



The Sad Truth
About
Western Technology

"It's possible that two children died so that you could have that mobile phone," says Jean-Bertin, "absolute silence" around the crimes committed in his country to exploit strategic raw material.

**You can't change what
people don't know**

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Preface

Societies are guided by a story with the rulers remaining at the helm of the storyline. They largely define the narrative, the framework through which they substantiate or prop up their political choices, whichever way you wish to look at it. They need this narrative to keep the system going. We must all believe in it.

Here lies an important mission for journalists and journalism in general. Someone must dare to ask the question whether the storylines and particularly the political, social and economic choices are indeed the right ones. Does reality correspond with the proclaimed theory? Is an inconvenient truth being obscured by propaganda? Journalists must acquire the time and space to ask these irritating questions if we wish to find out whether or not the story is true. This is exactly what Journalismfund.eu continued to encourage in 2019 as well: journalism forcing rulers to adjust their course or abandon ship.

For instance, initially the European Commission continued to justify its decision to allow the further use of Chlorpyrifos in fruit cultivation, in spite of the scientists that catalogued the insecticide with the way too difficult name as extremely dangerous. A team of 13 journalists dug into this story and showed that the Commission told a story that – following smart lobbying from chemical giants – went entirely their way. Finally, forced by various publications in the different European member states, the European Commission gave in. Also one of the manufacturers immediately decided to stop the production of the insecticide. Journalismfund.eu is pleased and proud having been able to contribute to this.

Often, a storyline is patchwork that is used to hide things. Yet, the coverlet may sometimes appear too small to conceal everything. If the storyline no longer brings relief, the targeted parties sometimes tend to threaten the journalist in question. The Flemish news site Apache, for instance, brought a series on the Antwerp real estate company Land Invest Group. Documents that the Dutch-speaking online newspaper Apache and the French-speaking weekly magazine Le Vif had been given access to showed how some “entrepreneurs” from the entourage of one of today’s most influential Belgian politicians could extract for over six years millions of euros from Land Invest. In these disputed Antwerp construction projects, the project developer could all the time rely on conspicuous political support. It was a very difficult investigation with many threats as we had hardly seen ever before in Belgium. Land Invest Group engaged private detectives to shadow the investigative journalists. The journalists were sued for damage claims amounting to 350,000 euro and 500,000 euro. Still, the investigation did have some impact. After a long list of publications, the court finally took action and confiscated the entire bookkeeping of Land Invest during a house search. We hope this story will be continued. Journalismfund.eu is very pleased with this investigation, that has been made possible by one of its grant programmes.

Such a narrative fabricated by a government or business is often difficult to unravel, even if anyone with common sense can predict problems well in advance.

Also the migration story is such a tough and yet visibly shaky story, comparable to that of the Genua bridge. It must be propped up on all sides with half-truths and warped sermons. And yet, we see every day people drowning by the dozens in their attempt to reach Europe. Shocking images that ask for a decent explanation. But our leaders get away with it. Apparently, their story sounds plausible enough, keeping them safely and shamelessly in power. Or the public just doesn't want to know. The truth may indeed be unpleasant at times. Perhaps, that is why journalism has become unpopular with part of the population. It are exactly these tricky stories that Journalismfund.eu wishes to encourage. Stories that the general public may not want to know but does have to know.

According to Linda Polman, "this story about the European 'management of refugees' started in the summer of 1938 in the stately French spa town of Evian, during the first international summit about the refugee crisis in Europe". On the back cover of her book, which was partly financed by Journalismfund.eu, she writes 'Nobody wants them'. The number of Jews that tried to escape from Nazi territory had exploded: there was an urgent need of accommodation for them. All Western European countries were present in Evian and all their arguments not to let refugees in were the same as now: the 'migrants' would not respect national standards and values, steal jobs and homes and threaten the social cohesion." Not much has changed since the publication of this impressive book. The momentum just isn't there yet. Sometimes, such things take time. The time that we need to turn around.

