)

#### Applicants / Grantees

##### ECB GRANT OVERVIEW 2019-2020

| YEAR | #ROUNDS | #APPLI-CATIONS | #GRANTS | AMOUNT APPLIED FOR | GRANTED | AVERAGE GRANT | LARGEST GRANT | % OF MONEY APPLIED FOR GRANTED | % OF APPLI-CATIONS GRANTED | #APPLI-CANTS | #GRANT-EES | AVERAGE GRANT PER PERSON |
|------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 2019 | 4       | 76             | 24      | 1.113.316          | 196.192 | 8.175         | 15.000        | 18                             | 32                         | 236          | 103        | 1905                     |
| 2020 | 3       | 92             | 25      | 1.338.995          | 183.238 | 7.330         | 11.000        | 14                             | 27                         | 281          | 75         | 2443                     |

In 2020, **we mainly dealt with new teams filing an application**. The applicants came from 39 different countries, 34 of which were European. Other applicants came from non-European countries (Argentina, China, Egypt, Nepal, New Zealand, South Africa). Most applicants came from Italy (44) and Germany (40), followed by France (30), the United Kingdom (15), the Netherlands and Romania (14).

All: Albania (1), Andorra (2), Argentina (1), Austria (6), Belgium (9), Bulgaria (3), China (2), Croatia (2), the Czech Republic (7), Denmark (4), Egypt (1), Estonia (1), France (30), Georgia (1), Germany (40), Greece (12), Hungary (2), Ireland (2), Italy (44), Lithuania (1), Malta (2), Moldova (5), Montenegro (2), Nepal (1), the Netherlands (14), New Zealand (1), North Macedonia (1), Norway (1), Poland (11), Portugal (3), Romania (14), the Russian Federation (4), Serbia (1), Slovenia (2), South Africa (1), Spain (12), Sweden (2), Switzerland (9), Ukraine (8), the United Kingdom (15)

The total **sum applied for in 2020 amounted to €1,338,995**.

**The male-female ratio** was more than ever in balance, with 132 women and 149 men applying for a grant.

| 2020         | DENIED     | GRANTED   | TOTAL      |
|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Male         | 112        | 37        | 149        |
| Female       | 94         | 38        | 132        |
| -            | 0          | 0         | 0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>206</b> | <b>75</b> | <b>281</b> |

Of the 281 applicants, 42 had a permanent employment contract, 238 are freelance journalists and one is a student.

| WORK SITUATION 2020 | DENIED     | GRANTED   | SUM        |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Freelance           | 172        | 66        | 238        |
| Employee            | 33         | 9         | 42         |
| Student             | 1          | 0         | 1          |
| Retired             | 0          | 0         | 0          |
| Other               | 0          | 0         | 0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>206</b> | <b>75</b> | <b>281</b> |



Our European Cross-Border Grants Programme is very inclusive, we are currently supporting journalists who live in the member states of the European Council (geographical Europe). If relevant for the story, team members from beyond this region can be accepted as well.

Experienced journalists versus novices:

266 experienced journalists and 15 novices (less than 2 years of experience) applied for a grant.

| 2020         | GRANTEE    | DENIED    | TOTAL      |
|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Novice       | 11         | 4         | 15         |
| Experienced  | 195        | 71        | 266        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>206</b> | <b>75</b> | <b>281</b> |

## Grantees

Our European Cross-Border Grants Programme is very inclusive, we are currently supporting journalists who live in the member states of the European Council (geographical Europe). If relevant for the story, team members from beyond this region can be accepted as well.

As a result, 25 projects were supported with 75 grantees.

The jury came together 3 times and awarded a total sum of € 183,238.

66 freelancers and 9 employees received grants.

Most of our grantees are living in France (15) or Germany (11).

### ECB GRANTEES 2020

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Austria            | 2         |
| Belgium            | 4         |
| Croatia            | 1         |
| Czech Republic     | 2         |
| Egypt              | 1         |
| France             | 15        |
| Germany            | 11        |
| Greece             | 1         |
| Italy              | 7         |
| Malta              | 2         |
| Montenegro         | 2         |
| Nepal              | 1         |
| Netherlands        | 4         |
| Poland             | 3         |
| Portugal           | 1         |
| Romania            | 1         |
| Russian Federation | 1         |
| Spain              | 2         |
| Sweden             | 1         |
| Switzerland        | 3         |
| Ukraine            | 3         |
| United Kingdom     | 7         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>75</b> |

The average age is 36 years. 37 males (received €83,164)/ 38 females (received €100,074) / 0 X 4 novices (less than 2 years of experience) and 71 experienced journalists received a grant.

## JURY ECBG

Proposals for a European Cross-Border Grant are evaluated by an independent jury on the basis of objective criteria that are known in advance by all applicants. However, the names of the jury members are never communicated prior to the evaluation. Every proposal is quoted by four jury members. Journalismfund.eu has no influence on the evaluation and selection of proposals.

The independent jury is drawn up by Journalismfund.eu on the basis of a list of names proposed by the members of the Board of Directors and Advisory Board. Our juries – we have a separate jury for every grants programme – consist of professional, experienced (former) journalists or experts. To ensure maximum independence, the jury members of all our juries are anonymous until their mandate ends. Two of the four jury members rotate every two years; a member may serve on the jury for a maximum of four consecutive years.

Every proposal is separately assessed by four jury members according to predefined criteria. Based on the score obtained by the proposal and the available budget, the jury members also suggest the amount to be awarded to each proposal.

The jury members send their assessments to Journalismfund.eu, five working days prior to the three-monthly review meeting at the latest. Journalismfund.eu gathers the various assessments into one file for the review meeting. At this review meeting, the jury members seek a consensus about the awarding of the grants and the distribution of the available budget on the basis of the individual score cards. A project manager of Journalismfund.eu acts as secretary.

If the votes of the four jury members are equally divided, the chairman of the jury submits a compromise proposal that must be accepted by all jury members.

On the website of Journalismfund.eu, you can read their reflections on their time as a jury member and their advice to future grantees on the best way to handle their applications.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/jurors-go-public-if-you-want-grant-heres-what-you-should-do>

## CRITERIA

Every proposal is assessed by the individual jury members according to 9 criteria.

1. Non-regular character
2. Social relevance
3. Originality and innovative character
4. Boldness (the level of risk associated with the execution of the project)
5. Feasibility
6. News value
7. Experience of applicant/references
8. Marketability/market focus
9. Time required

## OVERVIEW OF GRANTS PUBLISHED IN 2020

In 2020, 18 ECBG investigations were published. On 31/12/2020, 30 ECBG investigations were still ongoing.

### 1. EXPORTING FRAUD: HOW A SCAM ON PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN MALTA REACHED THE POOREST, MOST CORRUPT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

The story explores how countries are paying a high price for the privatization of water by the French brand. In Bulgaria too, Veolia has exported its practices – with its usual share of drifts. The journalists make a parallel between the case of the company's operation in the city of Sofia through Sofiyiska Voda and well-known scandals involving the company in France as well as in other European countries.

The team consisted of one journalist from Malta (Caroline Muscat), one from Albania (Alice Taylor) and an Irish journalist living in Germany (Ryan Murdock). The story was published in The Shift News (Malta), Exit.al (Albania) and Dan online (Montenegro).

The team received a grant of €7,000, allocated on 23 September 2019.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/journalismfund.eu/exportingfraud>

### 2. BEHIND THE PLEDGE

The story explores remdesivir, a drug developed by the American company Gilead Sciences with large public funds to combat Ebola, and in July approved by the European Medicines Agency with 'conditional authorisation' as the first antiviral against COVID-19.

This investigation has been conducted by a cross-border team of journalists from Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands. The story achieved substantial outreach: it was published in Le Monde, Il Fatto Quotidiano, EU Observer, Rai 3 and Süddeutsche Zeitung.

The team received a grant of €9,000, allocated on 5 October 2020.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/how-eu-money-spent-covid19-drugs>

### 3. UKRAINE AS A SAFE HAVEN FOR JIHADISTS

The story recounts how after the fall of a self-proclaimed caliphate in Syria tens of thousands of foreign fighters in the ranks of Islamic State or ISIS disappeared. They used smugglers, contacts and networks to leave the country. Many of them were looking for safe havens where they could take a break, wait for new opportunities and orders or return to normal life.

This investigation was conducted by a cross-border Ukrainian-Polish team of journalists. It was published in three languages: English, Russian and Ukrainian.

The team received a grant of €11,000, allocated on 16 June 2020.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/ukraine-safe-haven-jihadists>

#### 4. CCS: THE NEW PROMISE TO STOP CLIMATE CHANGE

This investigation of Annika Joeres (France) and Susanne Götze (Germany) illuminates a neglected subject of climate policy. They show what a powerful player the Lobby for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) has become for the European Climate Policy.

The story was published in SWR2 and Der Spiegel.

The team received a grant of €8,000, allocated on 6 April 2020.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/ccs-new-promise-stop-climate-change>

#### 5. DIRECT TRAIN FROM NEPAL TO EUROPE

This investigation shows the journey of Nepali workers to Europe, from the moment they are recruited to their working and living conditions in Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania.

A cross-border team of journalists from France, Romania, Poland, Nepal and the Czech Republic investigated how Nepali workers are recruited to work in Eastern Europe, and who benefits from the recruitment process and their work once they are employed.

The story was published in Equal Times (in English, French and Spanish) and in The Kathmandu Post (Nepal) in English.

The team received a grant of €7,000, allocated on 7 April 2020.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/direct-train-nepal-europe>

#### 6. THE ENABLERS

This cross-border investigation by Lithuanian and Belarusian journalists follows the trail of Alexander Zaytsev and Aliaksei Aleksin, two Belarusian businessmen considered to be close to the Alexander Lukashenko regime.

Independent journalists from a Lithuanian investigative journalism centre Siena.lt joined forces with Belsat TV to unravel the connections between a Lithuanian elite wealth management company called Lewben and the Belarusian elites.

The story was published in Siena.lt and broadcasted through Laisves TV (Lithuania) and Belsat TV (Belarus). A separate documentary was also prepared with English subtitles.

The team received a grant of €6,000, allocated on 6 January 2020.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/enablers-batka-bucks-and-bando>



## 7. AUTOMATED DISCRIMINATION

The story explores how Facebook and Google let advertisers target the audience they want to reach, that much is known. Less known is that both platforms perform another round of targeting, irrespective of the advertiser's wishes.

A French-German team of journalists bought ads for job listings for several occupations in France, Germany, Poland, Switzerland and Spain. The story achieved great outreach: it was

published in AlgorithmWatch (in English, German), on RTS (in French), RadioFrance, Gazeta Wyborcza (in Polish), InfoLibre (in Spanish).

The team received a grant of €3,500, allocated on 2 April 2020.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/automated-discrimination>

.....

## 8. SOS CHRÉTIENS D'ORIENT IN SYRIA

The investigation explores how French humanitarian NGO SOS Chrétiens d'Orient (SOSCO) claims to support persecuted Christians in Syria and the wider Middle East without interfering in conflicts or local politics. But in reality, the seven-year-old NGO – which was founded by far-right, conservative, Catholic activists – thinly veils its agenda to amplify Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's propaganda and push for a normalisation of diplomatic relationships between Damascus and EU countries.

The 8-month research has been conducted by a cross-border team of journalists from France and the United Kingdom and one more team member that wanted to remain anonymous for security reasons.

The story was published on Mediapart and Bellingcat in English and French; in Italian in L'Espresso and in Arabic on Al-Jumhuriya.

The team received a grant of €4,930 allocated on 15 January 2020 by Money Trail Grants, and €9,000, allocated on 3 April 2020 by the ECBG.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/sos-chretiens-dorient-syria>

.....

## 9. IS EUROPE A DANGEROUS PLACE FOR TURKISH DISSIDENTS?

The story reveals how Turkish communities living in Europe were affected politically by the 15 July 2016 unsuccessful *coup d'état*. At least 23 Turkish citizens, political opponents of Erdoğan, were abducted by the authorities of Bulgaria, Moldova, Kosovo, Ukraine, and Serbia and sent back to Turkey. The expulsions bypassed the sanctions of national courts.

A cross-border team consisting of four professional journalists (from Bulgaria, Hungary and Greece) also investigated the fate of Turkish political dissidents in their home country. It reviewed the deportations of political exiles from Europe to Turkey which started in 2016.

The story was published with a big outreach in Clubz.bg (Bulgaria), Castellum.DO (Hungary), Der Spiegel and Euronews.

The team received a grant of €15,000, allocated on 7 April 2020.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/europe-dangerous-place-turkish-dissidents>

### IMPACT OF THE STORY



© Photo: rr

Thanks to this ECBG-funded cross-border investigation, Bulgarian political party Democrats for a Strong Bulgaria (DSB) has asked the prosecution to investigate the actions of the Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and former Chief Prosecutor Sotir Tsatsarov for crimes against the Republic.

In September 2020 journalists Dimitar Ganev and Maximilian Popp published their research with secret dispatches revealing the role of the Bulgarian government in persecuting Turkish opposition figures. In this investigation they suggested that the Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and former Chief Prosecutor Sotir Tsatsarov had helped Turkey persecute several opponents of the regime in Ankara, violating international conventions and legal principles. After their publication at Der Spiegel magazine Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty's Bulgarian Service also reported on the impact of the story.

## 10. FUNDING CHINA'S ENERGY AT EUROPE'S EXPENSE

The Malta-based Shift News in collaboration with the largest Montenegrin daily DAN launched an investigation into the Sino-Maltese wind farm project in Montenegro underhandedly backed by Montenegro's ruling clique and Azerbaijani businesses present both in Malta and Montenegro.

The story was published with substantial outreach – in The Shift News (Malta) and in DAN Newspaper (Montenegro).

The team received a grant of €10,000, allocated on 11 June 2020.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/funding-chinas-energy-europes-expense-investigation-corrupt-deal-between-malta>

### IMPACT OF THE STORY



The web of companies involved in the Mozura wind farm deal – © Photo: DAN – Jovo Martinovic

The European Commission reacted to the results of an investigation into the Montenegro energy deal and expected the Montenegrin authorities to respond to accusations of corruption related to the joint Maltese-Montenegrin wind power project. In mid-July 2020 the Commission said it expected the Mozura wind farm deal in Montenegro to be reviewed by independent and professional institutions in an investigation that may carry implications for those involved in the project in Malta.

## 11. ILLEGAL TRADE OF PESTICIDES AND ANTIBIOTICS IN EUROPE

The investigation explores how illegal use of pesticides and antibiotics poses a threat to public health and the environment in general. They are dangerous for all people and animals. By using the special possibilities in the regulation for access to environmental data and combining research from several countries, a collaborative team of journalists from Denmark, Slovenia, Poland and the UK conducted a huge investigation about the dark trade in pesticides.

The impressive research resulted in more than 10 publications throughout Europe – *Knack* in Belgium, *Tygodnik Powszechny* in Poland, *Ostro* in Slovenia, *IRPI* in Italy, *De Groene Amsterdammer* in the Netherlands, *Tagesschau.de* and *BR24* in Germany, as well as *EU Observer*.

This cross-border investigation into illegal trade in pesticides is led by Investigative Reporting Denmark and made in collaboration with journalists from Knack in Belgium, Newsweek in Poland, Ostro in Slovenia, OCCRP, IRPI in Italy, De Groene Amsterdammer in the Netherlands, Bayerischer Rundfunk (ARD) in Germany and The Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting in the US. The investigation is supported by Journalismfund.eu and Reporters in the Field/Robert Bosch Stiftung.

The team received a grant of €7,000, allocated on 3 February 2020.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/illegal-trade-pesticides-and-antibiotics-europe>

## 12. THE KREMLIN'S EUROPEAN FAVOURITES

A team of three journalists based in the UK, France and Austria, with decades of experience writing about Russia and international politics for major news outlets, conducted their investigation about the people in Europe who have promoted the Kremlin's agenda, from supporting the breakup of the EU to pushing for the removal of sanctions on Russia.

The story received substantial outreach. It was published 5 times in Byline Times, as well as in Bellingcat.

The team received a grant of €7,000, allocated on 27 March 2020.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/kremlins-european-favourites>

## 13. LOST IN EUROPE

In Kosovo a well organised trafficking network has started a big wave of minors leaving for Italy. Thanks to the Zampa law, which was introduced in 2017, they can gain licences to study or to work if they register with the Italian immigration services. The law was meant to decrease the number of missing unaccompanied migrant children, but it also plays into the hands of human trafficking.

The story was published online on VersPers, L'Espresso and KALLXO.

The team received a grant of €7,000, allocated on 29 October 2019.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/lost-europe>

## 14. THE PRIVATE SECURITY NETWORK OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS

**The Private Security Network** was launched as an online platform devoted to journalistic investigations into the private security industry. Approximately **35** investigative journalists from **20** different countries are members of the Network. It aims to report and hold companies like **G4S** accountable for their human rights violations. The Network will monitor and investigate this industry and will share factual content on this website.

The Journalismfund.eu-supported European cross-border team of journalists – **Ruth Hopkins (UK), Harry Karanikas (Greece), Lisa Riordan Seville (United States), Phil Miller (UK)** – scrutinised the private security industry – a sector that globally outsizes armies and police forces – company by company. This transnational network of investigative journalists from various countries produced strong investigative multimedia pieces on the global security provider. The aim is to uncover G4S's patterns of dealing with liability and accountability for human rights violations in their immigration operation.

The team has already published the story in Daily Reporter, New Frame, Investigative Reporting Denmark and De Groene Amsterdammer. Some more publications are expected soon.

The team received a grant of €7,350, allocated on 29 May 2019.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/private-security-network-investigative-journalists>

## 15. FACING THE FUTURE

This investigation seeks to uncover the state of facial recognition technology in Europe. The journalists obtained leaked internal European Union documents which reveal that law enforcement is lobbying to create a network of national police facial recognition databases.

**Caitlin Chandler** (Germany), **Zach Campbell** (Spain) and **Chris Jones** (UK) unearth the stories behind the development and deployment of facial recognition technologies in the EU.

The story was published in The Intercept, The Guardian and in Politico Europe.

The team received a grant of €9,000, allocated on 23 September 2019.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/facing-future>

### IMPACT OF THE STORY



© Photo: Yotam Hadar for The Intercept

At the end of February, Euractiv reported on the impact of this Journalismfund.eu-supported European cross-border investigation to uncover the state of facial recognition technology in Europe. MPs in the European Parliament have pressed the Commission for more details on their plans to create facial recognition databases.



## 16. EUROPE'S CLIMATE MIGRANTS

The increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events is making more and more Europeans homeless. In France, but also in Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Spain, Portugal and Moldova, Euronews, supported by Journalismfund.eu, sheds light on the devastating effects of climate change on the lives of people. The journalists Marta Rodriguez and Lillo Montalto Monella showed the stories of Europeans whose lives have been affected by an extraordinary natural disaster. The team has identified the highest-impact displacement episodes in Europe over the last 10 years with the goal of raising public awareness around climate-related migrations.

Each video of approximately six minutes is accompanied by a detailed written article, allowing users to dig deeper, in particular on the link between climate change and the scale of these natural disasters.

In total, 6 video episodes were broadcast on Euronews in 2020.

The team received a grant of €10,000, allocated on 9 October 2019.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/who-are-europes-climate-migrants>

## THE PASCAL DECROOS FUND GRANT PROGRAMME

### PURPOSE

The Pascal Decroos Fund is a project of [Journalismfund.eu](https://www.journalismfund.eu) vzw and aims to keep the memory of Pascal Decroos alive and to continue his life's work in the following ways:

- Promoting high-quality and investigative journalism in Flanders and beyond;
- Creating opportunities for young people to develop journalistic talents in practice;
- Bringing people from all sections of society together.

The Pascal Decroos Fund aims to give financial support to special investigative Flemish journalism through grants. In this way, both novice and experienced journalists get the opportunity to work out their ideas.

The support is awarded by way of grants to individual journalists. They must be able to show that their project entails unusually high costs or are so time-consuming that the normal remuneration from their editorial board or publishing agency is insufficient to realise the project. The projects must also outweigh the importance of regular reporting, daily journalism or normal work as a correspondent. The topic or theme must be special or must be tackled from a different approach or perspective.

Applications are completed and submitted digitally through the website [pascaldecroosbeurs.org](https://pascaldecroosbeurs.org). Besides a description of the content of the project, they must also add a detailed budget showing how the grant would be used.

## CRITERIA

The jury evaluates the applications using 9 criteria:

1. Added value compared to mainstream coverage / a forgotten story
2. Relevance to society
3. Originality and innovative methods
4. Daring
5. Feasibility
6. Newsworthiness
7. Experience of the applicants, references
8. Saleability
9. Time commitment

## STATISTICS

For the Flemish Pascal Decroos Fund programme, in 2020 Journalismfund.eu received 102 applications from 152 applicants in four application rounds. The jury came together four times and awarded grants to 58 projects (87 grantees).

### WORK SITUATION

| FPD          | DENIED    | GRANTED   | TOTAL      |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Freelance    | 58        | 74        | <b>132</b> |
| Employee     | 7         | 12        | <b>19</b>  |
| Student      | 0         | 1         | <b>1</b>   |
| Retired      | 0         | 0         | <b>0</b>   |
| Other        | 0         | 0         | <b>0</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>65</b> | <b>87</b> | <b>152</b> |

### GENDER

| FPD          | DENIED    | GRANTED   | TOTAL      |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Male         | 35        | 57        | <b>92</b>  |
| Female       | 29        | 30        | <b>59</b>  |
| -            | 1         | 0         | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>65</b> | <b>87</b> | <b>152</b> |

### NOVICE VERSUS EXPERIENCED

|              | Denied    | Granted   | TOTAL      |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Novice       | 26        | 26        | <b>52</b>  |
| Experienced  | 39        | 61        | <b>100</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>65</b> | <b>87</b> | <b>152</b> |

## Grantees

The jury came together four times and awarded a grant to 58 projects (87 grantees). In all, a sum of €277,685 was awarded, whereas the applications totalled €652,358.

### JURY

The evaluation of the proposals for a grant is done by the jury on the basis of objective criteria that are known in advance by all applicants. However, the names of the jury members are never communicated prior to the evaluation. Every proposal is rated by four jury members. The Fund has no influence on the evaluation and selection of proposals.

Two of the four jury members rotate every two years; a judge member may serve on the jury for maximum four consecutive years.

The independent jury is drawn up by the Fund on the basis of a list of names proposed by the members of the Board of Directors. The jury consists of four members, including three with comprehensive journalistic experience and one with another relevant background. The jury members are not on the payroll of a media company.

Former jury members are:

- **Karel Anthierens** (1999-2001)
- **Hugo De Ridder** (1999-2001)
- **Paul Muys** (1999-2003)
- **Dirk Voorhoof** (1999-2003)
- **Derk-Jan Eppink** (2001-2005)
- **Walter Zinzen** (2001-2005)
- **Daniel Biltreyst** (2003-2007)
- **Geert Scot** (2003-2007)
- **Kris Smet** (2005-2009)
- **Carl De Keyzer** (2005-2009)
- **Josse Abrahams** (2007-2011)
- **Trees Verleyen** (2007-2011)
- **Liesbet Walckiers** (2009-2013)
- **Dorian van der Brempt** (2009-2013)
- **Tessa Vermeiren** (2011-2015)
- **Michael Opgenhaffen** (2011-2015)
- **Ingrid Vander Veken** (2013-2018)
- **Luc Van der Kelen** (2013-2018)

## OVERVIEW OF GRANTS PUBLISHED IN 2020

Realised with the support of the Pascal Decroos Fund for Investigative Journalism

### 1. I AM GOLDEN KAREN

MYANMAR – The Karen People are an ethnic minority of eastern and southern Myanmar. Many Karen people live in north-western Thailand as refugees from the decades-long Karen insurgency and Myanmar's government oppression.

