Journalism Science Alliance
Call for Applications

Open date: 2 June 2025
Closing date: 4 August 2025 (17:00 CEST)

The Journalism Science Alliance (JSA) is a programme co-funded by the EU's Creative Europe Programme. JSA delivers grant funding, training, mentoring and networking to drive the production of local, regional, and transnational investigative journalism backed by science, and enhance cross-sectoral collaboration between journalism and research institutions. Supported by training and mentorship provided by JSA, journalists and scientists will work together to uncover new topics of public interest that will reach and engage (new) audiences for investigative journalism, while serving public interest across Europe.

The Journalism Science Alliance is managed by a consortium led by NOVA University Lisbon, in partnership with the European Journalism Centre (EJC).

Eligibility to apply

The grants will be open to:

- Collaborations involving at least one media outlet and one research/academic organisation working on an investigation on a topic of public interest, such as climate change, healthcare, emerging technologies, local governance, etc. The list of examples is not exhaustive.
- Organisations need to be based in one or more countries that have signed up to the full cross-sectoral strand of the European Union's Creative Europe Programme, which provides core funding for the JSA.
  Eligible countries include all 27 EU member states and the following non-EU countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Ukraine.
- The lead applicant is always a media outlet. The application should be submitted by a journalist associated with that media outlet who will act as the team lead. This can also be a freelancer, as long as they are supported by a media outlet.
- Individual journalists and/or scientists can be part of the applying teams as long as there are at least two organisations already involved in the application (1 media and 1 research organisation), but they cannot be lead applicant.
- Media, journalists, scientists, and/or research organisations from outside of the Creative Europe participating countries will be able to be part of the applying teams, as long as these already include one media and one research entity that satisfy the eligibility criteria.

Grant funding may be used to cover any costs necessary for the development, completion and publication of the research and production of journalistic content, including salary and human

resource costs, research-related costs, translation and travel costs. The only exception applies to equipment (hardware) costs, which are not eligible.

There will be two Calls for Applications during the 2025/26 funding round.

We are now launching the **first Call** within this programme. We are allocating approximately **one million euro** for supporting the first round of journalistic projects. Teams can apply for grants of 10,000 euro, 20,000 euro or 50,000 euro, depending on the scope of their project, the complexity of the proposed investigations, the number of partners involved, the nature of the associated tasks and the tentative timeline.

Mentorship and training

Each awarded team will work with one or more carefully selected mentors according to how their needs evolve as they proceed with their projects. Teams can decide which team members will communicate with the mentor(s) throughout the programme. Mentors will commit to being available on particular days for calls, emails, feedback sessions etc. throughout the course of the projects. The mentors will have expertise in various aspects of journalism (for example, data journalism, pitching, open-source intelligence, best practices in science reporting and so on).

In addition to the mentoring programme, the EJC will organise online expert calls ("Ask Me Anything" sessions) with specialists to allow grantees of the scheme to gain knowledge and improve their skills in fields relevant to investigative journalism.

Networking

In addition to the in-person networking opportunities for all JSA grantees provided by the programme, EJC will organise a half-day online event bringing together each awarded cohort of JSA Scheme at the start of their projects.

These online events will be in a format that encourages active participation from grantees, allowing them to align their expectations and fostering knowledge sharing and collaboration.

How to apply

- Create an EJC.net account or log in if you have an existing account.
- Make sure you have thoroughly read and understood the Call for Applications document.
- Download the Application Questions document before starting your application. This document contains all the questions you'll be asked and helps you prepare your answers in advance.
- Click the "Apply button" on the funding page to start your application.

Applications must be received by 17:00 CEST on Monday 4 August 2025.

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Applicants can save the application form and return to it until they have completed it and are ready to submit. Once the application is submitted, it can no longer be edited. Only applications received via the EJC platform by the stated date and time will be considered. You will receive an email confirmation of your submission.

Applications must be completed in English but supporting documents that are provided by weblink or upload can be in applicants' native language.

Selection process and timeline

The selection of successful applications is done by an independent jury made up of distinguished journalists and scientists.

Successful applicants will be notified about the outcome of their application as soon as the independent jury makes its decision. Given the expected high volume of applications, the Consortium reserves the right to not provide individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Grants are awarded for a period of 8 months. All funded projects must be finalised no later than the date specified in the grant agreement.

Dates (subject to change)	**Activity**
2 June 2025	Call for Applications opens
16 June 2025 (11.00 CEST)	AMA session I
7 July 2025 (11.00 CEST)	AMA session II
4 August 2025 (17:00 CEST)	Call for Applications closes
September 2025 (date tbd)	Judging of applications, shortlisting and due diligence checks
October 2025 (date tbd)	Notification winners, signing of agreements, initial grant payments
November 2025-June 2026	Grant period
28 February 2026	Interim report grantees
15 July 2026	Final report grantees

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Payments and reporting

For teams selected for grant funding, the payment of grants will be made in three instalments:

- 50% of the grant amount will be paid upon signing of the grant agreement by the awarded project team and upon counter-signing by the EJC.
- 30% following the submission of a mid-term narrative report and completion of agreed milestones.
- The remaining 20% will be paid following the submission of a final report by the project team, demonstrating the fulfilment of the grant requirements.

Questions and contact

If you have a query that isn't answered in this document, please refer to the FAQs. The Application Questions document can be used to prepare your application. Please note: This document is designed to preview the application questions and prepare accordingly. This is not the actual application form. Please Create an EJC.net account to apply.

You can also join the **AMA** ('Ask Me Anything') sessions via Zoom. There will be two sessions for the first Call on:

- Monday 16 June 2025 at 11.00 CEST
  To attend, please follow the Zoom link here or add it to your calendar.

- Monday 7 July 2025 at 11.00 CEST
  To attend, please follow the Zoom link here or add it to your calendar.

Our FAQ section provides answers to many specific questions about the grant. For further questions, applicants should contact the European Journalism Centre at jsagrants@ejc.net.

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