Europe spends millions of euros to curb migration. How many? This appeared impossible to find out, as was shown by one of the supported projects. "The European financial flows for migration are as complex as a plate of spaghetti. This is both problematic and typical of Europe's migration policy in Africa", according to 'De Correspondent'.

Every story that has been realised with the support of one of our three grants programmes reads as the shattering of the narrative of one or other government. This is both an important achievement as well as the mission of journalists. They must bring clarity in the shady stories often served by politicians. If we as citizens want to gain insight in the effects of choices made by politicians or companies, someone must create clarity. Without independent investigative journalism, we would sail blindly and without compass. And nothing will change.

Ides Debruyne

Mission

Our mission and vision

We believe that journalism is crucial to fostering living democracies throughout Europe. We are dedicated to advancing independent and investigative journalism across Europe that serves the public interest, furthers accountability as well as transparency, and contributes to critical thinking and well-informed debate.

We aim to promote and develop professional journalism in Europe in response to the challenges and opportunities stemming from increased digitalisation, the internationalisation of political, business and criminal power structures, as well as changing revenue models.

Journalismfund.eu vzw is an independent non-profit organisation established in 1998 by *citizens*. The organisation was established with the purpose of facilitating investigative, cross-border and independent journalism in order to promote democracy in Europe by connecting donors and journalists without endangering the journalists' independence.

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 in a very transparent way about our projects.
- We facilitate journalists to conduct investigative and cross-border journalism and we safeguard their independence from donors.
- We help journalists disseminate their stories among citizens.

Our origin

Journalismfund.eu 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 continue the legacy of this Belgian journalist. Initially, Journalismfund.eu was called the Pascal Decroos Fund for Investigative Journalism. In 2013, the name was changed into Journalismfund.eu vzw.

What we stand for, is what Pascal Decroos stood for, in word and deed. He was dedicated to investigative journalism and was committed to create opportunities to develop young talented journalists. He had the ability to bring people from very different parts of society together to enter into a 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 and standards.
- Independent journalism is credible because it is editorially independent of political, economic or other types of influence. Journalismfund.eu strives to provide the necessary structures to safeguard such editorial independence.

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.
- **Transparent.** Our board, staff members, partners and the general public know what we stand for, how we operate and how we take 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 impact of journalists and journalism. Our grant programmes are designed to stimulate journalists to work together. Our willingness and ability to collaborate with key stakeholders in our field strengthens our strategy. Collaboration within and between our organisational structure strengthens our operations.
- **Responsive.** We act according to the needs and interests of journalists. 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 out new approaches.

OBJECTIVE I

Promoting investigative independent journalism in Europe

A pact for impact?

The investigative journalism projects that have been realised with the support of Journalismfund.eu would not have been possible without the financial support of its donors. For understandable and obvious reasons, it is for donors important to know and to measure what their 'return on investment' is. Also "the theory of change" is engrained in every fibre of NGOs, businesses, governments and philanthropic organisations. With their indirect support to journalism projects through Journalismfund.eu, donors pursue a certain long-term purpose and they want at the very least take small visible steps towards that final target.

Independent investigative journalism aims to inform citizens in an adequate and independent manner. Journalists are only accountable to their public. Obviously, businesses, philanthropic organisations, governments or NGOs cannot make use of independent journalism to realise their objectives. On the contrary. Independent investigative journalism often investigates the activities of these players and wants to know how they reach and realise their objectives. If you want to weigh the quality of investigative journalism on the basis of the impact of change, you would change the nature of independent investigative journalism and, above all, undo its independence.¹

Does this mean that independent investigative journalism cannot generate the impact that is pursued by certain organizations? No.

"The main impact of investigative journalism is that citizens are better informed, which is an essential condition of existence for a critical democratic debate."

The perfect match for maximum impact?