The Karen in Myanmar have suffered oppression at the hands of successive regimes in the country for decades. Forced re-settlement and labour, incarceration, denial of political representation and citizenship status rights, among other human rights violations, have led thousands of Karen to move to Thailand. While many argue that they have a better life there, their status remains uncertain. Many of them are refugees in Thailand.

More than 65 million people around the world are displaced from their homes, the largest number since the Second World War. For the Karen people from southeast Myanmar, the Rohingya crisis brings back memories of what they experienced some 15 years ago. Aggressive operations from Myanmar's military resulted in over 400,000 Karen people being displaced. When the British left Myanmar about 60 years ago, Myanmar's government embarked on an ongoing civil war against the many ethnic minorities in the country, including the Karen people. As a result, many Karen fled to neighbouring Thailand. In order to survive, they started working in the border town of Mae Sot or in the Thai capital Bangkok.

'I Am Golden Karen' tells the story of Thaawa, a young Karen rapper who is part of an entire generation of people who have grown up in Thailand but cherish a strong desire to return to their motherland. We follow Thaawa as he negotiates his identity from being a young migrant arriving in Bangkok to becoming a father. He questions his responsibilities towards his family and his desire to both settle in Thailand and return to Karen State.

**AUTHORS:** Preben Verledens, Maui Druetz (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 8,000

**PUBLICATIONS:** · Television premiere: I am Golden Karen, VRT (Belgian national broadcaster), 12/01/2020

**IN THE PRESS:** I Am Golden Karen, Knack Focus, 08/01/2020.

### 2. ABUSE OF SME SUBSIDIES

BRUSSELS – When is the use of a subsidy for an independent entrepreneur justified and when is there abuse? Sofie Van Nuffel came across statements that suggest that not everything can be guaranteed by trust alone.

A fully automated system must ensure better detection of misuse of the SME portfolio. Between 2011 and January 2019 a total of more than 4.6 million euros of unlawful subsidies had to be repaid. Flemish minister Hilde Crevits is now cutting back on subsidies, which still amount to a total of 40 million euros. Crevits also promises 'extra measures so that not just any training can be subsidised'.

**AUTHOR:** Sofia Van Nuffel (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 750

**PUBLICATION:** ONLINE (only in Dutch)  
· Artificiële intelligentie moet misbruik KMO-portefeuille opsporen, Apache, 17/01/2020.

### 3. WAR IN MY GENES

YEREVAN – Kubra was born and raised in Belgium. However, her family is Turkish, or at least, that's what they thought, because she was brought up as a Belgian Turk: with Turkish customs and the Islamic faith. Internal doubts led her to have a DNA test taken in 2017 to see if she actually had Turkish roots. The test showed that she was not Turkish but Armenian. After further investigation, it appeared that this was due to the genocide around 1916.

In order to escape the mass murder, there were many Armenians who disguised themselves as Turks. Now, generations later, many unfortunately no longer know that their roots are in Armenia, since it was not discussed. Kubra is an example of this.

With this information Kubra wanted to go in search of her roots and went to Armenia and Turkey. During this journey, Kubra discovers what she has missed all this time, gets to know the culture to which she belongs and learns more about the genocide.

**AUTHORS:** Kubranur Mayda, Arno Van Crombruggen, Astrid Goossens (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 3,704

**PUBLICATION:** TELEVISION (in Dutch)  
· Oorlog in mijn genen, VRT/Canvas (Belgian public broadcaster), 15/02/2020.

**PRESS COVERAGE** (in Dutch)  
· Interne Keuken, Radio 1 (Belgian public broadcaster), 15/02/2020.

### 4. [DOES GAZA HAVE A FUTURE?](#)

GAZA – As early as eight years ago, the UN warned that the Gaza Strip was at risk of becoming unliveable by 2020. At the beginning of that year, De Morgen journalist Martijn Lauwens went to see what that meant. He travelled around the isolated Palestinian enclave for a week and asked the people there how they live, how they see the future and what they dream of.

In an ocean of misery he fortunately also discovered some islands of hope: artists, dreamers, writers, ambitious women and whizz kids doing what sometimes seems impossible in Gaza, building a better future, sometimes against their better judgement, because the situation seems hopeless. The Israeli blockade is strangling an entire society; 98% of the tap water is undrinkable, every day the power goes out for at least 12 hours, unemployment and poverty rates have reached unprecedented levels, stress and psychological trauma are everywhere.

Two million people live in an extremely polluted, impoverished and enclosed area of barely 365 square kilometres. Fleeing the Israeli shelling and bombing is not an option, and on top of that, the Hamas government itself behaves like an authoritarian and corrupt regime that does not shun torture and intimidation.

Unliveable? Sure, but the only option the people of Gaza have is to move forward. Day after day: survive and hope for a better life.

**AUTHOR:** Martijn Lauwens (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 4,350

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT/ONLINE (in Dutch)  
· Een week in Gaza, De Morgen/Zeno, 01/02/2020.  
· Ik hoop te op leven maar voel me dood, De Morgen, 07/02/2020.

## 5. LITTLE SURVIVORS

ARBIL – ‘Little Survivors’ by Lotte Knaepen and Lisa Matthys is a report based in Kurdistan (Northern Iraq). The story is about the Yazidis, a people who were persecuted by ISIS. Many Yazidi children became victims of human trafficking, were separated from their families, used as slaves or trained as child soldiers in Raqqa. In this documentary, the makers follow four little survivors who have suffered trauma in various ways. But the focus is on their resilience, courage and creativity.

In the background, the Belgian architects of the ‘Maggie Programme’ are building a tent structure of sustainable materials that will serve as a centre for trauma therapy. In a landscape that exudes an idyllic innocence, the children talk about their traumatic experience. Lotte and Lisa copied the ‘sandplay’ method from psycho-dynamic child therapy in order to allow the children to talk about their experiences in a free and safe way. Although the war has been over for several years, the wounds are not healed. How does a child deal with this traumatic experience, how does it affect the subconscious mind and how do we see this reflected in their daily lives?

**AUTHORS:** Lotte Knaepen, Lisa Matthys (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 6,120

**PUBLICATION:** TELEVISION/ONLINE  
 · Kleine overlevers, Vranckx, VRT/Canvas (Belgian public broadcaster), 29/02/2020. (in Dutch)

### PRESS COVERAGE

- Tv-tip ‘Vranckx: kleine overlevers’, Humo, 26/02/2020. (in Dutch)
- Jongen uit IS-propagandafilmpjes praat met Vranckx-nomaden, VRT NWS, 29/02/2020. (in Dutch)

## 6. CLIMATE SLAVES

NEW DELHI – According to the Thomson Reuters Foundation, India is the most dangerous country in the world for women. Nowhere are more girls sold as slaves. In melting Himalayan glaciers, prolonged drought, devastating storms and disappearing islands, human traffickers found new allies. Floods make millions of people homeless, displaced women are easy victims. Jan De Deken of The Polar Project travelled through India for two months to map the link between global warming and sex slavery. He spoke with victims of human trafficking in the prostitution neighbourhoods of Calcutta, on sinking islands in West Bengal and in drought depleted farmland in Maharashtra.

**AUTHOR:** Jan De Deken (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 6,740

**PUBLICATION:** TELEVISION (in Dutch)  
 · Klimaatslaven, VRT/Canvas (Belgian Public Broadcaster), Vranckx & De Nomaden, 22/02/2020.

### PRINT

- Klimaatslaven, Knack, 19/02/2020.

### PRESS COVERAGE

- Vranckx & Byloo, Radio 1, Podcast, 22/02/2020.
- The Green Quest, BNR, 15/01/2020.

### DEBATE & SCREENING

- Lunchgesprek, deBuren (Brussels), 21/02/2020.
- Avant-première, De Centrale (Ghent), 21/02/2020.



## 7. THE ARCHIVE OF WALTER

ANTWERP – He was one of the most important investigative journalists in Belgium. He published revelations about the murder of the leader of the socialist party André Cools, the Gang of Nivelles, the arms trade and the extreme right. He loved the idea that those in power would have been safer without him and he had a phenomenal archive. He died young from Alzheimer's.

In this book, Klaartje Schrijvers tells the fascinating story of Walter De Bock, whom she got to know while writing her PhD-dissertation on a 20th-century neo-aristocratic elite. Yet this is not a classic biography. Walter's archive also grasps the post-war spirit of the times: the Cold War atmosphere, the anti-communist networks, the period in which some of the elite wanted to convert Brussels into the New York of Europe.

But above all, this book is about knowing and forgetting, about what history means when knowledge disappears. It is a journey through historical and journalistic quests for the truth and an ode to heuristics: the art of finding.

**AUTHOR:** Klaartje Schrijvers

**GRANT:** € 12,000

**PUBLICATION:** BOOK

- Title: Het Archief van Walter (The Archive of Walter)
- Subtitle: De onderzoeksjournalist, de historica en de waarheid (The investigative journalist, the historian and the truth)
- Language: Dutch
- Date of publication: March 2020
- 260 pages
- Publisher: EPO
- EAN: 9789462672017

**PRESS COVERAGE** (in Dutch)

- 'Van nachtelijke contacten met misdadigers schrok Walter niet terug' (interview with Klaartje Schrijvers), De Morgen, 27/03/2020.
- Het verhaal van een onverzettelijke waarheidsvorser, Apache, 01/03/2020.
- Een hommage aan Walter De Bock, DeWereldMorgen, 15/04/2020.
- 'Het archief van Walter', terugblik op een verleden dat zeer actueel is, DeWereldMorgen, 20/04/2020.
- De penneridder van de Koude Oorlog, Knack, 29/04/2020.
- Interne Keuken, Radio 1, 9/05/2020.
- Walter en zijn archief, MO.be, 18/05/2020.

## 8. TRANSGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR AT FLEMISH UNIVERSITIES

GHENT – The measures that Flemish universities have taken to lower the threshold for reporting transgressive behaviour are effective at first sight. The number of reports has increased, among others at the University of Ghent, because victims (dare to) report faster. However, that does not mean that all problems are solved.

The release of general data about reports remains problematic, as the protection of privacy is invoked as a reason for non-disclosure. The follow-up and specific approach to reports are still inadequate. Fear of jeopardising their career within the academic world prevents victims from speaking freely. A complete culture change within the closed environment of universities, equal treatment for everyone and clear monitoring of reports and transparency are possible, but require a thorough commitment from the universities.

**AUTHOR:** Sofia Van Nuffel

**GRANT:** € 2,200

**PUBLICATION:** ONLINE (in Dutch)

- Grensoverschrijdend gedrag aan Vlaamse universiteiten vaker gemeld, Apache.be, 26/02/2020.
- Geen glazen wanden aan de UGent, Apache.be, 27/02/2020.

.....

## **9. 5G: THE BACKBONE OF OUR FUTURE**

ANTWERP – 5G promises to become the infrastructure of the future. For example, the new, fifth generation of mobile internet would be up to one hundred times faster than 4G, and will provide a platform on which new technology is built. The most innovative things, from remote operations to autonomous vehicles, will become possible via 5G. But our mobile internet is also increasingly becoming a critical infrastructure around which many conflicts are emerging. Today, we fear that the Chinese are bugging us with 5G, that its radiation is giving us cancer, that 5G is being rolled out too slowly in our country and even that it will cause our companies to close down.

That's why Tom Cassauwers takes the reader on a tour of the world of 5G. He investigates which worries are justified and where the hype is taking over. He takes readers to the Huawei offices, but also to anti-5G demonstrations in Switzerland. He takes a look at 5G from the perspective of top politicians and telecom executives, hard opponents, hard-core believers and experienced scientists. This book shows why our digital infrastructure is becoming increasingly important. It explains in an accessible way why we all, as citizens, politicians, entrepreneurs and scientists, need to pay more attention to how we are connected.

**AUTHOR:** Tom Cassauwers

**GRANT:** € 2,450

**PUBLICATION:** BOOK (in Dutch)

- Title: 5G
- Subtitle: De ruggengraat van onze toekomst (The backbone of our future)
- Publisher: Pelckmans Pro
- ISBN: 978-94-6337-208-4
- Date of publication: 9/03/2020

**PRE-PUBLICATION ONLINE** (in Dutch)

- Wat betekent 5G voor smart cities, DataneWS, 06/03/2020.

**PRESS COVERAGE** (in Dutch)

- 'Het is de gebruiker die zal bepalen of technologie zoals 5G het haalt en het nieuwe normaal wordt', interview with Tom Cassauwers, Bloovi.be, 01/03/2020.
- '5G: de ruggengraat van onze toekomst' is de ideale handleiding tot 5G, review by Yorick Dupon, Tandemtech.be, 20/04/2020.

.....

## 10. [#NOMEANSNO IN BANGLADESH](#)

DHAKA – The women in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka are fed up with it: they want to be able to go out on the streets without men bothering them. And so they organise their own transport through the impossibly chaotic, congested traffic: a motor-taxi with a woman at the wheel. Or they buy themselves a motorbike. First alone, as an exception, which provokes opposition and sometimes outright attacks. Now more and more numerous, they close ranks, form motorcycle clubs and lead demonstrations against violence against women.

As a motorcyclist who has clocked up numerous kilometres in Eurasia, outspokenly a-religious and at the same time fascinated by Islamic cultures and especially rebellious women, Trui Hanoulle has been following a Bangladeshi women's motorcycle club online for years. She was inspired by their courage and actions in traditional Islamic society. Last summer she rode through Bangladesh together with Indian motorcyclist and photographer Dimple Chaudhary. With some new contacts and insights, Chaudhary returned to Dhaka a few months later.

**AUTHORS:** Trui Hanoulle (Belgium), Dimple Chaudhary (India)

**GRANT:** € 1,741

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT (in Dutch)  
 · Bangladesh: vrouwen op de motor in een mannenmaatschappij, MO\*, 04/03/2020.

## 11. [PLASTIC RECYCLING IN BELGIUM: HOW ARE WE DOING?](#)

BRUSSELS – Belgians are great at sorting out garbage. But what happens to the PET bottles we throw in the blue bag? Exactly how many PET bottles do we recycle? And does recycling really reduce fossil-based plastic production?

The questions turned out to be simpler than the answer: there are hardly any figures on PET recycling, and the official figures cannot be verified. In this three-part series, Isabelle Vanhoutte examines how pet recycling works in Belgium, what role Fost Plus plays in it and the risks associated with the fact that the plastics industry is very much at the heart of that recycling story.

**AUTHOR:** Isabelle Vanhoutte (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 2,412

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT/ONLINE (in Dutch)  
 · Worden uw petflessen echt gerecycleerd?, Knack, 11/03/2020.  
 · De pijnlijke vragen van de plasticverwerking, Knack, 06/05/2020.

## 12. [FINANCIALLY DEPENDENT MOTHERS](#)

BRUSSELS – One third of the women in Belgium have a pension of less than €750. That's not much, but it doesn't have to be a problem: if you are happily married, have a long career behind you and pool resources as a couple. But for a whole group of women, this is not the case. The baby boomers are the first generation to divorce in such large numbers. Before that, couples used to stay together forever.

Now there is a whole generation of divorced women who find themselves in financial difficulties: they didn't build up a pension because they stayed at home, have no social rights because of messy legislation and cannot count on their husband's pension either. Widows of

self-employed workers or ex-wives of civil servants come to the conclusion that, after a life of caring for others, they now have to be taken care of themselves.

That is why Wederik De Backer and Justine Vergotte made three portraits of three women without a husband, who did not build up a full pension.

**AUTHORS:** Wederik De Backer, Justine Vergotte (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 3,575

**PUBLICATION:** RADIO/PODCAST (in Dutch)

- Zandman, Radio 1 (Belgian public broadcaster), on 30, 31/03 and 01/04/2020 at 22.00.
- Moeders ten laste, Radio1.be (Belgian public broadcaster), starting 30/03/2019.
- Different podcast platforms

ONLINE (in Dutch)

- 'Verloren generatie vrouwen' getroffen door pensioenkloof, Apache.be, 02/04/2020.

PRESS COVERAGE (in Dutch)

- Podcast over pensioenkloof na scheiding, De Ochtend, Radio 1, 30/03/2020.
- Ik raad mijn vrouwelijke studenten altijd aan om voltijds te blijven werken, Radio1.be, 30/03/2020.

### 13. [MOTHER](#)

THAILAND – In a small village in Thailand, Pomm takes care of Europeans with Alzheimer's. Separated from her children, she helps Elisabeth during the final stages of her life, as a new patient arrives from Switzerland.

MOTHER is a character-driven film that allows us to explore the struggles of motherhood and the frustrations of being unable to care for our loved ones. It is the powerful connection between patients and caregivers that will challenge our preconceptions. Both Pomm and her patients are trying to recover the pieces of their lives that are gone, but through love and kindness they will learn to care for each other.

**AUTHOR:** Kristof Bilsen

**GRANT:** € 4,000

**PUBLICATION:** DOCUMENTARY

#### Television

- Kissing Mother Goodbye (TV version), Al Jazeera English, 06/05/2020.
- Mother, VRT/Canvas, 21.55, 10/05/2020.

#### Online

- UK: available via iTunes, Amazon, Google
- Belgium: Sooner
- Docville, 25/03/2020 to 2/04/2020. (Belgium)
- MOOOV Filmfestival 2.0, 21/04 to 04/05/2020. (Belgium)

#### Festivals

- World premiere: Sheffield Doc Fest, UK, 09/06/2019.
- DOKUFEST, Prizren, Kosovo, 6/8 and 8/8/2019.
- EBS International Documentary Festival, South Korea, 17 and 25/08/2019.
- Athens International Film Festival, Greece, 25-28/09/2019.
- Belgian premiere: Film Fest Gent, 14/10/2019.

- North American premiere: Chicago International Film Festival, 16/10-27/10/2019.
- Festival van de gelijkheid, Vooruit Gent, 29/11/2019.
- Belgian cinema release 14/01/2020.
- Internationaal Film Festival Rotterdam, 22/1-02/02/2020.
- Docville, Leuven, 31/3/2020.

#### PRESS COVERAGE (Selection)

- Mother Review: Tender portrait of a charismatic carer, The Guardian, 10/11/2019.
- Review Mother, Cineuropa, 11/06/2019.
- Review Mother, Filmuforia, 09/06/2019.
- Review Mother, Reel Steel Cinema, 09/06/2019.
- Interview with Kristof Bilsen, The Guardian, 12/09/2019.
- Thailand, de ideale bestemming voor mensen met dementie..., Radio 1, 28/09/2019.
- Interview met Kristof Bilsen, De Zevende Dag, VRT, 6/10/2019.
- Interview met Kristof Bilsen, Humo, 7/10/2019.
- Speeddate met Kristof Bilsen, Cinevox, 6/10/2019.
- 5 tips voor Film Fest Gent, De Tijd, 8/10/2019.
- 'Ik doe het voor mijn moeder', De Standaard, 14/10/2019.
- Kristof Bilsen over Mother, Filmmagie, 11/12/2019.
- Mother – A heartbreaking inquiry into the cost of dementia, The Guardian, 5/01/2020.
- Mother is a deeply affecting documentary about outsourcing care, The Financial Times, 11/01/2021.

## 14. PRIDE IS PROTEST!

NEW YORK – The documentary 'Pride is Protest' offers an insight into the LGBTQ scene in New York, 50 years after Stonewall. Marieke Dermul and Filip Tielens went to New York for a week in June 2019 during the biggest Pride ever. They talked to a veteran of the 1969 riots about positive changes, but also to young LGBT people, transgender people and people from ethnic minorities about discrimination in the year 2019. What do they think should we should be fighting for today? And how does that translate into contemporary activism and protest, aside from the great party that a Pride event always is?

In New York, Marieke and Filip also discover many alternative marches with tens of thousands of participants, besides the big Pride march. They not only protest against Trump or police violence, but also against how Pride has evolved and against the hierarchy and discrimination within the LGBTQ community itself. In this way, the Dyke March and the Queer Liberation March reconnect with the original goal of the first Pride march of 1970, exactly 50 years ago this year: protest.

**AUTHOR:** Marieke Dermul, Filip Tielens, Philip Heremans

**GRANT:** € 5,500

**PUBLICATION:** · Pride is protest, Vranckx/De Nomaden, VRT (Belgian public broadcaster), 16/05/2020.

#### PRESS COVERAGE (in Dutch)

- De Pride Parades blijven nodig, Knack, 13/05/2020.
- Docu Pride is Protest! legt de betekenis van pride bloot, ZiZo, 15/05/2020.
- Marieke Dermul in De Zevende Dag, VRT, 17/05/2020.

## 15. MOZAMBIQUE: NEW FRONT OF THE CALIPHATE?

CABO DELGADO – There are diamonds, gold and a gigantic gas bubble in the ground, but that doesn't help the inhabitants of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique. The government has abandoned them and the army can't protect them from violence. The militant Islamist group Al-Shabab is managing to recruit more and more of the impoverished population with an ill-founded, religious story. MO\* went to the heart of the affected province.

January 25, 2020, Mozambique. A troop of 35 armed men raid the village of Cagembe, in the northern province of Cabo Delgado. Tavares (pseudonym), a local trader, sees it happen.

'It was around eleven o'clock in the morning. Men armed with assault rifles and machetes invaded Cagembe. They sang songs and shot in the air. They wore military uniforms and carried a black flag with Arabic letters. They demanded that the village chief show them the military barracks.'

**AUTHOR:** Arne Gillis (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 3,250

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT/ONLINE (in Dutch)

- Mozambikanen dromen van gasdollars, maar vrezen voor gewelddadig jihadisme, MO.be, 7/04/2020.
- 'Dromen van gasdollars, maar vrezen voor jihadisme', MO\*, 03/06/20.

## 16. THE BATTLE BETWEEN ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM FOR TRADING POSITIONS IN BRAZIL

PORTO DO ACU – For the construction of the Brazilian port of Porto do Açu, hundreds of families were forcibly evicted from their land. Fishermen lost their livelihoods and the promised jobs in the port never came. The port also turned up in one of the biggest corruption scandals in Brazil. All this did not stop the port of Antwerp from investing 20 million dollars in this controversial project.

Belgian and Brazilian investigative journalists collaborated in this project on a series of articles published by Apache, Médor and Reporters Brazil.

