
OPEN GRANTS COMPETITION

PROMOTING FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND STRENGTHENING INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN UKRAINE

February 2015

Internews` Strengthening Independent Media in Ukraine (U-Media) Program, supported by USAID, invites candidates to submit grant proposals to an open grants competition. The competition is intended to support national and regional media outlets and media non-government organizations (NGOs) that are officially registered in accordance with Ukrainian legislation to work to improve the media sector in Ukraine through the objectives and criteria described below.

U-Media is searching for innovative and realistic projects that will result in an improvement in the enabling environment for media in Ukraine and media information quality for citizens.

U-Media will support projects that contribute to the following objectives:

1. Support and promote freedom of speech and media independence.
2. Improve the enabling environment for media and freedom of speech.

Within the open grants competition, Internews will consider project proposals with budgets of \$ 5,000 for periods up to 6-months focusing on U-Media`s priority types of activities, namely (but not limited to):

1. ***Self-regulation in media (preferably for regional media organizations).*** Setting up editorial guidelines, openness to the public and market oriented journalism; editorial autonomy, independence and media role in increasing public discourse quality; role of self-regulation in media responses to legitimate complaints; role of self-regulation in increasing media social responsibility, resistance to propaganda and hate speech in particular; codes of ethics; complaint mechanisms for media “quality insurance”; self-regulation versus external regulation of media.
2. ***Media role in addressing Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) issues.*** Production and distribution of important information for IDPs that concerns their rights and opportunities; cultivating a dialog among local authorities and community groups with IDPs through media organizations; role of media in IDP`s integration within the communities in which they live.
3. ***Media projects for reconciliation in society and encouraging a national dialog.*** ***Strengthening*** inter-regional media, authorities and communities` relations; raising public awareness (with an emphasis on East and South) of reforms and political processes; generating content that promotes national unity, tolerance and acceptance of marginalized groups; promotion of universal humanistic values; peace journalism.
4. ***Media ownership transparency.*** “Know your media” regional projects; publicizing information regarding media ownership; expert or public discussions on media owners` influence on editorial policy; open (street) lectures on critical thinking and conscious media consumption.

U-Media Grant Proposal Writing Instructions:

All proposals should be submitted in Ukrainian (Times New Roman, type font **12**) accompanied by a summary of the project in English. Proposal structure includes the following:

I. Cover Page – 1 page:

This page should contain the following information:

- A. Project Title
- B. Brief Project Description: *In one paragraph, clearly and concisely summarize your project In Ukrainian and English*
- C. Organization: *Name and contact information.*
- D. Project Coordinator: *Full name and contact information.*
- E. Duration of the Project (in months)
- F. Amount Requested in USD

II. Program Description – 5 pages maximum:

- A. Description of project goals and objectives connected to the U-Media objectives
- B. Activities that should lead to achieving the objectives
- C. Expected results, outcomes/outputs and impact of the project
- D. Monitoring and evaluation tools and indicators of project effectiveness
- E. Timetable (monthly) that explains project logic and implementation
- F. Partners -- both public and private.

III. Budget – please use attached template and complete first two tabs in Excel file – instruction is attached). The budget form is also available on U-Media web-site at http://umedia.kiev.ua/u-meda/anonsi/656-vdkritiy-grantoviy-konkurs.html#.VMj_AGORMVc.

A budget summary table should be completed at first tab, and details per each event are to be indicated at second tab of Excel file in the attached format. It should describe major expense categories that show clear cost effectiveness. The suggested cost share should be **not less than 10 percent from the requested sum of the grant**.

Please explain details on every expense category in the budget narrative column (last right) of the template to keep transparency of expense composition.

IV. Capacity and previous experience in project implementation – no more than one page:

- A. Business or project management experience
- B. Previous grants received over last three years (funder, amount, purpose, and achieved results)

Internews also invites emergent organizations to submit proposals. If your organization's experience in media projects is insufficient, please, reference other relevant projects and indicate the competence level of proposed principal employees and consultants of the project.

Proposals should be sent electronically to umedia@internews.org, cc: umedia.internews@gmail.com. If you don't receive your application receipt acknowledgment

within two days, please, contact U-Media on tel. (044) 458 4439/41 or send your proposal one more time.

PROPOSALS EVALUATION

PROPOSALS WHICH DO NOT CORRESPOND TO THE U-MEDIA'S PRIORITY TYPES OF ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSALS REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

A U-Media jury made up of independent experts will evaluate proposals and select the winners. The jury will evaluate proposals in accordance with the Grant Selection Criteria listed below.

Deadline for proposals submission: 23:59 of Kyiv time on 22 February, 2015.

Internews may contact an organization-applicant if further information about submitted proposal is required.

Please note that the project evaluation process may take up to a calendar month. The period from the date of receiving a positive response from U-Media to your proposal to the date of funding can take up to eight weeks, because of procedures related to grants program administration.

All awards are subject to available funding and USAID approval.

Organizations with proposals which are not supported can receive an oral consultation (by phone or in person) about the reasons of their proposal rejection.

Grant Selection Criteria

Each proposal will get an appropriate number of points in accordance with the following list of criteria:

1. The project is important and timely and responds to current challenges in Ukraine
2. The project corresponds to at least one of the priorities of the U-Media program.
3. The proposal offers innovative and timely approach to achieving at least one of U-Media's program priorities.
4. Expected results and impact are realistic and reasonable.
5. The project can achieve expected results at the appointed period.
6. The proposed types of activities make possible achieving expected results.
7. The applicant demonstrates sufficient technical skill, experience and capacity for the activities proposed.
8. The budget of the project is reasonable and cost effective.
9. The cost share is not less than 10 percent from the requested sum.

If you have any questions related to the grants competition terms, please contact U-Media staff on business days from 10.00 to 17.00.