The main impact of investigative journalism is that citizens are better informed, which is an essential condition of existence for a critical democratic debate. Enabling this is exactly the mission of Journalismfund.eu: it is a citizens' initiative with the ultimate objective to have better informed citizens.

Journalismfund.eu safeguards to the maximum extent possible the independence of the investigations supported by it and protects journalists against any possible influence from the part of donors. In this capacity, it acts both as intermediary and firewall.

NGOs, governments and philanthropic organisations supporting Journalismfund.eu therefore share at least two basic principles. First: you can only realise change by thoroughly and adequately informing citizens. Secondly: independent investigative journalism will – through its credibility and depth – always create much more impact than 'journalism' on demand. If you want journalism to have maximum impact, donors best stay as far away as possible from journalists. Otherwise, the credibility of the journalist will be at risk.

Journalismfund.eu creates the necessary distance between donors and journalists. Donors agree that the final decision is in the hands of external professionals. Only on the day of publication, donors are informed which projects the jury members have selected.

That is the *raison d'être* and core identity of Journalismfund.eu: we facilitate independent investigative journalism as intermediary and firewall between donors and journalists.

Topics

Furthermore, Journalismfund.eu wants topics for investigations to come from journalists themselves and not that they are suggested by donors. All the same, Journalismfund.eu is open to topics that have been established by the United Nations in its global sustainable development agenda for 2030 (SDGs – *Sustainable Development Goals*). This agenda contains 17 goals and 169 underlying targets. A donor that wishes to realise one or more of these objectives can call upon Journalismfund.eu. The targets are sufficiently broad (combating poverty and hunger, health, education, gender equality, sustainable water and energy management, industry, innovation...) so as not to put the independence of the journalistic choices at risk. At the same time, Journalismfund.eu aims to provide adequate resources for topics beyond the SDGs (although most investigative journalism projects that we supported over the past 20 years can in one way or another be classified as falling under these SDGs).

¹ Martin Scott, Mel Bunce & Kate Wright (2019): Foundation Funding and the Boundaries of Journalism, Journalism Studies, DOI: 10.1080 / 1461670X.2018.1556321 – link: <https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2018.1556321>

Monitoring and impact

As said above, the main impact of investigative journalism is that citizens are **better informed**. Often, this impact is not directly visible and measurable. Some investigations also result in more visible impact and changes than others. To map this, Journalismfund.eu asks journalists who've received a grant to report one year after the publication on the impact of their story in the following three areas:

- **Reach:** assessment of the *reach* of their story, based on the original publication/broadcast, social media, coverage by other media, and so on;
- **Debate:** articles and entries in other media; debates; reactions in organisations, society and politics; presentations at conferences and other forums; journalism prizes and awards;
- **Accountability:** changes in legislation or policies, dismissals and legal actions.

Finally, the projects supported by Journalismfund.eu have a fifth important type of impact: journalists gain valuable **experience** through them and generate cross-border networks and **sustainable partnerships** that in future may lead to new interesting stories.

Just as its donors, Journalismfund.eu wants that the results of journalistic investigations achieve maximum reach and thus have a greater chance of creating impact. Therefore, Journalismfund.eu helps to maximise the reach of publications. For this, it has disposal of a database that has been built over its +20 years of existence. Journalismfund.eu not only pushes stories through existing news platforms but also wants to inform society and other organisations about recently published investigations within their field of interest. In this way, they can set to work with these findings and thus not only help with the dissemination but also contribute to possible changes.

Sometimes, the momentum isn't just there yet

The fact that the general public knows about malpractices, corruption or unethical practices is no guarantee for *change*. Often, we see that the momentum just isn't there yet or that the legislator or government holds other beliefs than the general public. For instance, still no measures have been taken with regard to the sales of passports within the European Union, even when investigative journalists already alerted to this type of fraud in 2012. (*Buy your way into EU citizenship*). Also, a team of 48 investigative journalists from across Europe investigated how members of the European Parliament use their budget that is meant for covering their expenses (*The MEP Project*). The EU parliament does not verify these expenses itself and there is no documentation

available about how these funds are used. The majority of the MEPs do not want journalists or citizens getting access to this information. Journalists turned to the European Court of Justice to demand insight in the spending of public funds. Unfortunately, the journalists were put in the wrong. The time isn't right yet. This story definitely asks for a sequel.