**AUTHORS:** Ike Teuling (Netherlands), Quentin Noirfalisse, Jan Walraven (Belgium), João Cesar Diaz (Brazil)

**GRANT:** € 10,000

**PUBLICATIONS:** ONLINE

- Antwerpse haven werkt samen met controversiële Braziliaanse haven, Apache, 8/06/2020. (in Dutch)
- Le port de l'angoisse (1/3) , Médor, 8/06/2020. (in French)
- Hoe de haven van Antwerpen in Brazilië belandde, Apache, 9/06/2020. (in Dutch)
- Le port de l'angoisse (2/3): La vie ruinée des communautés locales, Médor, 9/06/2020. (in French)
- Antwerpse haven op internationale veroveringstocht, Apache, 10/06/2020. (in Dutch)
- Le port de l'angoisse (3/3): Anvers à la conquête du monde, Médor, 10/06/2020. (in French)
- O fim da praia: megaporto e termoelétricas com sócio estrangeiro ameaçam ribeirinhos e quilombolas no ES, Reporter Brasil, 17/06/2020. (in Portuguese)

**PRINT**

- Anvers au Brésil: Sale port, Médor, June 2020, 6/06/2020. (in French)



## 17. THANK GOD I'M IN EUROPE

BRUSSELS – We call them transmigrants. Also known as ‘illegals’. Almost a swear word. Caroline van Gastel and Saar Van Eyck shed light on the harsh daily reality of a number of young women in Brussels. They come from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan where the regime oppresses the population and conflicts between communities are fought violently. The people can barely survive. They have to leave family and children behind in search of work. When they will see them again, nobody knows.

For a year Caroline and Saar followed women in the Sister's House, a night shelter and emergency shelter for female refugees in Brussels. It was founded by citizens who show solidarity and offer these women shelter for a night, including a meal, a shower, away from the street life to which they are condemned by the absence of a real European migration policy. They appear before the camera for the first time.

**AUTHORS:** Saar Van Eyck, Caroline van Gastel (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 3,100

**PUBLICATION:** TELEVISION/ONLINE

- Thank God I'm in Europe, Vranckx/De Nomaden, Canvas (Belgian national broadcaster), 6/06/2020. (in Dutch)

## 18. HOW BELGIUM IS BECOMING A FORMIDABLE PLAYER IN THE DEEP SEA

BRUSSELS – The deep, blue oceans are home to an unprecedented wealth of biodiversity, as well as the planet's last unexploited resources. The race to the ocean floor is in full swing and Belgium is among the leaders.

The Belgian pioneering role has been assigned to the company Global Sea Mineral Resources (GSR), a subsidiary of the dredging group DEME. Thanks to the formal support of the Belgian government, GSR was granted a concession for exploration in the Pacific, for an area five times the size of Belgium. Half of this has to be shared with the Cook Islands.

For many years now, GSR has been exploring the possibilities of harvesting so-called polymetallic nodules and finally wants to start operating. Experts and environmental movements fear irreparable damage.

Moreover, the Belgian state threatens to be made jointly responsible if an operation goes wrong. The risk is real, because deep-sea mining, five kilometres below the water's surface, will always remain risky. A parliamentary debate on Belgian participation in the exploitation of deep-sea wealth in the Pacific is needed.

**AUTHOR:** Raf Custers

**GRANT:** € 2,000

**PUBLICATION:** ONLINE

- De race naar de zeebodem: hoe België een hoofdspeler werd in de diepzee, MO.be, 22/06/2020. (in Dutch)
- La Belgique en eaux profondes, MO.be, 16/07/2020. (in French)
- Belgisch bedrijf doet stiekem testen voor diepzeemijnbouw op Thorntonbank, MO.be, 02/11/2020. (in Dutch)

## 19. BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE BELGIAN SPECIAL TAX INSPECTORATE

BRUSSELS – A lot goes wrong with Belgian tax collection. There are so many loopholes that the tax authorities collect a lot less than the state is entitled to. This is one of the reasons why the government has to borrow and why we have a large national debt.

What makes it worse is that tax evasion is very unevenly distributed. In practice, the opposite of the official philosophy of our tax system applies: the strongest shoulders carry the smallest burden.

The long-awaited memoirs about the shortcomings of our tax system by Karel Anthonissen, former regional director of the BBI/Bijzondere Belastinginspectie (Special Tax Inspectorate).

**AUTHOR:** Wim Van den Eynde

**GRANT:** € 5,000

**PUBLICATION:** BOOK (in Dutch)

- Title: Achter de schermen van de BBI
- Subtitle: De memoires van een caractériel
- Authors: Karel Antonissen, Wim Van den Eynde
- Pages: 280
- Date of publication: 23/06/2020
- EAN: 9789401468428
- Publisher: Kritak

**PRESS COVERAGE** (in Dutch)

- 'Karel Anthonissen: het antifraudbeleid van minister Koen Geens bestaat uit één woord: onwil', Knack, 24/06/2020.
- De Belgische overheid is een witwasmachine, De Morgen, 26/06/2020.

## 20. THE EMPEROR OF OTRAG

The Emperor of OTRAG is a non-fiction story that tries to find out what forces led to the creation and demise of the first private space company and takes the reader from old West Germany to Mobutu's Zaire, Gaddafi's Libya, the Mojave Desert in California and an island in the Pacific where Lutz Kayser spent the last 10 years of his life. It raises the question of how far someone wants to go to make his dream come true.

Today, commercial space companies are demanding ever greater attention and their importance is likely to increase in the future. This evolution seems to be the most normal thing in the world for everyone and even fits in with the ideology of the UN: Space belongs to everyone. What is considered normal today was impossible just half a century ago.

In 1975, the West German engineer Lutz Kayser founded the world's first private space company: OTRAG. While the ESA was building an expensive European rocket, Kayser wanted to bring satellites into space at a tenth of the cost of an American NASA or a European ESA rocket.

The development project that would lead to the construction of an OTRAG rocket was initially supported by the West German government. But this support was later frozen by West Germany when it joined the European space project. Lutz Kayser was therefore obliged to finance his space project with private capital. Not only could he count on a group of West German financiers, but also young West German engineers were eager to contribute to this revolutionary idea. But OTRAG also had a dark side. There was not only the involvement of a few former Nazi scientists, the search for a suitable launch base also resulted in a collaboration with African dictators, each of whom controlled the fuse of gunpowder to provoke an international conflict. Lutz Kayser became a puppet in the Cold War with OTRAG and eventually faced the choice of producing military missiles or going under economically.

The emperor of OTRAG was initially planned as a film project. But the research eventually became a book.

**AUTHOR:** Fons Feyaerts (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 4,000

**PUBLICATION:** BOOK (in Dutch)  
 · Title: De Keizer van OTRAG  
 · Date of publication: 23/06/2020.  
 · ISBN: 978 90 8252 151 1  
 · Pages: 164  
 · Publisher: Beeldenstorm vzw

## 21. MEET THE MOULTONS – PART II

AUGUSTA – What if you could measure a mother's future dreams for her children against the life that has become? In 1995 the photographer Elisabeth Broekaert travelled to Maine, in the north-east of the United States. Ronnie and Laurie Moulton opened their doors and let her make portraits that were then published in the Belgian newspaper De Standaard.

Laurie saw her son Scott, then 9, become a truck driver. Her daughter Nicky (7) became a country singer and the smallest, Shyanne (6), who writes from back to front and can't sit still for a second, became a ballerina.

Two decades later, Broekaert went back. The pictures from now only seem to differ in colour from what was before. Just like back then, life in Maine is hard. Jobs are scarce and often poorly paid. Ballerinas or country singers do not produce this piece of Maine. Laurie has passed away. Ronnie has a new girlfriend but doesn't hide the loss of the mother of his children. Now it's Nicky who's trying to keep the family together. Her son wants to become a bicycle mechanic or a policeman. Her daughter is a singer.

**AUTHORS:** Elisabeth Broekaert, Débora Votquenne (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 4,000

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT  
 · Meet the Moultons – Part II, De Standaard, 04/07/2020.

## 22. UNIFORMS OF BELGIAN SOLDIERS AND POLICEMEN MADE BY EXPLOITED ROMANIAN WORKERS

FALTECINI – Belgian police and army uniforms are made in Romanian factories with Belgian owners, by seamstresses who can barely make a living from their wages. What is wrong with our public tenders? 'As long as price remains the most important award criterion, someone always pays the price.'

Why do Belgian companies produce the clothing of government employees using operations based more than two thousand kilometres from our country? The workers' payslips, which the investigators were able to look into, provide the answer.

**AUTHORS:** Karin Eeckhout, Ward Rabaey, Louis Lammertyn, Elisa Nelissen (Belgium), Laura Stefanut (Romania)

**GRANT:** € 9,975

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT/ONLINE (in Dutch)

- Sociale dumping: waarom 'Made in Europe' géén duurzaamheidslabel is, Knack, 08/07/2020.

**PRESS COVERAGE**

- 'Politie- en legeruniformen worden gemaakt door onderbetaalde Roemeense arbeiders in slechte arbeidsomstandigheden', HLN.be, 08/07/2020. (in Dutch)
- 'Les uniformes belges de l'armée et de la police fabriqués par des travailleurs roumains sous-payés: une ONG dénonce, l'entreprise se défend', RTBF.be, 08/07/2020. (in French)

**IMPACT** (in Dutch)

- Belgische uniformen geproduceerd in slechte omstandigheden, WSM.be, 08/07/2020.

**23. THE INVISIBLE OLYMPIANS**

KABUL, KINSHASHA, JUBA – No Olympics this summer. But Elien did seek and feel the Olympic spirit: in Afghan women's football, wheelchair basketball in South Sudan and with nzo players in Congo. These champions wouldn't have made it to the Olympics anyway, but the Olympic spirit is clearly present.

Three stories from this series appeared on June 3, 2020, in the summer issue of the Belgian magazine MO\* Magazine. This summer an online dossier will follow with several inspiring stories about politics, society and ordinary people with an extraordinary love for sports.

**AUTHOR:** Elien Spillebeen

**GRANT:** € 10,000

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT (in Dutch)

- De onzichtbare Olympiërs, MO\*, Summer issue 2020.

**ONLINE** (in Dutch)

- De Afgaanse voetbaldroom van Khalida Popal, MO.be, 12/07/2020.
- 'Waar was jij toen de doden vielen?', MO.be, 26/07/2020.
- Afrikaanse vrouwensporten zijn niet langer kinderspel: 'Het neemt de stress weg', MO.be, 09/08/2020.

**24. VOICES FROM EMPTY EUROPE**

BOURBON-LANCY – On 1 August Tom Ysewijn leaves Ghent with his bicycle to Lisbon. His route runs along the 'outlying areas', places in the countryside in France, Spain and Portugal that are becoming more and more depopulated. During this tour, which can be followed via MO\*, he goes in search of the voice of the countryside.

The countryside is a problem child for Europe. Large parts of it are becoming depopulated. And those who still live there feel more and more abandoned. By politics, by Europe, by fellow countrymen in the big cities.

But that rural exodus is not a new phenomenon. For more than a hundred years, people in Europe have been moving from the countryside to the city. As a result, three quarters of Europe's population now lives in urban areas. At the end of the nineteenth century, this ratio was actually the reverse.

AUTHOR: Tom Ysewijn

GRANT: € 7,400

PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE (in Dutch)

- Op zoek naar de stem van Europa's rurale periferie, MO.be, 16/07/2020.
- Hoe het lege platteland (hier en daar) een radicaal labo wordt, MO.be, 20/10/2020.
- Waarom we een andere bosbouw nodig hebben, MO.be, 29/10/2020.
- We moeten weldra afscheid nemen van 1840 Spaanse dorpen, MO.be, 04/10/2020.
- De middenstand regeert het land. Niet meer, MO.be, 25/11/2020.
- Hoe de Franse periferie een ballingsoord werd, MO.be, 18/01/2021.

## 25. [HOMELESSNESS IN BELGIUM](#)

BRUSSELS – This is the first article in a series on homelessness focusing on the Belgian capital, where homelessness has more than doubled in ten years.

The first piece is a portrait of the family of Albert Maillet, a 47-year-old homeless man who died a year ago in Brussels. Albert's sisters had no contact with their brother for decades, but after his death they tried to find out more about who he was and got to know his friends who are still surviving on the streets.

AUTHOR: Brecht Castel, Koba Ryckewaert

GRANT: € 5,175

PUBLICATION: PRINT/ONLINE (in Dutch)

- 'De schok was dubbel: mijn broer was dood, en hij leefde op straat', De Standaard, 18/07/2020.

## 26. [THE LAST NEWSPAPER](#)

ANTWERP – in a six-part series Karl van den Broeck, who succeeded Georges Timmerman as editor-in-chief of the Belgia investigative news site Apache in 2014, recounts how the top man of De Persgroep (now DPG Media) committed the sophisticated stealth murder of Flanders' most important independent progressive newspaper De Morgen.

AUTHOR: Karl van den Broeck

GRANT: € 2,500

- PUBLICATION:
- De Morgen bestaat niet meer, Apache.be, 08/07/2020.
  - De Morgen: van moord naar droom, Apache.be, 15/07/2020.
  - De paarse paringsdans rond De Morgen, Apache.be, 22/07/2020.
  - Hoe De Morgen verstoppertje speelt met een stichting, Apache.be, 29/07/2020.
  - Waar is de laatste krant die niemand maakte, Apache.be, 05/08/2020.
  - Back to the future: het geheim van Apache, 12/08/2020.

## 27. THE IMPACT OF SUICIDE

BRUSSELS – As a child, journalist Brecht Castel lost his father after suicide. Twenty years later he still has questions. Questions that not only concern himself, because in Flanders an average of three people step out of life every day.

The number of relatives is therefore enormous and the impact of suicide on our society just as much. Brecht starts from his personal family history and sheds new light on this social problem.

**AUTHOR:** Brecht Castel

**GRANT:** € 4,600

**PUBLICATION:** PODCAST

- 'Kerekewere', De Standaard, vanaf 7/08/2020. (meer info).

**PRINT**

- Verder na zelfdoding. 'Het schuldgevoel maakt het zoveel lastiger', De Standaard, 28/05/2019.

## 28. LOCKED UP IN LOCKDOWN

MERKSPLAS – March 2020. Corona shuts down Belgium. Everyone has to stay inside. Door closed, one hour a day outside. A story that sounds familiar to the residents of Merksplas prison.

'Locked up in lockdown' is a portrait of three prisoners, who are experiencing the coronavirus crisis in a completely different way than the rest of the world. They are no longer allowed to receive visitors, most of the activities are cancelled, but they can still make phone calls. From a grey prison office, they are given one hour each week for an interview on the phone.

During this period the Flemish prison radio project Radio Begijnenstraat made a dial-in radio show with three generations of internees. They are experts in isolation. And while prison time is ticking even slower than usual, Yani, Manuel and Werner tell us their experience of this lockdown.

This documentary is not only a portrait of lost zest for life and death dreams of three generations of interned men, but also a testimony of an inadequate internment policy, in which there is still a lack of proper care for mentally ill offenders.

**AUTHORS:** Wederik De Backer, Katrin Lohmann

**GRANT:** € 4,300

**PUBLICATION:** PODCAST

- Locked-up in lockdown, Apache.be, 10/08/2020. (in Dutch)
- Locked-up in lockdown, Radio 1, 03/09/2020 (in Dutch)

## 29. MY COMRADE CHE GUEVARA

BUJUMBURA – The research by Jeroen Janssen and award-winning graphic novelist and journalist Hilde Baele, into Mzee Jérôme Sebasoni, who became Che Guevara's guide as a young Inyenzi rebel, took no less than 12 years.

Their investigations led from Kayibanda and Mobutu to Aleida Guevara and from Bujumbura and Kigali to La Havana and Varsenaere. They poured their heroic safari into a fascinating,



adventurous and humorous story full of bizarre twists and turns. Never before had they heard a Rwandan speak Spanish. And what was Che Guevara actually doing in Congo?

**AUTHORS:** Jeroen Janssen, Hilde Baele (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 3,520

**PUBLICATION:** BOOK (in Dutch)  
 · Title: Mijn kameraad Che Guevara  
 · Publisher: Oogachtend  
 · Date of publication: 03/09/2020  
 · ISBN: 9789492672384  
 · Pages: 160

**PRESS COVERAGE**

- Mijn kameraad Che Guevara, Stripgids, 04/09/2020. (in Dutch)
- Autre chose, Charlie Hebdo, 18/09/2020. (in French)
- Twaalf jaar in het spoor van de Rwandaee kameraad van Che, Gazet van Antwerpen, 19/09/2020. (in Dutch)
- In beeld: In de Congolese voetsporen van Che Guevara, MO.be, 22/10/2020. (in Dutch)
- Rwandese gids van Che in Afrika vertelt verhaal in 'Mijn kameraad Che Guevara', De Wereld Morgen, 03/11/2020 (in Dutch)

.....

### 30. MOSAIC OF THE LEBANESE REVOLUTION

BEIRUT – On 17 October 2019 a revolution broke out in Lebanon that is still raging among the people. The young, secular population is trying to break free, while the divided sectarian power apparatus is digging deeper. The ongoing Lebanese popular protests resulted in the largest national protest since the civil war (1975-1990). All Lebanese, regardless of their frame of reference within the melting pot of cultures, unite under one banner against the corrupt commanders.

Almost a year later, Eugenie and Robbe embark on research and make a video report zooming in on stories about the political impasse. The revolutionary spirit is there, but will they succeed in creating a new political system? What is the outcome of the series of uprisings that are still in progress?

**AUTHORS:** Robbe Vandegheuchte, Eugenie D'Hooghe (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 4,700

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT  
 · 'Er is geen geld voor een burgeroorlog', Knack, 16/09/2020. (In Dutch)

**TELEVISION** (in Dutch)

- Revolutie uit de as, Vranckx, VRT (Belgian national broadcaster), 10/10/2020.

**PRESS COVERAGE**

- Nieuwe feiten, Radio 1 (Belgian national broadcaster), 09/10/2020.
- .....

### 31. THE CHOLESTEROL MYTH

SCHIEDAM – A radically different view of cholesterol and cardiovascular disease, that is what The Cholesterol Myth is all about. Part of it is that cholesterol is no longer the big bogeyman, but, according to experts, can be seen as a positive, body-specific, even healing substance. On closer inspection, cholesterol also plays a positive role in our diet. These insights which underpin the book raise the question of what causes all those cardiovascular patients to die every day, just as the author almost lost his father.

Based on independent journalistic research, the cholesterol myth shows that the current view on cholesterol and cardiovascular disease is wrong and needs to be revised. Interviews with doctors and scientists involved in research make this very clear.

The book is divided into three parts:

1. Rise and fall of the cholesterol myth
2. Deliberate deception
3. What you can do yourself for the health of your heart and blood vessels

**AUTHOR:** Daan De Wit (Netherlands)

**GRANT:** € 6,500

**PUBLICATION:** BOOK

- Title: De cholesterolmythe
- Subtitle: Een radicaal nieuwe visie op het ontstaan, voorkomen en omkeren van hart- en vaatziekten
- Publisher: Scriptum
- Paperback, 16 x 24 cm
- Number of pages: 248
- ISBN: 9789463192118
- Date of publication: 13/10/2020

### 32. THE FORGOTTEN SOFTENON

BRUSSELS – A pregnancy test that could lead to a miscarriage or a child with a birth defect. Abroad, the drug Duogynon is causing controversy to this day. This autumn, a British victims' organisation is suing the manufacturer, pharmaceutical giant Schering (now Bayer).

Nobody in Belgium knows Duogynon, although the pregnancy test was also on the market here until 1978. What is more, archival documents reveal that the Belgian medicines commission did nothing for years. At Schering's request, the scandal was kept quiet. There must be victims, but how could they know?

**AUTHOR:** Tinne Claes (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 745

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT/ONLINE

- 'De zwangerschapstest die je niet mocht gebruiken tijdens je zwangerschap', Knack, 13/10/2020. (in Dutch)
- Duogynon, l'autre scandale 'Softenon' tombé dans l'oublie, LeVif, 13/10/2020. (in French)

**PRESS COVERAGE**

- Duogynon: een zwangerschapstest met een significant risico op kinderen met een afwijking, Interne Keuken, VRT/Radio 1 (Belgian public broadcaster), 07/11/2020.

### 33. [30 MILLION CHICKENS, NONE TO BE SEEN](#)

BRAKEN – The Belgian village of Braken on the Dutch border, has 1.2 million chickens among its inhabitants. They divide the village: inhabitants are tired of the smell, fine dust and heavy goods vehicles in their village. In order to establish an objective basis for discussion, the local government ordered an air quality study.

Nitrogen levels in the village are particularly high and almost everywhere they exceed the limits of the municipality, according to scientists. In addition to the odour nuisance, they conclude that building additional barns is very problematic. Their solution: better barn systems and a reduction of the flock.

The excesses in Braken symbolise where landless industrial animal farming leads to. Ammonia emissions have an impact on nature and the health of citizens in the wider region. If something is moving, be it in terms of policy or science, it is clearly under pressure from citizens.

Apache traversed the hamlet of Braken and spoke to residents and farmers, civil servants, policy makers and scientists. The research report was cast in a multimedia longread, with five background pieces linked to it.

**AUTHORS:** Steven Vanden Bussche, Berber Verpoest (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 3,525

**PUBLICATION:** ONLINE (in Dutch)

- Kempense kippenbonanza botst op grenzen, Apache, 14/10/2020.
- De omerta rond de kippenhinder, Apache, 14/10/2020.
- Stikstof: de onzichtbare vijand voor mens en milieu, Apache 14/10/2020.
- Wetenschappers bevestigen geurhinder in Noorderkempen, Apache, 14/10/2020.
- De explosieve groei van kippenstallen in Wuustwezel, Apache, 14/10/2020.
- De kip legt gouden eieren in Vlaanderen, Apache, 14/10/2020.

### 34. [BLOOD AND HONEY](#)

ZAGREB – Writer and historian Irene van der Linde and documentary photographer Nicole Segers travel in the footsteps of the British writer Rebecca West through former Yugoslavia and Albania. With West's magnum opus *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* (1942) in their hands, they go in search of the meaning of the new borders in the Balkans.

In *Blood and Honey* (Bloed en honing), Van der Linde and Segers travel over quiet roads, arid plateaus, through desolate villages and dark rock gorges. They visit cities with magical names like Dubrovnik, Sarajevo, Skopje, Ohrid and Tirana. They show the world of ordinary people with an extraordinary history. People who dream, fight, fear, struggle with their fate. As in a polyphonic choir they talk about their lives. *Blood and Honey* is an innovative and unique combination of literary non-fiction and documentary photography.

Blood and honey is about unity and separation. About the sobering reality of nationalism put into practice. About hope and disappointment, passion and lethargy. About daily worries and geopolitical forces. About the role of the past in the present. About the fragmentation of a region, a danger that also threatens societies elsewhere in Europe.

'Don't think that it won't happen, that there can't be war. The world in which you live, which you take for granted, can be over in one fell swoop. Nobody believed it, nor did we, but it happened anyway,' says historian Jesenko Galijašević at his home in Sarajevo.

**AUTHORS:** Irene Van der Linde, Nicole Segers (Netherlands)

**GRANT:** € 5,000

**PUBLICATION: BOOK**

- Title: Bloed en honing
- Subtitle: Ontmoetingen op de grenzen van de Balkan
- Language: Dutch
- Date of publication: 24/10/2020
- Number of pages: 680
- Publisher: Boom
- EAN: 9789024432127

**PRE-PUBLICATION (in Dutch)**

- 'We waren allemaal Joegoslaven', De Groene Amsterdammer, 22/10/2020.

**PRESS COVERAGE (in Dutch)**

- Bloed en honing; een reis door voormalig Joegoslavië, De Groene Amsterdammer Podcast, 22/10/2020.
- Bloed en honing, Pompidou, VRT/Klara, 07/12/2020.
- On the road in the Balkan, De Standaard, 12/12/2020.

**35. THE CONVERSATION**

AUSTIN – Louise Van Assche is a documentary filmmaker who lives and works in Austin, Texas. She was born and raised in Belgium and has Congolese roots. A year ago she moved to Austin, the capital of Texas. There she ended up in the middle of the Black Lives Matter protests. It touched her personally and she decided to take to the streets to make a report.

Hiram is a live streamer. From the beginning of the protests he films what is happening on the streets. This is how he wants to denounce injustice. 'I use my camera as a way to protect demonstrators. Thanks to social media it has become easier to bring out police violence, just look at George Floyd.' A demonstrator has already been shot in front of Hiram's lens, which has touched him deeply.

Louise also meets families of victims. And she goes out with different movements. Mama Bear and her family have their own T-shirts and they make up like real warriors. They fight peacefully. But Louise notices that the atmosphere is getting grimmer. 'People are reaching for weapons. Once in a while, a car drives into the crowd. The police are becoming more and more repressive and it is only becoming more difficult to enter into dialogue.'

'The protests went through the world like wildfire and also reached Belgium,' says Louise. 'This report will not only give us an insight into American life, but at the same time make us reflect on the increasing polarisation that is also taking place in Europe.'

**AUTHOR:** Louise Van Assche (Belgium/US)

**GRANT:** € 6,000

**PUBLICATION: TELEVISION**

- The Conversation, Vranckx, VRT/Canvas (Belgian public broadcaster), 24/10/2020.

**PRESS COVERAGE**

- Vandaag, VRT/één, 21/10/2020.

### **36. JUST AS MUCH SUFFERING. IN THE WINGS OF NON-WESTERN MULTINATIONALS**

NAIROBI/SEOUL – European media regularly report on human rights violations by multinational companies ‘from here’. Various Flemish media reported that a Brussels construction company would engage in forced labour in Qatar in preparation for the World Cup. Swedish journalists Tobias Åkerblom and Moa Kärnstrand revealed that a Swedish clothing brand would employ children aged 14 in Myanmar. However, multinationals born and raised in emerging economies are often forgotten.

‘Decisions made by CEOs and Boards in Brussels or Stockholm worry the Western public more than the choices made by managers in Nairobi or Seoul. Yet their choices have an impact on their lives too.’ Aleydis Nissen researched this blind spot in the Kenyan flower industry and the South Korean electronics industry.

#### **Roses from Kenya: one plantation is not the other**

The working conditions on flower plantations in Kenya regularly make the news. Dutch journalists report on everything that goes wrong there, from toxic chemicals to tax evasion. That’s normal. Most of the roses at the Dutch auction come from Kenya. Unfortunately, these news items only tell half the story. While Dutch and other European entrepreneurs are criticised, not a word is said about the Kenyan elite and Indian entrepreneurs who control half of the companies. This navel-gazing is having disastrous consequences for a large proportion of the workers in Kenya.

#### **Electronics from South Korea: closely linked to power**

Even if you never bought a Samsung smartphone or television, you will certainly have merchandise from the South Korean conglomerate. Together with compatriot SK Hynix, Samsung produces most of the DRAM semiconductors and NAND memory worldwide. Several central components are still produced in South Korea today. And that does not benefit all South Koreans. Factory workers still have the greatest difficulty in proving that they contracted nasty diseases such as leukaemia at work. It is just as difficult to expose it. In South Korea, Samsung’s tentacles reach to the highest echelons of power.

**AUTHOR:** Aleydis Nissen

**GRANT:** € 4,000

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT (In Dutch)

- In Kenia is de ene rozenplantage de ander niet: ‘Klagen is ontslag vragen’, Knack.be, 24/10/2020
- Elektronica uit Zuid-Korea: nauw verbonden met macht, EOS, 21/12/2020.

### **37. THE DRY NORTH**

BRUSSELS – Climate change is making European summers ever drier and hotter, and not just in the south: During the extremely dry summer of 2018, the drought was mostly limited to the part of Europe north of the Alps. In many places, the summers of 2019 and 2020 were again unusually dry.

The negative consequences of the drought for nature and its ability to take up CO<sub>2</sub> during the growing season are significant. This is bad news for ambitious EU plans to store more carbon in nature, and the controversial idea that this might be considered equivalent to a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

How do we prevent nature from becoming a source of CO<sub>2</sub> itself, and how do we keep the trees we plant from dying or catching fire as a consequence of the drought?

Is planting trees always the most sustainable way of storing more carbon, or do we have to protect and perhaps even recreate other ecosystems as well?

How do we make sure the large amounts of carbon stored in the soil in formerly wet areas, many of which have now been drained, stay where they are?

To answer these and many other questions, Tim Vernimmen visited scientists in six European countries during the summer, when they were investigating the impacts of summer drought.

This revealed not just the damage done by ever drier summers, but also some possible solutions.

**AUTHOR:** Tim Vernimmen

**GRANT:** € 3,450

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT/ONLINE (in Dutch)

- Kunnen we wel op bomen rekenen om de CO2-uitstoot te compenseren?, De Standaard, 7/11/2020.
- Als een bos meer CO2 uitstoot dan dat het er opslaat, De Standaard, 9/11/2020.
- Eerst water, de rest komt later, De Standaard, 13/11/2020.

### **38. LIVING ON FORBIDDEN TERRITORY**

STEKENE – Living in a recreation area is prohibited. Yet people still live in a chalet or a caravan, or sometimes in a brick weekend residence. Sometimes these are people who find themselves in precarious financial circumstances. Pensioners, people coming out of a divorce, people who are ill, or who, in short, have a low income. They have found a housing solution that is acceptable to them and they are proud of it. They are not going to let it go.

Sometimes it is about people who have simply lived there for a long time. At the time, no one warned them that it was not allowed. They responded to one of many misleading advertisements when buying the house.

Meanwhile, open space is under pressure. Attention for unspoilt nature and more forests is growing in densely populated Flanders. Weekend houses and their permanent residents do not fit into this picture. Many see them as profiteers who have bought a piece of land in green surroundings for little money.

**AUTHOR:** Esmeralda Borgo (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 1,790

**PUBLICATION:** ONLINE (in Dutch)

- Nieuwe bestemming recreatiegebieden in Stekene zorgt voor chaos, Apache.be, 16/11/2020.
- Oplossingen gezocht voor chaletbewoners in Herselt, Apache.be, 17/11/2020.
- Als wijken moeten wijken voor water, Apache.be, 18/11/2020.
- 'Bied bewoners weekendverblijven volwaardig alternatief', Apache.be, 18/11/2020.

### **39. A NITROGEN BOMB UNDER FLANDERS**

BRUSSELS – Europe's Natura 2000 protected areas are groaning under nitrogen emissions from livestock farming. Meanwhile, farmers near nature reserves fear for their future. Due to conflicting policy choices, agriculture and nature conservation have become diametrically opposed. The call for a long-term vision is becoming louder and louder. What kind of agriculture do we want in Flanders?



Stef Arends explores the future of farming in five parts. Based on many discussions with farmers, nature conservationists, scientists and politicians, he discerns three profiles: the farmer as an economist, the farmer as a romantic and the farmer as a futurist.

**AUTHOR:** Stef Arends (Netherlands)

**GRANT:** € 3,300

**PUBLICATION:** ONLINE (In Dutch)

- Een stikstofbom onder Vlaanderen, Apache.be, 23/11/2020.
- Redt grootschalige landbouw het milieu?, Apache.be, 24/11/2020.
- Een stikstofbom onder Vlaanderen: kleinschaligheid in volgebouwde regio, Apache.be, 25/11/2020.
- Een stikstofbom onder Vlaanderen: boeren zonder dieren, Apache.be, 26/11/2020.
- Een stikstofbom onder Vlaanderen: regering staat voor harde keuzes, Apache.be, 27/11/2020.

#### 40. [THE BALKAN ROUTE IN 2020](#)

BRUSSELS – This story recounts how European border and migration policy is making life difficult for people on the Balkan route. Officially, the route is closed, but this research shows that it is still active.

European migration policy has turned out to be a shameless game of ping-pong with migrants and refugees between, among others, Turkey and Greece, Greece and Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Hope has given way to hopelessness.

**AUTHORS:** Brecht De Vleeschauwer (Belgium), Bárbara Bécares (Spain)

**GRANT:** € 7,500

**PUBLICATIONS:** ONLINE

- De Balkanroute anno 2020 – heen en weer en weer terug, Apache.be, 23/11/2020. (in Dutch)
- El drama de los refugiados, Publico, 19/12/2020. (in Spanish)

#### 41. [PORTUGAL ON SALE: WHO BENEFITS FROM THE RACE FOR LITHIUM?](#)

MINA DO BAROSSO – Lithium is the raw material we need en masse for batteries, including electric cars. Under Portuguese soil there is a lot of that 'white gold'.

Its extraction should help the country to recover economically and make the European energy transition possible. But who wants an open mine on their doorstep?

**AUTHOR:** Charis Bastin (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 1,890

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT (In Dutch)

- Lithium is slechts een sluijer om een groene levensstijl te verkopen, MO\*, December 2020.

## 42. [JAILBIRDS](#)

BEVEREN – ‘Jailbirds’ intends to speak about the impact of the COVID-crisis and the lockdown, not only on a practical or economic level but to highlight mental processes and how it influences our psychological state. From a microcosm: incarcerated life versus universal and collective uncertainty and the feeling of being deprived of physical and social freedom.

How it feels when freedom is suddenly taken away from you, being confined to one space, with little access to friends and family, offers just a taste of long-term daily life experience in jail. There is a deeply symbolic parallel to be drawn between imprisonment and the COVID-lockdown. The dogmas of the mind can be like prison walls. There’s a lot of controversy around empathising with convicted criminals. To be heard and seen is often a big step for this ‘invisible’ community. The shared sense of imprisonment due to lockdown may lead to empathy, compassion and understanding.

Will the COVID-19-crisis be the ‘reset’ we think and dream it could be? An opportunity to pause and start again, to courageously implement positive change, to reform a rigid system that has lost track of humanity and lost touch with nature? Or, will it constrain previously acquired freedom and endorse a regime, a climate of division? In that context, this project is a prism through which to look for answers.

**AUTHORS:** Sanne De Wilde, Jana Antonissen (Belgium)

**GRANT:** € 6,180

**PUBLICATION:** PRINT/ONLINE (in Dutch)  
· Opgesloten/afgesloten, De Standaard, 05/12/2020.

### ONLINE EXHIBITION

· Futures Reset

## 43. [THE SECRET SEIZURES](#)

ANTWERP – The port of Antwerp is considered to be the most important port for coca imports in Europe. Every year, tons of cocaine come here hidden on board container ships. The smuggled cocaine is estimated to have a street value of tens of billions of kronor.

Since Sweden joined the EU, the port of Antwerp has also been our external border. What is happening here thus also affects the Swedish drug market and the violence that follows in its footsteps. Cocaine trafficking is a cross-border societal problem.

Kalla Faktas therefore used a collaboration between several newsrooms in several of the countries concerned. The review consists of two parts:

Part 1 is about what cocaine means for the development of violence in Sweden, and Antwerp where the connection between the cocaine trade and violence has become more visible through the large port.

Part 2 is the international part and there we examine how the smuggling goes and how the control in Antwerp’s port is deficient. For the first time, De Tijd managed to obtain information on all drug seizures made in the port of Antwerp. Almost half of the cocaine seized arrived at the same terminal in Antwerp (MPET). We followed the routes that the ships took with cocaine in the cargo before they arrived at the port. For this we used the ‘Marine Traffic’ database, which keeps track of the positions of ships and yachts around the world. In our collaboration, we enlisted the help of the journalist network the ‘Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project’ (OCCRP) and the Pascal Decroos Fund, and revisited various types of data, such as ports, ships, shipping companies and all kinds of details about the ships’ home port, which flag they sail under, etc.

AUTHOR: Erik Palm (Sweden)

GRANT: € 6,500

PUBLICATION: PRINT/ONLINE  
· De Cokelijnen, De Tijd, 08/12/2020.

TELEVISION/ONLINE

- Kokainkriget – ett samarbete med prisbelönda journalistnätverket OCCRP och belgiska De Tijd, TV4.se, 08/12/2020. (in Swedish)
- Kalla Fakta – Cocaine Wars, via YouTube, 08/12/2020 (in English)

.....

#### 44. EPILOGUE OF A CYCLING ERA

GHENT – ‘The Farm’, is literally an old Belgian farmhouse outside of Ghent. From the seventies onward it was the operational base for young promising international cyclists. Michael Tvardovskiy lived at The Farm for eight years, after deserting the Ukrainian army. When he was deported from Belgium, both this story and the Flemish cycling era came to an end.

Staf Boone, manager of the Kingsnorth International Wheelers (KIW), saw hundreds of riders pass by The Farm. All of them wanted to become a ‘Flandrien’. First came British riders, Australians and Canadians. After the Berlin Wall fell, riders from Eastern Europe found their way to Belgium.

But the final sprint of the team was lost. The team used to have 40 riders. Now, for the first time, there is no team. The last veteran mechanics have officially left the building. In the bigger picture, we see amateur cycling is struggling in Belgium, where it has a longstanding tradition. Most riders used to stay a couple of months at The Farm. Michael (31) from Ukraine has called it home since 2014. He fled Kiev after President Yanukovych was ousted and he didn’t want to fight Russian kids in Donetsk. ‘During my service I dreamt about a career in Belgium. So I deserted.’ Last year Michael was deported from Belgium. ‘I moved back in with my parents and now work as an Uber driver.’

AUTHOR: Robbe Vandegehuchte

GRANT: € 900

PUBLICATION: PRINT (in Dutch)  
· Epiloog van een wielertijdperk, Apache, 14/12/2020.

## EXTRA CALL: EMERGENCY FUND FOR LOCAL JOURNALISM

Many actors in the Belgian media sector are facing problems because of the federal measures taken by the Belgian National Security Council to limit the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19. On 2 June 2020, the Flemish Government made a final decision on the amount of emergency funds to be used to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Flemish Government entrusted Journalismfund.eu, through the Pascal Decroos Fund, with the task of distributing grants for local projects by freelance journalists who have little access to other support measures.

27 projects (for 37 grantees) were awarded a total amount of € 139,357.

|                         |              | 2020              |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| WORK SITUATION          | Freelance    | 34                |
|                         | Employee     | 3                 |
|                         | Student      | 0                 |
|                         | Retired      | 0                 |
|                         | Other        | 0                 |
|                         | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>37</b>         |
| DOMICILE                | Belgium      | 37                |
| NATIONALITY             | Belgium      | 33                |
|                         | Netherlands  | 4                 |
|                         | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>37</b>         |
| AVERAGE AGE             |              | 42                |
| NOVICE/EXPERIENCED      | Novice       | 11                |
|                         | Experienced  | 26                |
|                         | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>37</b>         |
| GENDER                  | Male         | 24                |
|                         | Female       | 13                |
|                         | -            | 0                 |
|                         | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>37</b>         |
| AMOUNT OF MONEY GRANTED | Male         | 103,749.00        |
|                         | Female       | 35,608.00         |
|                         | -            | 0.00              |
|                         | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>139,357.00</b> |

## GRANTS FOR YOUNG JOURNALISTES: STAMP MEDIA GRANTS

With this grant programme, StampMedia wants to encourage young people (aged 18 to 26) to carry out a special journalistic project. The subject should relate to the world of young people from Flanders and Brussels in a super-diverse society. The voice of the young people must be prominent in the final journalistic product. The Belgian non-profit organisation StampMedia vzw entrusted Journalismfund.eu vzw, through the Pascal Decroos Fund, with managing its grant programme.

3 projects (5 grantees) were awarded a total amount of € 4,000.

## FLEMISH JOURNALISM FUND

In the summer of 2018, the Flemish Journalism Fund (FJF) was launched, to support diversity and innovation in journalism in Flanders. The Fund was a project of Journalismfund.eu, in partnership with the Flemish Association of Journalists and the Flemish government.

The FJF had three principal goals:

- organising a subsidy programme for innovative journalism projects
- stimulating knowledge sharing about news and media
- enhancing cooperation between Flanders and the Netherlands

The daily management and operation of the FJF were entrusted to Journalismfund.eu, which also acted as legal representative of the FJF. The Partnership Agreement with the Flemish government applied to the period 2018-2020.

The Partnership Agreement also included a clause that Flanders would order a study in 2019 to assess whether the corporatisation of the FJF after 2020 would be a good option. Moreover, on 20 March 2019 the Flemish Parliament unanimously approved of a resolution asking the government, amongst other things, to continue to invest in support to journalism and to further develop the Flemish Journalism Fund into a long-term, properly functioning organisation.

However, in November 2019, the new Flemish government decided not to include resources for the FJF in its 2020 budget, neither operational resources nor the resources that had already been allocated in the Partnership Agreement for the new subsidy round for innovative journalism projects. The FJF was shut down prematurely, in breach of the Partnership Agreement with the Flemish government, without any form of evaluation.

However, the majority of the innovation projects that were granted by the FJF in December 2018 ran up to and including 2020. That's why at the end of December 2019, the Flemish government still awarded a small operational subsidy to the FJF to be able to further meet its assignments and commitments.

In the first half of 2020, the FJF therefore still remained responsible for support, supervision, settlement and assessment of the granted projects, and for disclosing the specific and overall results.

These were the projects that the FJF supported throughout 2019 and 2020:

- [Factcheck.Vlaanderen](#) (Factcheck.Flanders): an online platform that uses **artificial intelligence** to detect **disinformation and polarisation** so that fact-checkers can verify and combat it.
- [Apache Lokaal](#) (Apache Local): a **local journalism** project in which news site Apache explored four themes with the help of local citizens and journalists.

- [Sonderland](#): a **production studio for nonfiction**, run by a collective of journalists, scientists, video and radio producers, illustrators and photographers. Every year Sonderland produces journalism about one central topic (in 2019: housing).
- [Chase Social Stories](#): a coaching project for adolescents who make stories about **social change in urban communities**.
- [The Polar Project](#): a **cross-media magazine on climate change**.
- [FactRank](#): a free tool that automatically **filters out statements** from Dutch-language texts **worthy of fact-checking**.
- [Podlab XL](#): a **training programme for non-fiction podcast makers**, that coaches audio novices from podcast idea to pilot.
- [Wablieft gaat digitaal](#) (Wablieft Goes Digital): an **online news channel for low-literate adults**.
- [U:nite](#): a team of emerging actors and word artists brings news to **16-24-year-old video consumers** using new online formats.
- [News Noses](#): a journalism competition for **secondary school classes**, run by a regional television broadcaster.
- [UITLANDER](#): a platform for high-quality, **international stories** about and by Belgians living abroad, made for the Belgian home audience.

In spring and early summer of 2020 Journalismfund.eu published the project results on the FJF website. Each of the 11 supported projects was presented in detail, including project results and output, and lessons learnt by the project owners themselves. Journalismfund.eu also drew up a comprehensive final report about the FJF project for the Flemish government, which it published on its [website](#).

## MONEY TRAIL PROJECT

### INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM AGAINST FINANCIAL INJUSTICE

In May 2018, Money Trail was launched at the EJIC & Dataharvest conference in Mechelen. Money Trail is a collaborative project between highly regarded journalism and training organisations – Journalismfund.eu, Finance Uncovered, Free Press Unlimited – and Oxfam Novib. It is supported by the Dutch 'Nationale Postcode Loterij'.

Investigative journalism is a powerful weapon in the fight against financial injustice. This was clearly shown by investigations such as Lux Leaks, the Bahama files, Football Leaks and the Panama Papers, which placed tax evasion high on the international political agenda. Due to the huge attention in the media for the relevant politicians and companies in Europe and the United States, the impression was created that the main victims were Western governments that were deprived of tax revenues. But the real victims were the developing countries: they are deprived of 100 billion dollars each year because of tax evasion and fraud by international companies. Money that they need urgently for public facilities such as education, health care and infrastructure. The project aims to contribute to the end of tax evasion, financial scandals, corruption and dubious investments.

## Grants

In Money Trail, Journalismfund.eu offers working grants for (teams of) African, Asian and European journalists to investigate cross-border illicit financial flows, tax abuse money laundering and corruption in Africa, Asia and Europe. Grants are awarded to journalists solely by Journalismfund.eu, with no input or oversight at any stage from the consortium as a whole.

The primary goal of this grant is to expose illicit finance, tax abuse, corruption and money laundering.

In 2020, Journalismfund.eu received 54 applications from 123 applicants in four application rounds.

The jury was convened four times and awarded a grant to 35 projects by 86 journalists. In all, a record sum of €263,910 was awarded, where the total applications came to €610,491.

### Dutch project call

In 2020 there were two separate calls for Dutch journalists to investigate financial flows from and to Africa or Asia passing through **the Netherlands**. These calls coincided with the first two of the four general calls in 2020. We expected these applicants to publish their articles in Dutch in a Dutch media outlet. These additional calls were launched because we had only received a few applications from the Netherlands although it is the Dutch 'Postcode Loterij' that supports the project financially.

### No-cost project extension – additional call

The COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the planned activities and budget of the total Money Trail project, which was scheduled to end on 31 March 2021. The Money Trail consortium partners therefore agreed with the Dutch Postcode Lottery on a no-cost extension of the project until 30 September 2021. This enabled Journalismfund.eu to organise an extra, eleventh grant call, with an application deadline on 14 December 2020. The call attracted substantial interest. We received 18 applications, for a total requested amount of €174,087. The jury convened for this round on 19 January 2021. The numbers for this additional call are therefore not included in the numbers for 2020 – they will be included in the annual report of 2021.

## Jury

An independent, anonymous panel of four jury members with comprehensive experience in investigative journalism in Africa, Asia and Europe assesses all entries. Applications are submitted in English so that all jury members can read and understand them. The jury members are selected by Journalismfund.eu upon a proposal from the advisory board of Journalismfund.eu. They remain anonymous until they leave the jury.

The jury decides on the basis of the following journalistic criteria:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1. Added value compared to mainstream coverage / a forgotten story  | 13         |
| 2. Relevance in society   | 13         |
| 3. Originality and innovative ideas, research methods   | 9          |
| 4. Feasibility  | 11         |
| 5. Experience of the applicants, references   | 5          |
| 6. Saleability, newsworthiness  | 11         |
| 7. Work effort requirement  | 8          |
| 8. Cross-border stories, cooperation between colleagues in different countries, pooling research capacity and knowledge | 15         |
| 9. Being a watchdog of institutions, policies, money  | 15         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>100</b> |



## STATISTICS

Check the table below:

|                                    | 2018      | 2019      | 2020      |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| # applications                     | 29        | 42        | 54        |
| # applicants                       | 94        | 104       | 123       |
| # granted projects                 | 12        | 24        | 35        |
| # grantees                         | 37        | 75        | 86        |
| Amount granted                     | € 117,481 | € 195,764 | € 263,910 |
| Minimum project support            | € 4,993   | € 2,200   | € 340     |
| Maximum project support            | € 19,070  | € 13,900  | € 15,000  |
| Average project support            | € 9,790   | € 8,157   | € 7,540   |
| Amount applied for                 | € 664,839 | € 981,943 | € 610,491 |
| Av. amount applied for per project | € 22,925  | € 23,380  | € 11,300  |
| Number of rounds                   | 3         | 3         | 4         |

### Profile of applicants:

Of the 123 applicants, 87 were men, 35 women and one other. 34 journalists worked as a permanent member of staff and 85 as freelance journalists.