So, hasn't there been any impact or *change*? Of course there has. In 2019, for instance, a network of European investigative journalists published the *Chlorpyrifos project*. In Europe, residues of chlorpyrifos – a toxic insecticide – have been found in fruit baskets and samples of human urine. Chlorpyrifos is a chemical substance that kills insects in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables. The series of stories, financed by Journalismfund.eu, reveals the effect on adults and children, the spreading of the pesticide in several foodstuffs, the legal battle in the European Union and the fact that it has been forbidden in an ever increasing number of countries but cannot be totally avoided.

Following the publication of the story in various media in Europe, EU experts and staff of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) – this had never happened before – published a statement about the controversial pesticide, stating that the pesticides do not meet the criteria for re-approval. The announcement was made on 2 August 2019. On Friday, 6 December 2019, representatives of the member countries, voted against the extension of the permit for using these insecticides.

Lasting impact

Thanks to the support that they receive from *Journalismfund.eu*, journalists in many events are given time and space for a new experience. They learn to work together across borders and develop a reflex to approach topics from an international perspective. Once in a while, this results in longer-term partnerships and the expertise gained is used as the basis for further investigation.

Increasing applications for support

Over the past few years, the number of applications to Journalismfund.eu for support has grown exponentially. This not only relates to the fact that ever more journalists within Europe but also beyond the continent find their way to Journalismfund.eu, but also because ever more journalists wish to engage in (investigative) journalism and dare to leave the beaten tracks. In many places in Europe, the tradition of tenacious investigative journalism as we see it in Anglo-Saxon countries was in fact non-existent. This is now radically and rapidly changing. Journalists find one another sooner thanks to the evolution in the available communication tools (Skype, Facebook, Messenger, Signal, WhatsApp, Slack, Rocket.Chat, e-mail...). The benefits of cross-border cooperation (more factual, wider spread, safer, more impact...) are proven by organisations such as the *International Consortium of Investigative Journalists*, *Investigate Europe* or *EIC.network*. Promoting

individual partnerships generates another valuable “side effect”. Some of these loose partnerships appeared so successful that a more structural partnership proved the only logical step. Here, Journalismfund.eu plays an important part by (temporarily) acting as a ‘go-between’ or supporting incubator until such a network can stand on its own two feet. In this way, Journalismfund.eu contributes to encouraging new journalistic initiatives and to a diverse media landscape.

Fact is that in 2019 Journalismfund.eu concluded 262 contracts and awarded grants to the amount of 920,651 euro. In 2018, the demand was even bigger but at that time we still had the ‘Flemish Journalism Fund’ (VJF), which in 2018 generated on its own a demand to the amount of 1,777,807 euro. In 2019, the Flemish government decided – in spite of the high need – to stop spending resources to the VJF.

	APPLIED	APPLICANTS	APPLICATIONS	GRANTS	GRANTEES	BUDGET
2019	3,234,570	547	269	119	262	920,651
2018	3,755,458	388	185	77	157	1,230,567

	APPLIED	APPLICANTS	APPLICATIONS	GRANTS	GRANTEES	BUDGET
2019						
ECB	1,113,316	236	76	32	85	196,192
FPD	884,911	194	149	61	89	274,295
TMT	981,943	104	42	24	75	195,764
INV Europe	181,400	8	1	1	8	181,400
EIC	73,000	5	1	1	5	73,000
TOTAL	3,234,570	547	269	119	262	920,651

	APPLIED	APPLICANTS	APPLICATIONS	GRANTS	GRANTEES	BUDGET
2018						
ECB	368,825	126	33	9	36	77,625
FPD	658,987	118	84	43	60	250,461
TMT	664,839	94	29	12	37	117,481
INV Europe	209,000	8	1	1	8	209,000
EIC	76,000	5	1	1	5	76,000
VJF	1,777,807	37	37	11	11	500,000
TOTAL	3,755,458	388	185	77	157	1,230,567

European Cross-Border Grants (ECBG) – Project

Journalismfund.eu has a strong belief in cross-border cooperation between journalists as the best way to tell the major international stories of the 21st 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 protect the publication in different countries, which is considered important to address the different European target groups and generate maximum impact.