### WORK SITUATION

| 2020       | Granted   | Denied    | TOTAL      |
|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Freelance  | 61        | 24        | 85         |
| Employee   | 23        | 11        | 34         |
| Student    | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| Retired    | 0         | 0         | 0          |
| Other      | 2         | 1         | 3          |
| <b>SUM</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>123</b> |

### GENDER

|              | Granted   | Denied    | TOTAL      |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Male         | 61        | 26        | 87         |
| Female       | 25        | 10        | 35         |
| -            | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>123</b> |

### Profile of the grantees:

The journalists who actually received a grant could be subdivided into 61 freelance and 23 permanently employed journalists (and 2 'other'). 61 were men, 25 were women. (see overview above)

In 2020, we had a diverse group of applicants. They came from 46 different countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

|    |                      | DENIED    | GRANTED   | TOTAL      |
|----|----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1  | Belgium              | 3         | 2         | 5          |
| 2  | Bosnia & Herzegovina | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 3  | Burkina Faso         | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 4  | Burundi              | 1         | 0         | 1          |
| 5  | Canada               | 0         | 2         | 2          |
| 6  | Côte d'Ivoire        | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 7  | Denmark              | 0         | 2         | 2          |
| 8  | Egypt                | 1         | 1         | 2          |
| 9  | Ethiopia             | 0         | 3         | 3          |
| 10 | France               | 1         | 6         | 7          |
| 11 | Germany              | 1         | 5         | 6          |
| 12 | Ghana                | 2         | 2         | 4          |
| 13 | Greece               | 1         | 0         | 1          |
| 14 | Indonesia            | 0         | 4         | 4          |
| 15 | Italy                | 1         | 3         | 4          |
| 16 | Kenya                | 0         | 5         | 5          |
| 17 | Kyrgyzstan           | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 18 | Liberia              | 3         | 0         | 3          |
| 19 | Libya                | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 20 | Malawi               | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 21 | Mauritania           | 1         | 0         | 1          |
| 22 | Mozambique           | 1         | 3         | 4          |
| 23 | Nairobi              | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 24 | Namibia              | 1         | 0         | 1          |
| 25 | Netherlands          | 2         | 13        | 15         |
| 26 | Niger                | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 27 | Nigeria              | 3         | 3         | 6          |
| 28 | Pakistan             | 1         | 0         | 1          |
| 29 | Republic of Korea    | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 30 | Russian Federation   | 1         | 0         | 1          |
| 31 | Rwanda               | 2         | 0         | 2          |
| 32 | Senegal              | 0         | 2         | 2          |
| 33 | Sierra Leone         | 1         | 3         | 4          |
| 34 | South Africa         | 1         | 4         | 5          |
| 35 | South Sudan          | 0         | 2         | 2          |
| 36 | Sweden               | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 37 | Tanzania             | 1         | 1         | 2          |
| 38 | Thailand             | 2         | 0         | 2          |
| 39 | Tunisia              | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 40 | Turkey               | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 41 | Togo                 | 2         | 0         | 2          |
| 42 | Uganda               | 1         | 2         | 3          |
| 43 | Ukraine              | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 44 | United Kingdom       | 1         | 5         | 6          |
| 45 | United States        | 0         | 1         | 1          |
| 46 | Zambia               | 1         | 0         | 1          |
|    | <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>36</b> | <b>87</b> | <b>123</b> |

## OVERVIEW OF SUPPORTED STORIES PUBLISHED IN 2020

30 investigations which received Money Trail Grants were published in 2020. See the overview below.

The Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) selected three of these projects as *2020's best investigative stories*.

Two stories – [Trafficing South Africa's Mining Millions](#) and [How Multinational Tech Companies Exploit Tax Laws and Shift Profit](#) - were selected by GIJN's regional editors as the year's best investigative reporting in Sub-Saharan Africa.

One more story – '[Highway 10 – How West-Africa Pays for Europe's Cocaine Addiction](#)' was chosen as one of the best in the Editor's Pick in French.

### 1. [THE MONEY TRAIL OF THE JAPANESE IMPERIAL BROTHEL SYSTEM](#)

From 1932 to 1945, the Japanese Imperial Army and Navy exploited a system of forced prostitution in all occupied territories in China, South East Asia and the Pacific Ocean, enslaving women and girls of many ethnicities as so-called 'comfort women'. These war crime victims represent 34 sovereign countries, city-states and autonomous territories.

**AUTHORS:** Griselda Molemans (Netherlands) & Hee Seok Park (South Korea)

**GRANT:** € 13,000

**PUBLICATIONS and COVERAGE:**

In 2019 the team already published several online and print articles about their investigation in news media in Korea and Malaysia. In January 2020 Quasar Books published a book by Griselda Molemans, 'Levenslang oorlog' (Lifelong War), which led to additional press coverage in the Netherlands about this investigation.

### 2. [THE SUICIDE EPIDEMIC IN THE PROFITABLE INDIAN MICROFINANCE MARKET](#)

This story focuses on the suicide epidemic of Indian farmers related to over-indebtedness. For the first time this investigation reveals the names of the lenders and their donors involved in the farmers' suicides due to over-indebtedness.

**AUTHORS:** Anrike Visser (Myanmar), Urvashi Sarkar (India), Peter Allen Clark (US), Varsha Torgalkar (India)

**GRANT:** € 13,000

**PUBLICATIONS:**

- [The Role of Lenders and Loans in Maharashtra's Farmer Suicides](#) – Global Ground Media, 6 February 2020
- [Toxic Mix of Loans](#) – Global Ground Media, 13 February 2020
- [Microfinance: Safe on the Outside But Risky on the Inside?](#) – Global Ground Media, 29 January 2020

### **3. DUTCH FLOWER FARMS AVOID PAYING TAX IN KENYA**

Dutch flower growers in Kenya avoid corporate taxation, using transfer pricing and offshore constructions. The loss of tax revenue due to these practices is substantial and has large consequences for Kenyan society.

**AUTHORS:** Linda van der Pol & Romy van der Brugh (Netherlands)

**GRANT:** € 7,296

**PUBLICATIONS:** ONLINE

- [Unfair Trade: How Dutch Rose Growers Avoid Paying Taxes in Kenya](#) – The Elephant, 21 March 2020
- [Unfair Trade: How Dutch Rose Growers Avoid Paying Taxes in Kenya](#) – Piga Firimbi, 24 March 2020
- [Bloemenland Kenia verdient nauwelijks aan eigen rozenkweek](#) – Trouw, 26 February 2020
- [Waarom de Keniaanse rozen in de supermarkt zo onnatuurlijk goedkoop zijn](#) – Trouw, 26 February 2020
- [Nederlandse rozenkwekers ontlopen belasting in Kenia](#) – Investico, 26 February 2020
- [Nederlandse rozenkwekers ontlopen belasting in Kenia](#) – De Groene Amsterdammer, 26 February 2020
- [Zo dicht bij de nul als mogelijk](#) – De Groene Amsterdammer, 26 February 2020

**PODCAST**

- [Dat verdient geen bloemetje. Rozentelers ontlopen belasting in Kenia](#) – Investico, 11 March 2020

### **4. HOW MULTINATIONAL TECH COMPANIES EXPLOIT TAX LAWS AND SHIFT PROFIT: A FOCUS ON GHANA AND NIGERIA**

This story identifies the lapses in the current tax systems and how Ghana and Nigeria are dealing with profit shifting and tax avoidance. It exposes how major tech companies, Facebook and Google, use tax havens to avoid payment of taxes in Nigeria and Ghana, depriving these countries of revenue which could be invested in many deprived areas.

**AUTHORS:** Gideon Sarpong (Ghana), Olivia Ndubuisi (Nigeria).  
Mentored by Will Fitzgibbon (US).

**GRANT:** € 2,200

- PUBLICATIONS:**
- [How multinational tech companies exploit tax laws and shift profit: a focus on Ghana and Nigeria](#) – iWatch Africa, 4 March 2020
  - [How Major Tech Companies Exploit Tax Laws and Shift Profit: a Focus on Ghana and Nigeria](#) – Askifa.ng, 9 March 2020

### **5. HOW CROSS-BORDER ILLICIT BEER TRADE IS HURTING REVENUE COLLECTIONS IN KENYA AND UGANDA**

This story shows how a lapse in the law coupled with porous border points and tax differences is fuelling cross-border beer smuggling between Uganda and Kenya.

It depicts the colossal sums of revenues lost due to the illicit alcohol trade that is thriving between Busia, and Malaba, Uganda's main border points and leading import from the sea route.

AUTHOR: Patrick Jaramogi (Uganda)

GRANT: € 340

PUBLICATION: · [How Cross-border Beer Smuggling Is Hurting Revenue Collections In Kenya and Uganda](#) – Shift Media News, 18 March 2020

## 6. [HIGHWAY 10. HOW WEST-AFRICA PAYS FOR EUROPE'S COCAINE ADDICTION](#)

In this story, investigative journalists Daan Bauwens and Nicholas Ibekwe focus on Highway 10, the transatlantic route that for centuries brought millions of captured African slaves to South-America via the tenth parallel.

AUTHORS: Daan Bauwens (Belgium) & Nicholas Ibekwe (Nigeria)

GRANT: € 10,396

PUBLICATIONS: ENGLISH

· [SPECIAL REPORT: Drug Frontier: How cocaine trafficking is impacting West Africa](#) – Premium Times, 1 January 2020

FRENCH

· [Comment votre consommation de cocaïne foute la merde en Afrique de l'Ouest](#) – VICE France, 27 May 2020

DUTCH

· [West-Afrika betaalt de prijs voor Europese cocaïneverslaving](#) – Oneworld.nl, 3 January 2020

· [Hoe jouw cokegebruik West-Afrika ruïneert](#) – VICE Belgium, 26 May 2020

The Ivory Coast's Minister of Defence announced that he would press charges against journalists Daan Bauwens and Nicholas Ibekwe, for their Money Trail investigation on cocaine trafficking in West Africa.

## 7. [NEO-BLACK MOVEMENT A.K.A. BLACK AXE – SOCIAL MOVEMENT OR INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL NETWORK?](#)

In the 1970s Nigerian students founded a fraternity to fight against oppression and racism. Today, their name appears worldwide in connection with criminal activities. What happened?

AUTHORS: Margherita Bettoni (Germany), David Klaubert (Germany). A third journalist who worked on this collaborative project wishes to remain anonymous for security reasons, but is known to the Journalismfund.eu team.

GRANT: € 5,500

PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE

· [Die Schwarze Axt](#) – FAZ.net, 7 May 2020

· [The Black Axe](#) – FAZ.net, 17 August 2020

PRINT

· [Brüder](#) – Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 7 May 2020

## 8. [BIG BUSINESS GUZZLED WATER AS CAPE TOWN'S DAM LEVELS PLUMMETED](#)

As dam levels dropped rapidly at the end of 2017 and Cape Town faced the looming threat of becoming the first major city where taps would run dry, households were forced to pull out all the stops to save water. But Coca Cola and other big industrial users were given a free pass.

**AUTHORS:** Steve Kretzmann (South Africa), Raymond Joseph (SA) & Nompumelelo Mtsweni (SA).

**GRANT:** € 3,175

**PUBLICATIONS:** [Coca-Cola and Cape Town's sweetheart Day Zero deal](#)

- [Coca-Cola and Cape Town's sweetheart Day Zero deal](#) – GroundUp, 8 May 2020
- [Coca-Cola, the City of Cape Town and Day Zero tariffs](#) – News24, 9 May 2020
- [Coca-Cola and Cape Town's sweetheart Day Zero deal](#) – Biz Community, 8 May 2020
- [South Africa: Coca-Cola and Cape Town's Sweetheart Day Zero Deal](#) – AllAfrica, 8 May 2020

### Big business guzzled water

- [Big business guzzled water as Cape Town's dam levels plummeted](#) – Center for Collaborative Investigative Journalism, 29 October 2020

### Effluent crisis

- [Poorly treated effluent sends refinery water use skyrocketing](#) – Center for Collaborative Investigative Journalism, 10 November 2020
- [Green Scorpions order City of Cape Town to sort out pollution in the Milnerton Lagoon](#) – GroundUp, 4 November 2020

## 9. [THE NIGERIAN CARTEL](#)

This series of investigations exposes the consequences of years of corruption in the construction and oil sectors for Nigerian living conditions, and the dodgy relationship between oil businessmen and corrupt politicians in the country.

**AUTHORS:** Lorenzo Bagnoli (Italy), Damilola Banjo (Nigeria), Kelechukwu Ogu (Nigeria)

**GRANT:** € 11,000

**PUBLICATIONS:** SAHARA REPORTERS (English)

- [Lagos Dubai, A Forbidden Dream Of Nigerian Power](#) – Sahara Reporters, 29 May 2020
- [How Agip Uses 'Oil Money' To Divide Niger Delta Community To Keep Operations Running](#) – Sahara Reporters, 14 May 2020
- [The Last Of Tarkwa Bay](#) – Sahara Reporters, 31 May 2020

### IRPI MEDIA (Italian)

- [Il cartello del potere nigeriano tra petrolio e costruzioni](#) – IrpiMedia, 1 June 2020
- [La Dubai di Lagos, sogno proibito del potere nigeriano](#) – IrpiMedia, 25 March 2020
- [Gli ultimi di Tarkwa Bay](#) – IrpiMedia, 25 March 2020
- [La 'famiglia Agip': il caporalato dell'industria petrolifera](#) – IrpiMedia, 21 April 2020

**IMPACT:** The investigation into Agip raised a number of questions at the [annual shareholders meeting of Eni](#) on 13 May 2020 (see pp. 125-128).

## 10. [HOW ISRAELI MERCENARIES TRAINED THE CAMEROONIAN ARMY](#)

Over the past decades, a handful of Israelis have overseen and trained elite units of the Cameroonian army. Their paid services brought them millions of dollars, which they invested around the world. Meanwhile, the army unit they've trained, the BIR, has committed extensive human rights violations.

**AUTHORS:** Emmanuel Freudenthal (Ethiopia), Youri van der Weide

**GRANT:** € 7,000

**PUBLICATIONS:** ONLINE ENGLISH

- [Making a killing: Israeli mercenaries in Cameroon](#) – African Arguments, 23 June 2020
- [Making a killing: Israeli mercenaries in Cameroon](#) – The Continent, 27 June 2020, pp.29-30.
- [Cameroon leader's reliance on private army plays into Israeli ambitions](#) – The Times, 14 July 2020

ONLINE FRENCH

- [Au Cameroun, les mercenaires israéliens au cœur du pouvoir](#) – Courrier international, 13 December 2020

PRINT

- [Au Cameroun, les mercenaires israéliens au cœur du pouvoir](#) – Courrier international (Hebdo no° 1571), 10 December 2020

RADIO

- [Comment Paul Biya a créé sa milice personnelle et verse des milliards de FCFA aux Israéliens](#) – Radio France Internationale (RFI), 27 June 2020

## 11. [THE CONSULTANT: WHY DID A PALM OIL CONGLOMERATE PAY \\$22M TO AN UNNAMED 'EXPERT' IN PAPUA?](#)

This investigation examines a 22 million dollars 'consultancy fee' paid by one of the world's largest palm oil conglomerates, the Korindo Group, in connection with the acquisition of a shell company that held permits to establish an oil palm plantation in Indonesia's easternmost province of Papua.

**AUTHORS:** Hans Nicholas Jong (Indonesia), Febriana Firdaus (Indonesia), Jiyoung Kim (South Korea), Albertus Vembrianto (Indonesia), Tom Johnson (UK), Philip Jacobson (US)

**GRANT:** € 9,400

**PUBLICATIONS:** ONLINE

- [The Consultant: Why did a palm oil conglomerate pay \\$22m to an unnamed 'expert' in Papua?](#) – The Gecko Project, 25 June 2020
- [How we calculated Korindo's revenues from clearing Papuan rainforest](#) – The Gecko Project, 25 June 2020
- [The Consultant: Why did a palm oil conglomerate pay \\$22m to an unnamed 'expert' in Papua?](#) – Mongabay, 25 June 2020
- [How we calculated Korindo's revenues from clearing Papuan rainforest](#) – Mongabay, 29 June 2020
- [Green Echoes #11 - Investigating Palm Oil Supply Chains](#) – The Environmental Reporting Collective, 14 July 2020

DOCUMENTARY

- [Selling Out West Papua](#) – 101 East (Al Jazeera), 25 June 2020

INTERACTIVE

- [The \\$5 Forests](#) – Al Jazeera, 26 June 2020



## 12. [TRACKING SOUTH AFRICA'S MINING MILLIONS](#)

Mining companies publicly listed in the United Kingdom must disclose the payments they make to governments, including taxes, royalties, and licence fees. But this is not always the case in South Africa. A data investigation by a team of journalists and activists highlighted how these large royalty payment amounts are reported, while miners have no way of knowing where billions of dollars went.

AUTHORS: Andiswa Matikinca & Fiona Macleod (South Africa)

GRANT: € 5,917

PUBLICATIONS: · [Following South Africa's mining millions](#) – Oxpeckers, 14 July 2020  
 · [Communities starved of mining royalties amid lack of transparency](#) – Business Day, 12 July 2020  
 · [Communities starved for mining royalties amid lack of transparency](#) – M28investigates.com, 15 July 2020

## 13. [CASH TRANSFERS IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION NEVER REACHED KENYA'S FARMERS](#)

AUTHORS: Carolina Jemsby (Sweden), Juliet Atallah (Kenya), Carolyn Thompson (Canada/Kenya)

GRANT: € 8,477

PUBLICATIONS: · [Follow the Money: Is There a Role for Cash Transfers in Climate Change Adaptation?](#) – The Elephant, 25 July 2020  
 · [Klimatdrabbade i Kenya lurades på biståndspengar](#) – Sveriges Natur, 4 February 2020  
 · [Sidas agerande ifrågasätts av korruptionsexperter](#) – Sveriges Natur, 6 February 2020  
 · [Beslut om pengar till korruptionsanklagad myndighet skjuts upp](#) – Sveriges Natur, 8 February 2020

## 14. [SIMANDOU: A MOUNTAIN OF WEALTH AND BRIBERY CASES](#)

A team of journalists followed the money, investigating Guineagate, a corruption case that involved a French national promoting the interests of a private company that sought a mining licence at Simandou Mountains, the world's largest known deposits of untapped iron.

AUTHORS: Agnès Faivre (France), Akoumba Diallo (Guinea)

GRANT: € 5,740

PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE

- [En Guinée, le fer est pavé de mauvaises intentions](#) – Libération, 30 July 2020
- [Guinée: le mystère des 700 millions de dollars de Rio Tinto](#) – Libération, 30 July 2020
- [Les Mirages De Simandou: Rio Tinto-Conakry, une tension permanente \(#1\)](#) – Ledjely.com, 3 August 2020
- [Les Mirages De Simandou: Rio Tinto à nouveau dans la course, un banquier français à la manoeuvre \(#2\)](#) – Ledjely.com, 5 August 2020
- [Les Mirages De Simandou: que sont devenus les 700 millions de Rio Tinto? \(#3\)](#) – Ledjely.com, 7 August 2020

PRINT

- [Guinée: Affaire Simandou - L'enfer, c'est le fer!](#) – Le Lynx, 3 August 2020

## 15. [FAKE NEWS PRODUCTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST](#)

This series of articles investigates the production and dissemination of fake news to sow instability in Iraq and the Middle East. It reveals how Iraqi (terrorist) groups are paying Facebook millions to churn out fake news, and gives readers an inside look into Hezbollah's fake news training camps.

AUTHORS: Wil Crisp (UK), Suadad al-Salhy (Iraq)

GRANT: € 11,610

PUBLICATIONS: · [Iraqi groups paying Facebook millions to churn out fake news](#) – The Telegraph, 14 June 2020  
· [Exclusive: Inside Hezbollah's fake news training camps sowing instability across the Middle East](#) – The Telegraph, 2 August 2020

## 16. [HOW MILLIONS OF KENYANS WERE EXPOSED TO FACEBOOK FRAUD](#)

AUTHOR: Odanga Madung (Kenya). Mentored by Craig Silverman (Canada).

GRANT: € 3,471

PUBLICATION: · [Scammers Are Using Facebook To Prey On People In Kenya](#) – BuzzFeed News, 21 August 2020

## 17. [A BETTING NATION](#)

The three legs of this investigation reveal:

1. Kenya's enormous betting addiction;
2. At the same time as the Kenyan government removed a tax for betting companies, a cousin of Kenya's president accumulated a financial stake in betting giant SportPesa;
3. SportPesa has been sucking profits out of its lucrative Kenyan business by paying millions of pounds to a software company it owns in the UK.

AUTHORS: Lionel Faull (Kenya/UK), Paul Wafula (Kenya)

GRANT: € 700

PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE

- [Shocking details of Sh30bn-a-month bets](#) – Daily Nation, 18 May 2020
- [Sports betting firms set for comeback](#) – Daily Nation, 1 July 2020
- [Revealed: Cousin of Kenya's president has stake in SportPesa betting firm](#) – Finance Uncovered, 1 July 2020
- [How SportPesa shifted billions in revenues abroad, paid less tax](#) – Daily Nation, 8 September 2020
- [How African betting giant SportPesa slashed tax bills by 'shifting' profits from Kenya to the UK](#) – Finance Uncovered, 8 September 2020

### PRINT

- [A Betting Nation](#) – Daily Nation (front page), 18 May 2020
- Leaked data lifts lid on shocking details of Sh30bn-a-month bets – Daily Nation (p.[10](#) & [11](#)), 18 May 2020
- [The return of sports betting](#) – Daily Nation (front page), 1 July 2020

- [Sports betting firms set for comeback after tax demand shelved](#) – Daily Nation (p.2), 1 July 2020
- [How gaming industry's steep rise ended in a screeching halt](#) – Daily Nation (p.3), 1 July 2020

**IMPACT:**

As a result of the publication of this investigation, the Kenyan government back-pedalled on the controversial tax cut, less than 48 hours after President Kenyatta signed it into law. The treasury has promised to reintroduce the tax via a 'proposal' to Parliament in 6 months' time.

## 18. [INSIDE ZIMBABWE'S ILLICIT GOLD-MINING TRADE](#)



Painting commissioned by Gulf News for this story, by Brown Dike Ojoba aka Kingbrown

Gold is Zimbabwe's chief export product. However, partly because of the country's monetary policy, an estimate of 50% of artisanal and small-scale mined gold in Zimbabwe is lost to smuggling, causing bloody turf wars that have claimed hundreds of lives.

**AUTHORS:** Stephen Tsoroti (Zimbabwe), Ankita Anand (India), Mazhar Farooqui (UAE)

**GRANT:** € 13,900

**PUBLICATIONS: PRINT**

- [Inside Zimbabwe's illicit gold-mining trade](#) – The Mail & Guardian, 18 September 2020

**ONLINE**

- [Inside Zimbabwe's illicit gold-mining trade](#) – The Mail & Guardian, 18 September 2020
- [Inside Zimbabwe's illicit gold trade](#) – The Continent, 21 September 2020
- [How nations profit from Zimbabwe's blood gold](#) – Gulf News, 20 June 2020
- [Small scale miners risk life and limb in Zimbabwe](#) – Toward Freedom, 21 August 2020
- [Small scale miners risk life and limb in Zimbabwe](#) – The Zimbabwean, 22 August 2020
- [Small scale miners risk life and limb in Zimbabwe](#) – Zimbabwe Situation, 23 August 2020
- [Small scale miners risk life and limb in Zimbabwe](#) – Team Zimbabwe, 23 August 2020
- [Small scale miners risk life and limb in Zimbabwe](#) – ZimWatch.org, 23 August 2020
- [Small scale miners risk life and limb in Zimbabwe](#) – The World News, 23 August 2020

- [Small scale miners risk life and limb in Zimbabwe](#) – Axis of Logic, 24 August 2020
- [What Makes India a Hotspot for Smuggled African Gold](#) – Vice, 17 October 2020

**IMPACT:**

In September 2020 environment groups in Zimbabwe made representations to the Cabinet, also using the report from this investigation. As a result the Cabinet has ordered banning of riverbed and alluvial mining, and directed holders of mining titles to obtain environmental clearance.

- [Zimbabwe bans coal mining in Hwange and other game parks](#) – BBC News, 9 September 2020
- [Government bans mining in National Parks](#) – ZBC News, 9 September 2020
- [Govt pressured to cancel mining in National Parks](#) – Tourism Focus, 9 September 2020

**CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION**

Team members Ankita Anand and Stephen Tsoroti talked to Hostwriter about their cross-border collaboration before and during COVID-19:

- [How to collaborate on investigative stories during a pandemic](#) – Hostwriter, 30 September 2020

## **19. SOS CHRÉTIENS D'ORIENT IN SYRIA: THE FAR-RIGHT FRENCH NGO SUPPORTING BASHAR AL-ASSAD**

French humanitarian NGO SOS Chrétiens d'Orient (SOSCO) claims to support persecuted Christians in Syria and the wider Middle East without interfering in conflicts or local politics. But in reality, the seven-year-old NGO – which was founded by far-right, conservative, Catholic activists – thinly veils its agenda to amplify Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's propaganda and push for a normalisation of diplomatic relationships between Damascus and EU countries.

**AUTHORS:** Ariane Lavrilleux (France), Frank Andrews (UK), Elie Guckert (France)

**GRANT:** € 4,930

**PUBLICATIONS:** ENGLISH

- [French NGO 'Christians of the Orient' and its ties with the Assad regime](#) – Mediapart, 29/09/2020
- [French Christian NGO's links to pro-Assad Syrian militia](#) – Mediapart, 5/10/2020;
- [How a French Charity Built Ties with Pro-Assad Christian Militias](#) – Bellingcat, 04/11/2020

**FRENCH:**

- [Les liaisons dangereuses de SOS Chrétiens d'Orient avec les milices d'Assad](#) – Mediapart, 17/09/2020
- [SOS Chrétiens d'Orient, une «start-up» française au service du régime de Bachar al-Assad](#) – Mediapart, 23/09/2020
- [Comment SOS Chrétiens d'Orient a utilisé le village syrien de Maaloula](#) – Mediapart, 1/10/2020

**ARABIC:**

- [\(Arabic\)](#) – Al-Jumhuriya, 25/09/2020

**ITALIAN:**

- [Come opera in Italia la ong francese cattolica di destra che appoggia il regime di Assad](#) – L'Espresso, 28/09/2020

## 20. [THE FRENCHMAN WHO SOLD TIMBER FROM GHANA](#)



Painting of Jean-Louis Chanel, courtesy of Ghana Business News

A French official got into wood exportation without paying any taxes on this commercial activity. Despite his presence in the Panama Papers he was awarded the French Order of Merit.

**AUTHORS:** Alexandre Brutelle (France), Emmanuel K. Dogbevi (Ghana)

**GRANT:** € 7,300

**PUBLICATIONS:**

- [Jean-Louis Chanel, the Frenchman who sold timber from Ghana](#) – Ghana Business News, 30 September 2020
- [French official in the Panama Papers, lack of vigilance from the French State?](#) – iWatch Africa, 30 September 2020

## 21. [EUROPEAN FISH FRAUD IN NAMIBIA](#)

A Dutch fishing giant is involved in a corruption affair and tax evasion scheme concerning fishing quotas in Namibia. The money trail goes via Poland and Iceland.

**AUTHORS:** Bram Logger & Parcival Weijnen (Netherlands)

**GRANT:** € 9,200

**PUBLICATIONS:** NEWSPAPER

- [Dutch seafood giant linked to Fishrot](#) – The Namibian (front page), 04/11/2020

MAGAZINE

- De fishrot files. Vissen in troebel water – De Groene Amsterdammer n°43, 21/10/2020

ONLINE

- [Dutch seafood giant linked to Fishrot](#) – The Namibian, 04/11/2020
- (Introduction) [Nederlandse visgigant duikt op in internationaal corruptieschandaal](#) – De Groene Amsterdammer, 21/10/2020
- (Longread) [Vissen in troebel water](#) – De Groene Amsterdammer, 21/10/2020



## 22. TAJKISTAN, 'HOUSE OF WATER,' WHERE HALF THE POPULATION LACKS ACCESS TO WATER

Despite its water abundance and the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars in improving Tajikistan's water access and supply, millions of Tajik residents still struggle to access running water, let alone clean water.

**AUTHORS:** Azad Aybek (pseudonym, Tajikistan), Jeff Kelly Lowenstein (US),

Yaffa Fredrick (US)

**GRANT:** € 4,775

**PUBLICATIONS:** · [Tajikistan, 'House of Water,' where half of the populations lacks access to water](#) – Center for Collaborative Investigative Journalism, 22/10/2020  
 · [Tajikistan, 'House of Water,' where half of the populations lacks access to water](#) – AfricaBrief, 23/10/2020  
 · [Tajikistan, 'House of Water,' Where Half of The Population Lacks Access to Water](#) – Circle of Blue, 27/10/2020

## 23. HELICOPTER MONEY



An Indonesian state-owned aircraft manufacturer allegedly paid more than 10 million euros in kickbacks to dozens of high-ranked politicians and army officials. The company disguised the payments as a 'marketing fee', using fictitious partners.

**AUTHORS:** Anton Septian (Indonesia), Linda Trianita (Indonesia),  
Choi Won-suk (South Korea)

**GRANT:** € 7,600

**PUBLICATIONS:** MAGAZINE  
 · [The Payoffs](#) – [Tempo English](#), 27/10/2020, pp.14-26  
 · [Hujan Fulus Dirgantara](#) – [Tempo](#), 26/10/2020, pp.64-77

## ONLINE (English)

- [Dirgantara's Tribute to the Military](#) – Tempo, 26/10/2020
- [A Caribbean Detour](#) – Tempo, 26/10/2020
- [Fictitious Agent in South Korea](#) – Tempo, 26/10/2020
- [Former Army Chief of Staff, General \(Ret\) Moeldoko: I Do Not Understand Logistics](#) – Tempo, 26/10/2020

## ONLINE (Bahasa Indonesia)

- [Upeti Dirgantara Buat Tentara](#) – Tempo, 24/10/2020
- [Memutar Lewat Kariba](#) – Tempo, 24/10/2020
- [Agen Fiktif Negeri Ginseng](#) – Tempo, 24/10/2020
- [Saya Tidak Paham Logistik](#) – Tempo, 24/10/2020

## 24. [TURKISH CITIZENSHIP FOR SYRIANS FOR SALE](#)

This investigation blows the whistle on the phenomenon of brokers who, with the complicity of Turkish civil servants, help to move forward the citizenship applications of Syrians in return for bribes. Meanwhile more than five thousand Syrians' files remained pending until they were cancelled without any valid reason.

**AUTHORS:** Jad AlAmine (pseudonym, Syria), Sajuk Mohammad (pseudonym), Lama Almasri (pseudonym, Syria)

**GRANT:** € 5,000

**PUBLICATIONS:** · [Illegal Brokerage to Facilitate the Turkish Citizenship File for Syrians](#) – Daraj, 27/10/2020  
 · [اتارالودلا فالأ لباقم نيروسلل ةيكرتلا ةيسنجالا: ةينوناقلا ريغ ةرسمسلا!](#) – Daraj, 27/10/2020

## 25. [BIG TOBACCO, SMALL TAX BILL](#)

While the COVID recovery is increasing pressure on public finances and raising the prospect of tax increases, this research from The Investigative Desk with support from the University of Bath shows, for the first time on this scale, which tax avoidance methods the world's four largest publicly traded tobacco companies are using to minimise their tax bill.

**AUTHORS:** Stefan Vermeulen (Netherlands), Nadia El Khannoussi (Netherlands), Sergio Nieto Solis (Netherlands), Manon Dillen (Netherlands)

**GRANT:** € 8,000



- PUBLICATIONS:
- [Via deze sluiproutes ontwijken tabaksgiganten belasting – met Nederland in de hoofdrol](#) – NRC.nl, 29/10/2020
  - [Tabaksgiganten sluizen miljarden door Nederland](#) – NRC.nl, 29/10/2020
  - [Press release Big Tobacco Avoidance ENGLISH.docx](#) – 29/10/2020

## **26. STOLEN AT SEA: ILLEGAL CHINESE TRANSSHIPMENT ACTIVITIES IN GHANA AND NIGERIA**

This investigation exposes a hidden network of Chinese control and ownership of many industrial fishing vessels operating in Ghanaian and Nigerian waters in contravention of local laws.

AUTHORS: Gideon Sarpong (Ghana), Elfredah Kevin-Alerechi (Nigeria)

GRANT: € 2,250

PUBLICATIONS: PRINT

- Stolen at Sea. An investigation into illegal Chinese transshipment activities in West Africa – Business & Financial Times ([front page](#)), 18/11/2020

ONLINE

- [Stolen at sea: An investigation into illegal Chinese transshipment activities in Ghana and Nigeria](#) – iWatch Africa, 09/11/2020
- [Stolen At Sea: An investigation into illegal Chinese transshipment activities through Ghana and Nigeria](#) – NewsWireNGR, 07/11/2020
- [Stolen at Sea: An investigation into illegal Chinese transshipment activities in West Africa](#) – B&FT Online, 18/11/2020

## **27. ILLEGAL SOUTH SUDANESE TEAK BECOMES EUROPEAN GARDEN FURNITURE IN INDIA**

Illegally logged teak from South Sudan goes to India where it is made into furniture, potentially ending up in stores in Europe. Indian timber traders illegally source the timber from East Africa and export it as an 'Indian' product after processing.

AUTHORS: Romy van der Burgh & Linda van der Pol (Netherlands).

With the cooperation of Ankita Anand (India).

GRANT: € 10,300

PUBLICATIONS: MAGAZINE

- 'Er blijft niets over voor de Soedanezen zelf' – De Groene Amsterdammer nr. 46, 11 November 2020

ONLINE

- ['Er blijft niets over voor de Soedanezen zelf'](#) – De Groene Amsterdammer, 11 November 2020
- [Illegaal teakhout uit Zuid-Soedan verdwijnt in Europese tuinmeubelen](#) – Investico, 11 November 2020

PODCAST

- [Roofhout uit Zuid-Soedan in Nederlandse winkels?](#) – Investico, 11 November 2020

## **28. MULTINATIONAL TELECOM COMPANY STASHES \$22M FROM MALAWI IN THE NETHERLANDS**

Taxation treaties that Malawi signed with other countries over the last fifty years are costing the country hundreds of millions of dollars, since they have opened up opportunities for multinational corporations to reduce their tax liability through tax avoidance.

AUTHORS: Collins Mtika (Malawi)

GRANT: € 3,700

PUBLICATIONS: · [Multinational mobile phone firm stashes \\$22m in tax haven from Malawi](#) – The Centre for Investigative Journalism Malawi, 21/11/2020  
 · [Multinational mobile phone firm stashes \\$22m in tax haven from Malawi](#) – MNN Centre for Investigative Journalism (Lesotho), 23/11/2020  
 · [Multinational mobile phone firm stashes \\$22m in tax haven from Malawi](#) – Centro de Jornalismo Investigativo (CJI Mozambique), 23/11/2020  
 · [Multinational mobile phone firm stashes US\\$22m in tax haven from Malawi](#) – The Maravi Post (Malawi), 25/11/2020  
 · [Multinational mobile phone firm stashes \\$22m in tax haven from Malawi](#) – Makanday (Zambia), 27/11/2020

## **29. EU AND ITALY TURN BLIND EYE TO ILLEGAL FISHING IN WEST AFRICA**

Fish exported from Sierra Leone to Italy is exposed to allegedly illegal trawling that the Italian government seems unwilling to scrutinize.

AUTHORS: Stefano Valentino (Italy), Alpha Kamara (Sierra Leone / US)

GRANT: € 6,500

PUBLICATIONS: · [L'Ue e l'Italia chiudono gli occhi sulla pesca di frodo in Africa occidentale](#) – Voxeurop, 18/12/2020  
 · [The EU and Italy turn a blind eye to illegal fishing in West Africa](#) – Mountain Waves Blog, 12/01/2021

## **30. KENYAN OIL PROJECT HAD ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS MONTHS AHEAD OF WORLD BANK INVESTMENT**

This investigation reveals how a multi-million-dollar investment from the World Bank into an oil & gas company involved in controversial drilling in Kenya went ahead, despite vocal objections from the U.S. Treasury Department, and four months after a damaging oil spill at one of the sites.

AUTHORS: Joe Casey (UK), Maina Waruru (Kenya)

GRANT: € 5,000

PUBLICATION: · [Revealed: Kenyan Oil Project Had Environmental Concerns Months Ahead of World Bank Investment](#) – DeSmog UK, 23 December 2020 (More publications from this investigations will follow in 2021.)

## MONEY TRAIL TRAINING

Through the [Money Trail](#) project, we train investigative journalists and activists in gathering reliable information about financial injustice and in making this information accessible to citizens and community organisations. In this way, they can compel governments and businesses to take measures to tackle tax evasion, financial scandals, corruption and dubious investments.

The courses are organised by our Money Trail partners Free Press Unlimited, Finance Uncovered and Oxfam Novib.

**Free Press Unlimited** supports independent media and journalism training courses in forty countries. **Finance Uncovered** trains journalists in investigative journalism and enables them to understand and uncover global tax evasion, corruption and money laundering practices.

The scheduled 2020 training weeks in Jakarta (Indonesia) and Nairobi (Kenya) had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. These would have seen a total of 60 high quality participants from Africa and Asia trained.

Free Press Unlimited and Finance Uncovered therefore set up a trajectory to transition their face-to-face training to facilitated e-learning (FeL) courses. This will make their training both (1) replicable, i.e. make it easier for new trainers to deliver our courses, and (2) scalable, i.e. reach more journalists and activists. The FeL courses will be launched in 2021.

## MENTORING

Journalismfund.eu makes mentors available to teams of journalists who receive a grant to allow them to deliver high-quality, revealing news reports. These mentors are also experts in journalism from Africa, Asia and Europe. They help to identify sources, improve interview methods or motivate team members, even when things don't go as planned. In all, we have **18** mentors available.

In 2020, **eight teams** had a mentor assigned to them. More info: see below.

## JOURNALISMFUND.EU LOCAL

More and more global problems are pushed in the direction of local governments and cities (migration, climate, employment, education, housing, mobility, etc.). The facts, as well as many reports, point to a shortage or non-existence of local independent journalism, and a fortiori of independent investigative journalism. The idea is to stimulate cross-border collaboration between journalists from different countries in Europe. In this way, cities in the different European countries can form a benchmark for each other.

Journalismfund.eu focuses on local journalists on the media payroll and especially on freelance journalists. After the summer of 2020, our organisation launched a pilot project with the aim to support local journalism, and more specifically local investigative journalism. The project included the following activities: stimulating local journalists to engage in investigative journalism and learn from colleagues in other countries; stimulating them to compare with other cities in other countries where the problem is the same; encouraging local journalists to better distribute their stories in order to inspire others.

With a separate call, we first tested the programme in the Netherlands and Belgium. The intention is that we find local foundations in 10 European countries that want to help finance this. As an outcome, the public will be better informed and at the same time new (international) networks of journalists will be created. In the long term, it will broaden the spectrum of the local journalist and will strengthen the international network of investigative journalists who inspire each other. This concept of comparison will also inspire citizens and local politicians.

We received 4 applications. All 4 were granted (28 grantees). The total amount granted was € 52,634.

## THE MODERN SLAVERY UNVEILED PROJECT

In 2020 we worked on a new grant and training programme.

Journalismfund.eu will set up a cross-continental grant and training programme to stimulate and support independent journalistic investigations about how Asian victims of forced labour are exploited in Europe. Support will consist of financial resources to cover working time and expenses, mentorship and guidance on dissemination. In addition, training will be provided on security and impact in collaboration with civil society organisations (CSOs). This project will document different aspects and cases of cross-continental trafficking by investigative journalist collaborations, and create debate further amplified by CSO involvement.

More info: <http://modernslaveryunveiled.fund>

## MENTORING PROGRAMME (UNDER ECB GRANTS AND TMT GRANTS)

For teams that need support in terms of investigation skills, a mentor can be appointed. We can propose calling on a mentor during a prior dialogue with the team applying for a grant. The mentors are selected on the basis of the focus of the investigation or in view of their competence in a specific skill. Having the help of a mentor can have a significant positive impact on a team and its story. Teams of journalists less experienced in the field of cross-border investigative stories can particularly benefit from help from more experienced colleagues. The jury can also make the awarding of a grant subject to collaboration with a mentor.

The investigative team can suggest a mentor from its pool or the team can choose the mentor from the list on our website and suggest him/her themselves. The maximum duration of the use of a mentor depends on the case at hand and on the needs of the journalists involved. One person can also act as mentor for multiple teams.

Once he/she has been selected, the mentor will sign a mentor agreement with Journalismfund.eu. His/her total remuneration will depend on the number of days that he/she will be needed. The fee per day amounts to €250, exclusive of VAT. The mentor will issue an invoice to Journalismfund.eu on a quarterly basis.

After the evaluation of Journalismfund.eu's mentoring programme pilot phase in 2017, the Fund successfully expanded it, eventually integrating it into its grant programmes. All the lessons learnt were taken into the account, and all the previous recommendations were considered. Over the last three years (2018-2020) Journalismfund.eu's pool of mentors had a significant positive influence on the teams of journalists, processes of their investigations and final results of the stories. In 2019-2020 both Money Trail and the European Cross-Border Grants Programmes demonstrated evident and visible advantages of working with mentors.

This is the list of mentors whom we have pooled for the ECBG:

- Gwen Lister (Namibia) – Journalist, columnist and press freedom activist. Founder and editor of [The Namibian](#). Early ICIJ member;
- Nick Mathiason (United Kingdom) – Founder and co-director of Finance Uncovered;
- Sheila Coronel (United States/ Philippines) – Director of Stabile Centre for Investigative Journalism;
- Wahyu Dhyatmika (Indonesia) – Specialist in corruption reporting. Editor-in-chief for Tempo Media Group, Jakarta. Board member of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI), Indonesia;
- Yi-Shan Chen (Taiwan): Finance reporter, instructor at National Taiwan University's School of Journalism and deputy editor at Taiwan's CommonWealth magazine. Participated in the ICIJ Offshore Leaks, Panama Papers and Paradise Papers projects;

- Oliver Schröm (Germany) – Finance reporter and editor-in-chief at Correctiv;
- John-Allan Namu (Kenya) – Investigative journalist for/CEO of Africa Uncensored;
- Eric Smit (Netherlands) – Finance and money laundering specialist. Editor-in-chief of Follow the Money (ftm.nl);
- Paula Fray (South Africa) – Managing director at frayintermedia;
- Laurent Richard (France) – Investigative journalist. Co-founder of the French inquiry magazine Cash Investigation. ICIJ member. Worked on Luxleaks;
- Pavla Holcova (Czech Republic) – specialises in Organised Crime Groups in Europe, Money Laundering, media projects. She is the founder of the Czech Centre for Investigative Journalism;
- Roel Landingin (Philippines) – specialises in corruption, abuse of money and resources. Roel Landingin is the editor-in-chief of Entrepreneur Philippines, an online business news website. He is also a contributor to the Philippine Centre for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) and an ICIJ-member;
- Sylke Gruhnwald (Switzerland) – reporter based in Switzerland specialising in reporting on white collar crime, fraud and following the money trail;
- Craig McKune (South Africa) – specialises in research and communications projects tackling tax havens and financial flows & climate and energy issues. Formerly worked as an investigative journalist for amaBhungane;
- Coco Gubbels (Netherlands) – full-time ad-interim programme and project manager at VL Consultants BV. Coco Gubbels is aware of the need and added value of project management in investigative journalism.

## **Overall Results:**

1. For the last three years (2018-2020) Journalismfund.eu's mentoring programme has brought an evident and visible added value to the supported projects, teams of individual journalists and investigative process;
2. The list of mentors was further updated and developed;
3. For the last three years both mentors and journalists demonstrated progress in understanding their respective roles and responsibilities in their partnership.

In 2020 in general Journalismfund.eu had 16 ongoing projects with the mentorship consultations (Money Trail + European Cross-Border Grants Programmes). If we follow these increased numbers, we can see clear progress in the mentoring programme.

### **MONEY TRAIL:**

|             |           |                         |   |                 |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|
| MT/2020/117 | 16/3/2020 | Wenyan Hu               | China Senegal nuts archasis oil               | Will Fitzgibbon |
| MT/2020/120 | 16/3/2020 | Daan Bauwens            |   | Erik Smit       |
| MT/2020/123 | 16/3/2020 | Daniela Quiros<br>Lepiz |   | Nick Mathiason  |
| MT/2020/131 | Jun-20    | Alexandre Brutelle      | Illegal Fracking Platforms in Tunisia         | Laurent Richard |
| MT/2020/136 | Jun-20    | Collins Mtika           | Airtel Cash Malawi                            | Paula Fray      |
| MT/2020/137 | Jun-20    | Joe Casey               | Kenya's Oil Robbery                           | Nick Mathiason  |
| MT/2020/149 | Sep-20    | Stefano Valentino       | Forest Destruction Fuelled by EU 'Green' Fuel | Wahyu Dhyatmika |
| MT/2020/140 | Sep-20    | Wil Crisp               | Fuelling the fight                            | Nick Mathiason  |

**EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER GRANTS:**

| ID                | ROUND      | TEAM LEADER          | PROJECT TITLE   | MENTOR          |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| ECB/2019/JA3A/532 | 14/10/2019 | Luk Dewulf           | Cobalt Chain  | John-Allan Namu |
| ECB/2020/OSF3/570 | 18/02/2020 | Yuliia Kalashnyk     | Child Marriage  | Gwen Lister     |
| ECB/2020/JA3A/609 | 21/08/2020 | Ludovica Jona        | Behind The Pledge   | Staffan Dahllof |
| ECB/2020/JA3A/600 | 21/08/2020 | Robert Schmidt       | Waterstories.eu   | Sylke Gruhnwald |
| ECB/2020/OSF3/605 | 21/08/2020 | Hannah Kirmes-Daly   | Under the cover of lockdown: Pushbacks on Europe's Balkan Route at the time of COVID-19 | Nancy Porsia    |
| ECB/2020/OSF3/573 | 18/02/2020 | Daiva Repeckaite     | Antivaxxers   | Crina Boros     |
| ECB/2020/OSF3/561 | 18/02/2020 | Jorie Horsthuis      | After the Yugoslavia Tribunal: War Criminals Coming Home                                | Pavla Holcova   |
| ECB/2020/JA3A/595 | 15/04/2020 | Kateryna Stepanovych | Ukraine as a Safe Haven for Jihadists   | Pavla Holcova   |

**Capacity building – mentoring**

In 2020 the project coordinators spent approximately 100 hours guiding and coordinating the mentors. In total they have supervised 17 mentored projects (16 with a contract).

**Increasing the effectiveness of mentoring**

During 2020 the following factors contributed to a more effective mentorship:

- **Availability** – the mentors were really dedicated to mentoring and spent their time accordingly;
- **Understanding respective roles and responsibilities** – the mentors started to understand better their exact role in the investigations. They were sufficiently (de)briefed about the concept of the project and their responsibilities. They fully understood the specific needs of the teams;
- **Knowledge and Skills** – the teams of journalists started to indicate in detail in their application forms the specific skills and professional profile of the mentor they think they need. Also, very often the team itself selected a mentor from the pool of mentors and/or specified the specific skills of the mentor needed in the context of their investigation. As a result, mentors have grown much more knowledgeable about the topic or skills they are transferring. Mentors were appointed for teams that needed support regarding a specific aspect of an investigation. As such, the mentors were selected based on either the focus of investigation or the need for competencies in a specific skill;
- **Deciding on mentoring** – previously it was always the jury members of the grant programmes who recommended the assistance of a mentor to the teams of journalists. In the last few years the applicants themselves received the opportunity to choose a mentor in the course of the application process. Consequently, projects were approved on their own merit, and mentors didn't become a tool for approving proposals.

**Quality Measurement System mentoring programme**

Journalismfund.eu uses the following key performance indicators for its mentoring programme:

- Quality publication of the investigation;
- Story was published more widely, with more extensive outreach;
- The investigation had more influence / tangible impact ;

- Knowledge transfer and knowledge sharing;
- Network building / network development;
- Motivation of the team to continue conducting cross-border investigative journalism.

The following examples illustrate how some of these indicators worked in 2020 in the framework of the European Cross-Border Grants Programme:

ECB/2020/JA3A/609 – project **'Behind the Pledge'**. The team requested an editorial expert to point out potential gaps in narrative, strengthen necessary data or make other suggestions. Their mentor Staffan Dahllöf helped the team to elevate the quality of their publication in *Le Monde* and also to achieve more extensive outreach (in addition to *Le Monde*, and *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, articles were also published in the *British Medical Journal* and the *EU Observer*);

ECB/2020/JA3A/600 – project **'Waterstories.eu'**. The mentor helped the team in planning the project and its publications. As an outcome, the story was published more widely, achieving greater outreach.

ECB/2020/JA3A/595 – project **'Ukraine as a Safe Haven for Jihadists'**. Their mentor Pavla Holcova brainstormed the team about the way they conduct their research and pitch their stories. As a result, the investigation had more influence in both Ukraine and Poland.

MT/2020/106 – project **'How millions of Kenyans were exposed to Facebook Fraud'**. Mentor Craig Silverman published the story in his own media outlet *Buzzfeed*.

All of the above-mentioned teams confirmed their strong motivation to continue conducting cross-border investigative journalism in the future after receiving the mentoring assistance.

## ADVISING AND COORDINATING INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS

### INVESTIGATE EUROPE

In 2015, Journalismfund.eu received a request to help set up an editorial and practical structure for a cross-border team of journalists. This team comprised nine journalists from eight different countries, who wanted to tackle major and complex European issues such as migration, the labour market or public tenders. After a time of preparation with the help of Journalismfund.eu in 2015 and the first half of 2016, the team is now up and running. The editorial co-ordination is still done by the team members. Journalismfund.eu plays the part of intermediary between donors and members of the team. Journalismfund.eu also helps with the budget and budget follow-up. This project is supported financially by a multi-donor budget and is in search of long-term funding.

 Here, you can read all publications: <http://www.investigate-europe.eu/>

## AWARDS

In 2020, the following projects received or were nominated for an award:

### PASCAL DECROOS FUND

- Dutch journalist Bette Dam won 'De Loep', the most important award for investigative journalism in the Netherlands and Flanders. In her JF-supported book *In search of the enemy*, she reconstructs the life of the feared Taliban leader Mullah Omar and fiercely criticises Western reporting on the war on terror.



- The jury of the Dutch Narrative Journalism Foundation selected the best 10 journalistic stories out of 150 productions. Among them, two podcasts have been supported by JF's Pascal Decroos Fund: 'El Tarangu' and 'S53' stories.
- '*Financially dependent mothers*' was nominated for the Prix Europa, Europe's largest annual tri-medial festival and competition.
- *El Tarangu*: Nominated for De Tegel, the most important award for journalism in the Netherlands.
- Breasts: Longlisted for the *Bruseprijs 2020* (award for the best journalistic book in Dutch).
- *The forgotten people*: Shortlisted for the Bruseprijs 2020 (award for the best journalistic book in Dutch).
- *Mother*: longlisted for the one World Media Awards.

### MONEY TRAIL

- Investigate Europe won the Hans-Matthöfer Award for its publication on the *BlackRock Investments*.

### EUROPEAN CROSS-BORDER GRANT PROGRAMME

- ECBG-supported series 'Europe's Climate Migrants' has been shortlisted for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual People's Lovie Awards as best documentary series. In this exclusive series, Euronews tells the stories of Europeans forced to leave their homes because of climate change, and of those who chose to stay despite the risks;
- JF-supported story '*Land of plenty, land of but a few*' won the King of Spain International Journalism Award in the category environmental and sustainable development journalism;

### FLEMISH FUND

- Factcheck.Vlaanderen is an online platform that uses artificial intelligence to detect disinformation and polarisation so that fact-checkers can verify and combat it. It was developed with an innovation grant from Journalismfund.eu's Flemish Journalism Fund. Professor Michaël Opgenhaffen was awarded the Annual Prize for Science Communication from the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts for the co-creation and co-management of Factcheck.Vlaanderen.

 All awards and nominations can be found online: <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/awards>

## INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM – TRAINING

### PURPOSE

The course targets people with a master's degree in any subject (or with a bachelor's degree in journalism) and provides insight into how a successful, properly substantiated and credible investigative journalism project can be set up. The course consists of three modules: Investigative journalism, International reporting and Portfolio. The course takes 136 hours and takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (throughout the academic year).

The ultimate goal of the course is to teach students how to make news. The students are familiarised with techniques of which mainstream journalists have little or no knowledge. For instance, considerable attention is paid to data analysis and visualisation, searching on the internet, making use of Freedom of Information legislation, etc.

Considerable attention is also paid to cross-border cooperation and entrepreneurship.

The guest lecturers are all experts in their field with extensive experience: Evert De Vos (Groene Amsterdammer), Henk Van Ess (Poynter, Bellingcat), Maarten Lambrechts (expert data journalism and visualisation), Peter Verlinden (former VRT journalist), Kristof Clerix (investigative journalist Knack), Luuk Sengers (Story-based Inquiry), to name a few. Every year, we also schedule a guest lecture given by a former IRJ student who successfully completed the course and is now working as a journalist.

In the academic year 2019-2020, we didn't organise the course due to the pandemic.

### PUBLICATIONS BY STUDENTS

The publications in Flemish media of the works of students prove the relevance of this course.

- [Flixbus chauffeurs slaan alarm](#), Apache, 03/02/2020.
- [Sociale dumping: waarom 'Made in Europe' géén duurzaamheidslabel is](#), Knack, 08/07/2020.

## OBJECTIVE II – FACILITATING NETWORKS OF JOURNALISTS IN EUROPE

### GRANTEES AT CONFERENCES

Journalismfund.eu considers it important that journalists are given the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge with colleagues and fellow journalists at conferences. Journalists who have been given a grant, share their experiences at conferences after the publication of their reports and, in doing so, help and inspire their colleagues. We believe that the more successful investigation projects turn out, the more journalists will want to investigate corruption, tax evasion and other financial injustices and the more budget media will want to make available for it.

During the reporting period, the grantees from both European Cross-Border Grants and Money Trail Grants Programmes were invited to participate and to present their project results and successes at the World Press Freedom Conference (WPFC) – 2020. From the ECBG, journalists Roman Dobrokhotov and Anne Sofie Hoffmann Schrøder prepared their session for the WPFC-2020 with the goal of shedding light on some of the visible topics, narratives and actors behind disinformation campaigns – and discussing how journalists can counter disinformation without compromising on our media freedom (they participated in a JF-supported cross-border investigation about the spread of pro-Russian disinformation).

Because of COVID-19 the WPFC-2020 was first postponed and then re-reorganised as an online event in December 2020.

For the indicated period team members of Journalismfund.eu Michiel Scharpé and Svitlana Slabinska were present as participants in Dataharvest Digital sessions for 2020.

Most of the conferences we focused on did not take place, were postponed or went virtual because of the pandemic.

### LECTURES / EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

Over the year, Journalismfund.eu attended several online conferences and networking events to promote our grants and organisation. With its networking activities, Journalismfund.eu tries to convince journalists to start a cross-border investigative journalism project and lower the threshold for this.

Here is the list of conferences / networking events (online):

- **European Parliament Brussels – 4 Feb 2020**  
Anti-Corruption Intergroup meets civil society
- **Flemish Parliament Brussels – 13 Feb 2020**  
The role of the Public Broadcaster VRT
- **#ARIJ20: 'Connecting the World – 4-6 Dec. 2020**  
[https://arij.net/arij20/speakers\\_english/speaker-profile.html?id=74](https://arij.net/arij20/speakers_english/speaker-profile.html?id=74)
- **M100 Sanssouci Colloquium – 17 Sep. 2020**  
This was an online conference. Our managing director was one of the speakers.

## MEDIA CAFES

These events are organised by Journalismfund.eu in cooperation with deBuren, Zebrastraat, VVOJ and other partners, depending on the theme. In 2020, two Media cafés were organised.

### WIE STOPT FAKE NEWS OP SOCIALE MEDIA?

The debate about fake news on social media has flared up more and more recently. What can be done about it, who is responsible and where are we now?

Presentation and debate with a/o:

- **Dominique Deckmyn** (De Standaard, journalist) – moderator
- **Tim Pauwels** (ombudsman VRT NWS)
- **Alexander Pleijter** – (expert online fact checking, University Leiden)
- **Bette Dam** (journalist)

Date: Thursday, 5 March 2020

Place: Zebrastraat, Zebrastraat 32, Ghent (Belgium)

## DIFFERENCE DAY

This year, Journalismfund.eu was the organising partner of the **World Press Freedom Day** in Brussels. This event was an online event.

Difference Day honours people, institutions and organisations that make a difference in the propagation and promotion of freedom of speech without however making it absolute.

In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 3 May World Press Freedom Day. The aim was to raise awareness about the importance of press freedom and to remind governments of their duty to protect the right of freedom of speech by virtue of article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Due to the pandemic, this event was organised online.

## DEBATES

Due to the pandemic, JF did not organise any debates.

## EXHIBITION

### EXHIBITION: 'NEW FACES'

→ 20 January 2020 – 1 March 2020

→ Location: CC Ter Dilft in Bornem

With this exhibition, the Pascal Decroos Fund for Investigative Journalism aimed to bring the work of young photojournalists from Flanders and the Netherlands under the spotlights.

The participating photographers were Heleen Peeters, Jefrim Rothuizen, Jimmy Kets, Joris Casaer,

Patrick Kenawy, Stef Peters, Francesca Warley, Victoria Ushkanova, Stefaan Temmerman, Peter de Krom, Fred Debrock and Feike Zantinge.

The curator of the exhibition was Sanne Schim van der Loeff, who has worked since 2016 as exhibition manager and curator for World Press Photo, which each year organises the world's biggest and most prestigious photography contest. She is, amongst other things, responsible for the flagship exhibition in the Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam. She also gives regular presentations about press photography, ethics and visual literacy. For her work, Sanne travels across the world. This year, she travelled to some 15 locations in 10 countries to open the World Press Photo exhibition, including Ottawa, Milan, San Jose and Vienna.

 <https://www.fondspascaldecroos.org/nl/nieuwe-gezichten>

## OBJECTIVE III – AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

### COMMUNICATION

In 2019, Journalismfund.eu researched and designed a new communications strategy for the organisation as a whole and for the European cross-border grants, our flagship grants programme, in particular. The goals of the new strategy are to further enhance: (1) Discovery of ECB grants by potential applicants, (2) Engaging journalists, editors and grantees for our grant programmes, (3) Audience retention to our brand through constant relationships with our grantees and (4) Networking through maintaining a vibrant journalism community around the organisation.

Journalismfund.eu research has shown that we can achieve the above goals:

- (1) Through personal communication with aspiring applicants (recruitment in conferences and via email and social media),
- (2) By boosting our Facebook and Twitter campaigns when nearing the four application deadlines,
- (3) By adding to our 'how to' materials regarding budgeting of investigations, the investigation itself, applications for funding...
- (4) By conducting interviews with experienced investigative journalists and featuring them on our website (at least one a month).

In the new Journalismfund.eu communications strategy, we have also increased the volume of communication tools in order to demonstrate the *impact* in terms of the development of transnational networks of journalists and the main benefits for society that are generated by these networks. Part of the organisation's resources and personnel has been assigned to an essential task within the scope of our strategic communication strategy, that of monitoring the impact of Journalismfund.eu as a whole and of the European Cross-Border Grants Programme in particular.

### WEBSITES

#### **Corporate website [www.journalismfund.eu](http://www.journalismfund.eu)**

The website – **[www.journalismfund.eu](http://www.journalismfund.eu)** – is the basis of Journalismfund.eu's communication. It includes communication about the most important aspects of the organisation as a whole: grants, news updates, upcoming events, wrap-ups of activities, supported stories, etc.

 Supported projects – <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects>

We continue to build our archive of cross-border stories realised through our support. We improved the system and are working on better tagging. At the moment we have about **500 stories available** and a bio of **774 supported journalists**. It is a collection of all journalists who across the years have been awarded a grant through various grants programmes (European Cross-Border Grants, Pascal Decroos Fund, The Money Trail, Connecting Continents, Flanders Connect Continent, Fox Grants...)

Nowhere in the world will you find such a rich collection of interesting cross-border investigative stories. It is also easy to use. And the list of almost 800 journalists – who have already passed a rigorous assessment – is very often used by applicants for work grants.

 News – <https://www.journalismfund.eu/news>

Here, you'll mainly find corporate news.

 Database of Journalists – <https://www.journalismfund.eu/journalists>

In 2020 alone, we had 86,557 users of the main Journalismfund.eu's website (vs 42,349 users). **The number of users of the website has doubled in one year.** They come from all over Europe, from the United States, Asia and the African continent. Over the past year, the following 10 countries topped the ranking in terms of numbers of visits: Nigeria, the United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy, India, South Africa.

### [www.investigativejournalism.eu](http://www.investigativejournalism.eu)

The European cross-border grants project has its own application platform. On this site, applicants will find the criteria, conditions, timing and budget scope of this grants programme. It is a secure website. In 2021, the application platforms of all our grant programmes will be hosted on one website.

### [moneytrail.journalismfund.eu](http://moneytrail.journalismfund.eu)

The Money Trail Grants Programme also has its own project website – [moneytrail.journalismfund.eu](http://moneytrail.journalismfund.eu). In 2021, the application platforms of all our grant programmes will be hosted on one website.

### [www.money-trail.org](http://www.money-trail.org)

Additionally, The Money Trail project has another site – [www.money-trail.org](http://www.money-trail.org), which it shares with the Money Trail consortium.

### [www.fondspascaldecroos.org](http://www.fondspascaldecroos.org)

The website of the Pascal Decroos Fund is the communications base of the Fund. Here visitors can find all necessary information on how the Fund works: grants, procedures, criteria, etc. They can also retrieve all supported projects as well as a calendar and news updates.

At our request, some grantees also write a short essay about their project, the story behind the story. They tell us about their investigation, the difficulties they encountered, the origin of the project etc. This unique content offers added value to visitors as well as inspiration for (young) fellow journalists.

 [#NoMeansNo in Bangladesh: hoe dit verhaal tot stand kwam op het terrein](#)

 [Moeders ten laste: een persoonlijke, herkenbaar verhaal](#)

 [Het verhaal achter Thank God I'm in Europe](#)

 [Het verhaal achter de vergeten Softenon](#)

 [Het verhaal achter Bloed en Honing](#)

The site also draws attention to the **database of journalists**, which should encourage the initiation of collaborative projects. For every grantee, a profile is created with contact details and his/her field of expertise.

In 2020, the website had 91,411 page views (vs 63,543 in 2019) and 36,020 users (vs 19,239 in 2019). Apart from Belgium, obviously, the other users mainly came from the Netherlands and the US.



## [www.pascaldecroosbeurs.org](http://www.pascaldecroosbeurs.org)

Journalists can submit an online application through [www.pascaldecroosbeurs.org](http://www.pascaldecroosbeurs.org). To this end, they must fill out a form and add some attachments (including the budget). For 2021 a new application platform will be launched.

## [www.vlaamsjournalistiekfonds.be](http://www.vlaamsjournalistiekfonds.be)

This project was discontinued. We will keep the website online for the time being.

## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

### Journalismfund Newsletter

The purpose of the e-newsletter is to highlight content published on the website: published grants and interviews with grantees, important news items or upcoming events. Occasionally, we refer to stories or updates on websites of partner organisations. The newsletter subscribers are a somewhat diverse group: applicants and grantees, journalists, media people, journalist associations and sympathisers.

In 2020, the average publication frequency of the electronic newsletter was approximately twice a month. This was somewhat lower during the summer period and in calmer months and higher in the busier periods around the application deadlines and project publications. For the Journalismfund.eu Newsletter, we use MailChimp.

In 2020, JF prepared 19 External Newsletters (English language) in total. The number of subscribers of the JF External Newsletter (English version) has almost doubled in 2020, totalling around 6,990 for the reporting period (in 2019 we counted about 3,870 subscribers). JF also created a new Newsletter Template to make it more attractive and eye-catching for the readers.

Also for the electronic newsletter of the Pascal Decroos Fund grant programme (in Dutch), we use MailChimp. The Pascal Decroos Fund issued 15 e-newsletters in 2020 and had 2,966 subscribers at the end of 2020 (compared to 2,750 at the end of 2019). The Pascal Decroos Fund issues newsletters with information about its activities, supported projects, events, important media news updates, etc.

### The VJF newsletter

This project was discontinued. No more newsletters were sent out.


## SOCIAL MEDIA


### Journalismfund.eu vzw – Social media

All separate social media platforms of Journalismfund.eu are useful tools for communicating outputs and the outcome and impact of the organisation's projects and for networking activities. The main objective of the social media channels of Journalismfund.eu is network building, generating awareness about published articles and informing people about campaigns and project results. The target audience of the organisation consists of: potential grant applicants, journalists, the general public, donors, an international audience of professionally interested investigative journalists and CSO activists.



**1. Twitter** – is the most popular communication channel of Journalismfund.eu. We use Twitter to spread news about the organisation, supported stories and events, all relevant information from partner organisations and some interesting investigative journalism-related writing. By the end of 2019, we had over 6,100 followers of our Twitter page. By the end of 2020 we had 7,500 followers. We post an average of 8 to 15 posts a week so as to stay active and increase the reach of our page.

 **2. LinkedIn** – Journalismfund.eu uses this channel to expand our target audience/network and develop a professionally interested audience. The organisation has a LinkedIn company page with 221 followers (vs. 90 in 2019) and a [LinkedIn group](#) with about 5,050 members (vs 4,900 in 2019). We try to post or share our published project stories at least once a week, along with relevant news relating to the organisation, and to like and share stories that have been posted.

 **3. Facebook** – we use the Facebook online community to create a space for Journalismfund.eu's growing network of investigative journalists (attendees of training, events, grantees) with the goal to communicate remotely and digitally, exchange ideas and seek collaboration for new or follow-up stories. We share, amongst other things, Journalismfund.eu-related news, supported stories and news from similar organisations. By the end of 2020, we had over 6,700 followers of our Facebook page (vs. 5,000 in 2019). We usually post 8-15 times a week.

We have now also set up a Facebook group where we want to share more tips on cross-border investigative journalism with the community. We now have 486 members.

 **4. Instagram** – Journalismfund.eu created its own Instagram account in 2017. In general, the organisation shares relevant news on the platform to develop new projects and give impressions of those that have been completed. We have also established a routine for image and video posts and post short videos that could potentially become viral. We usually try to have 8 to 15 posts a week.

In addition to this, with a view to highlighting work supported by Journalismfund.eu, we start communicating as soon as the first round of publications comes out and the journalists provide us with the necessary material, both on the first day of publication and whenever new parts of their investigation are released in new countries or media outlets.

#### • **Pascal Decroos Fund – Social media**

While [www.fondspascaldecroos.org](http://www.fondspascaldecroos.org) publishes news messages that are directly related to (grants of) the Fund or that are very relevant to Flemish media, Facebook and Twitter have a more general approach. Through these social media, we also spread messages that have no direct link with the Fund. The Facebook page of the Fund also continued to grow in 2020 and went from 2,893 page likes at the end of 2019 to 2,979 likes by the end of 2020 (followers: 3,068). On Twitter, @pascaldecroos is followed by 1,878 people (compared to 1,696 in 2019).

 <https://www.facebook.com/FondsPascalDecroos/>

 <https://twitter.com/pascaldecroos>

#### • **Flemish Journalism Fund – Social media**

The VJF also shared news, investigations and best practices related to journalism and innovation through Facebook and Twitter. These messages achieved up to 6,000 views.

The Flemish Journalism Fund set up social media channels from the very start of its activities.

 [facebook.com/VlaamsJournalistiekFonds/](https://facebook.com/VlaamsJournalistiekFonds/)

This platform has 278 followers.

 Twitter: [@vlaamsfonds](https://twitter.com/vlaamsfonds)

This Twitter account has 317 followers.

## SURVEY

A special **Impact Survey** has been developed for grantees to monitor the impact of their projects. The Survey includes two evaluation sections, including an impact section. Grantees are asked to fill in the Survey after the project finalisation in line with their contracts. The survey helps to register 'the continuum theory' of impact so as to be able to include it in our annual reports.

In 2020, JF further developed a Survey Questionnaire for the grantees by shortening it and making it clearer and more concise to monitor the following phases of the project: application phase, project phase and cross-border collaboration, publication phase. The survey now also includes questions about 'added value' from the cross-border collaboration, ways of using possible new methods / tools for its improvement, main challenges of the collaboration across borders etc. The section regarding Funding and Fees was also updated in the questionnaire.

According to the contract regulations that the grantee signs with Journalismfund.eu, a survey should be completed on the SurveyMonkey platform upon publication of the project, within one month after publication at the latest.

According to the first results of the Survey, all ECBG grantees indicated that online application forms were easy for them to navigate and complete. The selection criteria were clear and fair. The pre-application advice sessions were quite helpful to them.

The majority of grantees underlined that the project gave them an opportunity to develop and learn new tools, methods and skills, such as working together in a large team, structuring the investigation and the use of Evernote, an end-to-end encryption software programme for messaging and video calls. Some of them also mentioned the importance of developing their skills/learning new skills for handling extensive investigation materials with a view to reporting on the issue at hand.

All grantees also indicated that this kind of cross-border journalism was valuable for their professional experience. For instance, dealing with complicated subjects in a cross-border manner improved their skills as reporters, both in gathering and in processing material.

All grantees also agreed on the effectiveness of the 'Supported Stories' section of our website as a strong communications tool for their professional promotion.

## DATABASE

Journalismfund.eu has a designated database of professional journalists (including mentors, jury members, publishers, editors-in-chief, etc.). This database is used as an instrument for all grant programmes of the organisation. By the end of 2020, the platform included around 7,780 professional contacts (vs. 7,000 in 2019).

## PASCAL DECROOS FUND ADS

The free advertising space that the Flemish print and online media allocated to the Pascal Decroos Fund, accounted in 2020 for a total sum of €113,898. Thanks to the support of Flemish newspapers, magazines and news websites, the Pascal Decroos Fund has been able to increase its brand awareness among journalists, publishers and the general public. This year, the campaign highlighted the important role of journalists in offering context and background to news facts. A task that requires a lot of time and resources.

## SECURITY / PRIVACY POLICY

Journalismfund.eu has created a new digital security policy in order to guarantee the security of journalists and grantees. Over the last couple of years, the organisation has implemented several thorough changes in its digital security protocols. First, Journalismfund.eu switched to the European Nextcloud instead of Google Drive in order to share files internally on a secure server. Secondly, the organisation offers journalists the opportunity to contact it through PGP, an encryption programme for email communication. Thirdly, Journalismfund.eu tries to use two-factor authentication.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/privacy-and-cookies-policy>

## STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION

### MANAGEMENT & STAFF

- Leopoldstraat 6, 1000 Brussels
- Publication: 1998-05-21 N. 009338
- Registration number of the organisation: 9338/98
- ID number NIS: 15262553
- National number: 463312580
- NACE-BEL code: 9112
- VAT number: BE043312580
- Managing Director: Ides Debruyne (1 FTE – contract)
- Financial Manager: Linda Berckmans (9/10 FTE – contract)
- Project Coordinator Pascal Decroos Fund: Kristof Polfliet (1 FTE – contract)
- Project Coordinator European Cross-border Grants: Svitlana Slabinska (1 FTE – contract)
- Project Coordinator Modern Slavery Unveiled: Michiel Scharpé (1 FTE – contract)
- Contact person within the organisation: Ides Debruyne (+32 2 705 59 19)

### ORGANISATION

#### Board of Directors

- Coessens Wim (B) – chairman
- Depuydt Piet (B) – treasurer
- Musschoot Iris (B) – secretary
- Smit Margo (NL)
- Wolters Hans (NL)

In 2020, the board of directors convened eight times.

#### Daily management

- Wim Coessens (B)
- Ides MF Debruyne (B)
- Piet Depuydt (B)

#### International Advisory Board

To safeguard its firm roots in the European investigative journalism community and as a source of good advice, Journalismfund.eu has an International Advisory Board to turn to. It consists of representatives from associations and centres for investigative journalism and other esteemed individuals in the community, as well as professional (investigative) journalists with a strong network in their own country.

The task of the Advisory Board consists of: guiding the organisation; providing advice regarding the selection of jury members for the European Cross-Border Grant Programmes; determining the 'special working grants', where a research topic is postulated; spreading calls and other communications; feedback on the possible need for support in the journalism community, among others. The Advisory Board members act as an international sounding board and further the network in which the organisation operates.






Due to the coronavirus crisis, Journalismfund.eu postponed its International Advisory Board meeting.

 [journalismfund.eu/about-us-organisation/advisory-board](https://journalismfund.eu/about-us-organisation/advisory-board)






We welcome a new Advisory Board member!

In 2020, Kostas Zafeiropoulos joined Journalismfund.eu's Advisory Board. Kostas is an investigative journalist for one of Greece's biggest newspapers, Efimerida ton Sintakton (Journalist's Journal) and a member the non-profit organisation The Mediterranean Institute for Investigative Reporting (MIIR). The MIIR was founded in January 2019 with the aim of enhancing the genre of journalism that holds those in power accountable and defends public good. MIIR's dynamic team of young talented Greek journalists aspires to foster the creation of an investigation ecosystem in Greece and the Mediterranean. At the core of MIIR's philosophy lie the principles and ethics of independent journalism which speaks truth to power.

Below is a list of the members of the International Advisory Board:

- **Sheila Ahern** is an Irish TV researcher and head of the [Mary Raftery Fund](#).  
 [@SheilaPAhern](#).
- **John Bones** is Managing Director of [SKUP](#), the Norwegian Foundation for Investigative Reporting.
- **Tamás Bodoky** is a Hungarian journalist and the founder and director of the [Átlátszó Center for Investigative Journalism](#) in Budapest.
- **Stefan Candea** is a co-founder of the [Romanian Centre for Investigative Journalism](#). He coordinates the [EIC.network](#) and is a PhD fellow at the University of Westminster and the [European Institute for Journalism and Communication Research](#) in Leipzig.
- **Wojtek Ciesla** is a Polish journalist working with Newsweek Poland. He is also among the founding fathers of the Polish *Fundacja Reporterów*, which aims to stimulate investigative journalism in Poland and neighbouring countries.
- **Evert de Vos** is a Dutch journalist (De Groene Amsterdammer) and chairman of the Dutch-Flemish association of investigative journalists [VVOJ](#).  
 [@evertdev](#)
- **Stephen Grey** is a special reporter at Reuters with long experience as a freelancer and a staff writer, in international reporting and as a Brussels correspondent. [Stephen Grey](#) works from London, United Kingdom.  
 [@StephenGrey](#)
- **Pavla Holcová** is the founder of the [Czech Centre for Investigative Journalism](#), where she has investigated cases concerning Serbian organised crime figures, Macedonian secret service investments in Prague, money laundering and offshore companies.  
 [@pafak](#)
- **Sanita Jemberga** is an award winning Latvian investigative journalist who has worked in the press and television since 1996. In 2014, she joined [Re:Baltica](#), the *Baltic Centre for Investigative Journalism*, where she serves as executive director and editor alongside Inga Sprīņe.  
 [@jemberga](#)
- **Eva Jung** is an investigative journalist with the Danish newspaper *Berlingske* and vice-chair of the

Danish Association for Investigative Journalism (FUJ).

- **Nicolas Kayser-Bril** is a French journalist based in Berlin and co-founder of [Journalism++](#).
- **Minna Knus-Galán** is a Finnish investigative journalist working for the *Finnish Public Broadcaster Yle*. She won the Finnish Journalist of the Year Award 2014.
- **Saša Leković** is the founder and director of the [Investigative Journalism Centre](#) in Zagreb, Croatia. He is a freelance reporter and investigative reporting trainer.
- **András Löke** is a Hungarian journalist working on ultra-local news in Budapest. He also works with the [Soma Foundation](#), which gives annual awards for investigative journalism.
- **Xhelal Neziri** is a Macedonian journalist and co-founder of [Scoop Macedonia](#).
- **Rachel Oldroyd** is the Editor of [the Bureau of Investigative Journalism](#) in London (UK).  
 [@Raoldroyd](#)
- **András Pethő** is a Hungarian journalist and co-founder of [Direkt36](#), a non-profit investigative journalism centre based in Budapest. Previously, he worked for the Hungarian news site Origo, the BBC World Service in London and the investigative unit of The Washington Post.
- **David Schraven** is a German investigative journalist and publisher of [CORRECTIV](#), Germany's first non-profit newsroom. He previously worked with taz, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Welt and WAZ-Gruppe.  
 [@David\\_Schraven](#)
- **Julia Stein** is a journalist with the German broadcaster NDR and chairwoman of the German [Netzwerk Recherche](#).
- **Serena Tinari** is an Italian investigative journalist working from Switzerland. She is a member of the [Swiss Investigative Reporters' Network](#), [IRE](#) and [ICIJ](#).  
 [@serenatinari](#)
- **Stanimir Vaglenov** is the founder of the [Bulgarian Centre for investigative journalism](#). He works for the daily newspaper 24 Casa in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- **Tarmo Vahter** is deputy-editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper [Eesti Ekspress](#) in Tallinn, Estonia.
- **Pilar Velasco** is a Spanish journalist currently working at Cadena SER (Prisa Group), the radio network leader in Spain.  
 [@pevelasco](#)
- **Taja Topolovec** is co-founder/CEO of [Podcrto](#), an independent investigative media agency in Slovenia.  
 [@atajatop](#)
- **Fouad Youcefi** is the chairman of the Swedish organisation for investigative journalists, [Grävande Journalister](#).
- **Kostas Zafirova** is an investigative journalist for one of Greece's biggest newspapers, Efimerida ton Sintakton and one of the founders of the non-profit organisation the Mediterranean Institute for Investigative Reporting (MIIR).
- **Zaklina Zafirova** is a Macedonian journalist and co-founder of [Scoop Macedonia](#).

## General Meeting

In 2020, the members of the General Assembly convened once (24 Feb 2020).

Article 21 of the articles of association lists the powers of the general meeting. The general meeting is solely for:

- amending the articles of association;
- the appointment and dismissal of directors;
- the appointment and dismissal of statutory auditors and establishing their remuneration if such remuneration is awarded;
- discharging to the directors and statutory auditors;
- approving the budget and accounts;
- the voluntary dissolution of the organisation;
- the appointment and exclusion of a member of the organisation;
- the conversion of the organisation into a company with a social purpose;
- all other actions as required by these articles of association.

These were the members of the General Meeting on 31 December 2020.

1. Bart Castelein
2. Wim Coessens
3. Ides Debruyne
4. Ann-Sophie Decroos
5. Isabel Decroos
6. Tom Decroos
7. Lieve Dekeyzer
8. Piet Depuydt
9. Anne-Mie Desterbecq
10. Anne Fort
11. Rob Heirbaut
12. Joris Pollet
13. Ann Soen
14. Jacques Van Hee
15. Kurt Vandenberghe
16. Koen Van Wichelen
17. Teun Voeten
18. Hans Wolters

## ORGANISATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The necessary office space and technologies are in place.

In 2020, JF developed a new application website platform in cooperation with the IT company Eps&Kaas. The application websites will be the same for all current grant programmes. The new application system will ease the whole application process and will provide a more user friendly and flexible application form.

In December 2020 we had to temporarily move our office to another address in Brussels. Renovations will be carried out for 6 to 12 months.



## ORGANISATIONAL SYSTEMS

- Financial reporting is up to date.
- Project administration systems are improved. –Over the last 4 months of 2020 we made substantial investments in our database system (Filemaker). All the grant programmes are now integrated into a clear online system. Now we have an overview of the journalists by project as well as an overview of the projects by journalist, with a clear indication of status, in a system that is easy to manage and search. The database has become a management tool.
- Since the coronavirus outbreak, we have increased the number of (online) team meetings from once a week to three times a week. Internal communication and coordination have improved.
- Evaluation documents have been harmonised.
- Information to U.S.-based funders: Journalismfund.eu has completed the ED process with NGOsource. NGOsource certifies EDs for U.S. grant makers so they can meet their tax compliance requirements and donate to Journalismfund.eu with fewer restrictions. Journalismfund.eu's Equivalency Determination certification is valid through to December 31, 2021.
- Journalismfund.eu adopted an Ethical Funding Policy  
Journalismfund.eu facilitates donors so that they can play their role supporting investigative journalism to the maximum extent possible. We report very transparently about our projects. Organisations that work with Journalismfund.eu therefore share at least two basic principles: 1) Change can mainly be achieved by informing citizens thoroughly and adequately; 2) Due to its credibility and depth, independent investigative journalism has much more impact than on-demand journalism. If you want journalism with maximum impact, the necessary distance must be ensured between the donor and the journalist. That's what Journalismfund.eu provides. Like its donors, Journalismfund.eu wants the results of journalistic investigations to have the maximum reach and therefore have a greater chance of impact.

We are open not only to traditional foundations, but also for many new players who are exploring the field of investigative journalism. Many organisations are convinced that you cannot change anything without the public being informed about the problems. Journalismfund.eu is a necessary partner in this process. Donating money to Journalismfund.eu thus also becomes a 'quality label' for many organisations. Journalismfund.eu does thorough due diligence before taking the money.

The Ethical Funding Policy is adopted to ensure that Journalismfund.eu vzw properly manages its priorities and projects with appropriate independence from its funders. This policy also aims to provide transparency regarding the identity of Journalismfund.eu's sources of funding to avoid any suspicion of inappropriate influence or conflicts of interest concerning Journalismfund.eu's activities. You can find our Ethical Funding Policy [here](#).

- Journalismfund.eu has refreshed the General Grant Rules

Journalismfund.eu has provided grants to journalists for over 20 years. The main aim of our renewed grant regulations is to sharpen our general working method. These updated rules also demonstrate how we protect the journalist's independence while remaining maximally transparent as an organisation.

In general, our grant guidelines establish the rules which govern the administration of the Grant Programmes of Journalismfund.eu, including the application, eligibility, selection processes and the assessment criteria that will be used to select grantees. The aim of the Grant Programmes of Journalismfund.eu is facilitating investigative, cross-border independent journalism in order to promote democracy in Europe by connecting donors and journalists without endangering the journalists' independence.

You can find Journalismfund.eu's General Grant Rules [here](#).

## **ANNEXES**

### **STATUTORY AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION JOURNALISMFUND.EU FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

---

# Annual Accounts in EUROS

## Balance sheet

| Assets                                    | 2020               | 2019               | 2018               |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Current Assets</b>                     |                    |                    |                    |
| Amounts receivable within one year        | € 89.402           | € 134.098          | € 135.990          |
| Cash at bank                              | € 1.390.145        | € 1.384.541        | € 1.603.922        |
| Deferred charges and accrued income       | € 0                | € 0                | € 14.741           |
| <b>Total current assets</b>               | <b>€ 1.479.551</b> | <b>€ 1.518.645</b> | <b>€ 1.754.653</b> |
| <b>Fixed (Long-Term) Assets</b>           |                    |                    |                    |
| Tangible fixed assets                     | € 16.604           | € 19.441           | € 15.286           |
| <b>Total fixed assets</b>                 | <b>€ 16.604</b>    | <b>€ 19.441</b>    | <b>€ 15.286</b>    |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                       | <b>€ 1.496.155</b> | <b>€ 1.538.086</b> | <b>€ 1.769.939</b> |
| <b>Liabilities and Equity</b>             |                    |                    |                    |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>                |                    |                    |                    |
| Amounts payable within one year           | € 55.598           | € 57.851           | € 75.303           |
| Deferred income                           | € 616.819          | € 618.605          | € 644.900          |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>          | <b>€ 672.417</b>   | <b>€ 676.456</b>   | <b>€ 720.203</b>   |
| <b>Provisions</b>                         |                    |                    |                    |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges    | € 29.000           | € 23.800           | € 0                |
| Provisions for grants                     | € 665.630          | € 735.896          | € 1.045.286        |
| <b>Total provisions</b>                   | <b>€ 694.630</b>   | <b>€ 759.696</b>   | <b>€ 1.045.286</b> |
| <b>Equity</b>                             |                    |                    |                    |
| Available reserves                        | € 4.547            | € 4.547            | € 4.547            |
| Unavailable reserves - social liabilities | € 144.541          | € 124.500          | € 64.500           |
| Accumulated profits (losses)              | -€ 19.980          | -€ 27.113          | -€ 64.597          |
| <b>Total equity</b>                       | <b>€ 129.108</b>   | <b>€ 101.934</b>   | <b>€ 4.450</b>     |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>       | <b>€ 1.496.155</b> | <b>€ 1.538.086</b> | <b>€ 1.769.939</b> |

## Income statement

| Operating Income and Charges                                  | 2020               | 2019               | 2018               |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Operating income</b>                                       |                    |                    |                    |
| Turnover  | € 11.861           | € 50.043           | € 90.588           |
| Donations, foundation grants and subsidies                    | € 1.439.899        | € 1.485.243        | € 1.817.299        |
| Other operating income  | € 137.123          | € 121.857          | € 127.377          |
| Financial income  | € 2                | € 23               | € 43               |
| <b>Total operating income</b>                                 | <b>€ 1.588.879</b> | <b>€ 1.657.160</b> | <b>€ 2.035.301</b> |
| <b>Operating charges</b>                                      |                    |                    |                    |
| Grants paid   | € 1.028.561        | € 1.221.057        | € 642.558          |
| Purchases services and other goods                            | € 244.068          | € 279.773          | € 412.655          |
| Remuneration and social security costs                        | € 341.334          | € 331.181          | € 244.731          |
| Depreciations   | € 4.586            | € 5.482            | € 4.178            |
| Provisions for grants : Appropriations (uses and write-backs) | -€ 65.066          | -€ 285.590         | € 629.635          |
| Other operating charges                                       | € 0                | € 55               | € 409              |
| Financial charges   | € 4.955            | € 7.613            | € 2.089            |
| <b>Total operating charges</b>                                | <b>€ 1.558.444</b> | <b>€ 1.559.570</b> | <b>€ 1.936.255</b> |
| <b>Operating (profit) loss</b>                                | <b>€ 30.435</b>    | <b>€ 97.589</b>    | <b>€ 99.046</b>    |
| <b>Exceptional Income and Charges</b>                         |                    |                    |                    |
| <b>Exceptional charges</b>                                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Exceptional charges move offices                              | € 3.261            | € 105              | € 2.018            |
| <b>Total exceptional charges</b>                              | <b>€ 3.261</b>     | <b>€ 105</b>       | <b>€ 2.018</b>     |
| <b>Gain (loss) op the period available for appropriation</b>  | <b>€ 27.174</b>    | <b>€ 97.484</b>    | <b>€ 97.028</b>    |

| Transfer to reserves                                  | 2020            | 2019            | 2018            |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Transfer to unavailable reserves - social liabilities | € 20.041        | € 60.000        | € 64.500        |
| Transfer to accumulated profits (losses)              | € 7.133         | € 37.484        | € 32.528        |
| <b>Total transfer to reserves</b>                     | <b>€ 27.174</b> | <b>€ 97.484</b> | <b>€ 97.028</b> |

**STATUTORY AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF  
THE NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION JOURNALISMFUND.EU  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020  
(TRADE REGISTER OF BRUSSELS, DUTCH DIVISION – VAT BE 0463.312.580)**

---

*FREE TRANSLATION OF OUR AUDIT REPORT IN ENGLISH.  
IN EVENT OF ANY CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ENGLISH AND DUTCH VERSION  
THE DUTCH VERSION WILL PREVAIL*

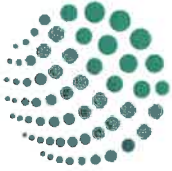
In the context of the statutory audit of the annual accounts of the non-profit organisation Journalismfund.eu (the Organisation), we hereby present our statutory auditor's report. It includes our report on the annual accounts as well as on the other legal and regulatory disclosure requirements. This forms an integrated whole and is indivisible.

We have been appointed as statutory auditor by the general meeting of members of 11 February 2019, following the proposal formulated by the board of directors. Our statutory auditor's mandate expires on the date of the general meeting of members deliberating on the annual accounts closed on 31 December 2020. We have performed the statutory audit of the annual accounts of the Organisation for 3 consecutive years.

**Report on the annual accounts – Unqualified opinion**

We have audited the annual accounts of the Organisation, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2020, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the annual accounts, characterised by a balance sheet total of € 1.496.155 and profit and loss account showing a positive result for the year of € 27.174.

In our opinion, the annual accounts give a true and fair view of the Organisation's net equity and financial position as at 31 December 2020, as well as of its results for the year then ended, in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium.



### ***Basis for unqualified opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the '*Statutory auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts*' section in this report. We have complied with all the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of annual accounts in Belgium, including those concerning independence.

We have obtained from the board of directors and the officials of the Organisation the explanations and information necessary for performing our audit.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

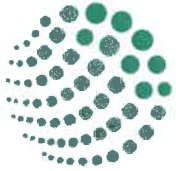
### ***Emphasis on a particular matter – COVID-19 crisis***

Without prejudice to the opinion expressed above, we draw attention to VKT-vzw 7 of the financial statements that mentions the identified effects of the COVID-19 health crisis on the past financial year, as well as on the expected effects on the future profitability and liquidity of the company. The board of directors also states the taken and intended measures.

### ***Responsibilities of the board of directors for the preparation of the annual accounts***

The board of directors is responsible for the preparation of annual accounts that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium, and for such internal control as the board of directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual accounts, the board of directors is responsible for assessing the Organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board of directors either intends to liquidate the Organisation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.



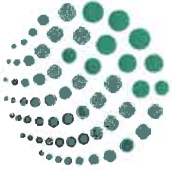
### ***Statutory auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a statutory auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual accounts.

In performing our audit, we comply with the legal, regulatory and normative framework applicable to the audit of the annual accounts in Belgium. However, a statutory audit does not provide assurance as to the future viability of the Organisation neither to the efficiency or effectiveness with which the management body has or will conduct the Organisation's business. Our responsibilities with regard to the board of directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting are described below.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual accounts, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organisation's internal control;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the board of directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our statutory auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our statutory auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organisation to cease to continue as a going concern;



- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual accounts and whether the annual accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the board of directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identified during our audit.

### **Other legal and regulatory requirements**

#### ***Responsibilities of the board of directors***

The board of directors is responsible for the compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements regarding bookkeeping, with the Law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit organisations, foundations, European political parties and European political foundations or, from 1 January 2020, the Code of companies and associations and with the Organisation's by-laws.

#### ***Responsibilities of the statutory auditor***

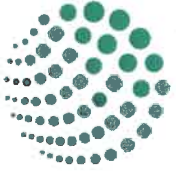
In the context of our mandate and in accordance with the Belgian standard (version 2020) which is complementary to the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium, it is our responsibility to verify, in all material aspects, and compliance with certain provisions of the Law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit organisations, foundations, European political parties and European political foundations or, from 1 January 2020, the Code of companies and association and with the Organisation's by-laws, as well as to report on these elements.

#### ***Statement related to independence***

Our audit firm and our network did not provide services which are incompatible with the statutory audit of annual accounts, and we remained independent of the Organisation during the terms of our mandate.

The fees related to additional services which are compatible with the statutory audit of annual accounts as referred to in article 3:65 of the Code of companies and associations were duly itemised and valued in the notes to the annual accounts.





**Other statements**

Without prejudice to certain formal aspects of minor importance, the accounting records are maintained in accordance with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium.

There are no transactions undertaken or decisions taken in breach of the by-laws or of the Law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit organisations, foundations, European political parties and European political foundations or, from 1 January 2020, the Code of companies and associations that we have to report to you.

The Organisation is a small organisation according to article 1:28 of the Code of companies and associations and therefore does not have to draw up a management report in accordance with article 3:48 of the Code of companies and associations.

Antwerp, 9 February 2021

VGD Bedrijfsrevisoren BV

Statutory auditor

Represented by

Bart Roose

Auditor