In 2019 alone, twelve European cross-border investigations were published that contributed in a major way to critical thinking and a well-informed debate in Europe. The following publications that have been realised with the support of Journalismfund.eu have generated a great impact: The “Toxic Valley” project covered the environmental impact of the industrialisation in Turkey. This publication series had an immediate political impact. 22 members of parliament from CHP, the main Turkish opposition party, filed a written motion in which the Turkish parliament was encouraged to investigate the toxicity of the landfill in north-east Turkey. Thanks to another cross-border investigation funded by ECBG, a chemical substance has been banned by the EU. The project ‘The Case Chlorpyrifos’ showed the devastating effects of chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl for consumers across Europe. After the series

of articles in over 6 European countries in 2019, the EU Member States voted for banning these two pesticides. For the ECBG programme, Journalismfund.eu received in 2019 76 applications submitted by 236 applicants in four application rounds. The total sum applied for in 2019 amounted to €1,113,316. This is an absolute record since we started with this grants project in 2009.

The jury came together 4 times and awarded a total sum of €195,192, which is also a record in proportion to the number of jury sessions. The average grant amounted to €8,175, the largest to €15,000.

The male-female ratio was more than ever in balance, with 113 women and 123 men applying for a grant. From the 236 applicants, 69 had a permanent employment contract, 156 were freelance journalists.

As from 1 February 2019 up to 30 September 2019, a new coordinator, Katerina Vautsina, was appointed to coordinate this project. During this period, the new employee managed to lift the European Grants Programme to a higher level: more applications, a better quality measurement and a wider reach. On 26 September 2019, Katerina Vautsina was succeeded by Svitlana Slabinski.

Much more time has been invested in one-on-one communication with grantees. Accordingly, there was also more communication with the teams and, obviously, a better follow-up of the projects themselves as well.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
#ROUNDS	2	1	1	2	1	2	5	4	4	2	4	28
#APPLICATIONS	38	27	13	57	53	55	85	42	65	33	76	544
#GRANTS	6	5	4	7	7	11	18	13	16	9	24	120
PUBLISHED	3	5	4	5	7	10	15	7	8	2	6	77
STOPPED	3	0	0	2	0	1	1	3	3	1	0	14
ONGOING	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5	2	18	29
AMOUNT APPLIED FOR	296,864	243,761	80,282	474,874	433,075	479,697	701,730	353,496	778,739	368,825	1,113,316	5,324,659
GRANTED	29,430	20,944	14,810	37,107	49,954	63,195	137,722	136,888	127,235	77,625	196,192	891,102
AVERAGE GRANT	4,905	4,189	3,703	5,301	7,136	5,745	7,651	10,530	7,952	8,625	8,175	6,719
LARGEST GRANT	5,500	5,500	5,500	7,107	9,500	8,025	15,230	29,000	13,300	14,500	15,000	29,000
% OF MONEY APPLIED FOR GRANTED	10	9	18	8	12	13	20	39	16	21	18	17
% OF APPLICATIONS GRANTED	16	19	31	12	13	20	21	31	25	27	32	22
#APPLICANTS	46	56	26	116	107	156	237	144	155	126	236	1,405
AVERAGE AMOUNT APPLIED FOR PER PERSON	6454	4353	3088	4094	4047	3075	2961	2455	5024	2927	4717	3,792

STATISTICS

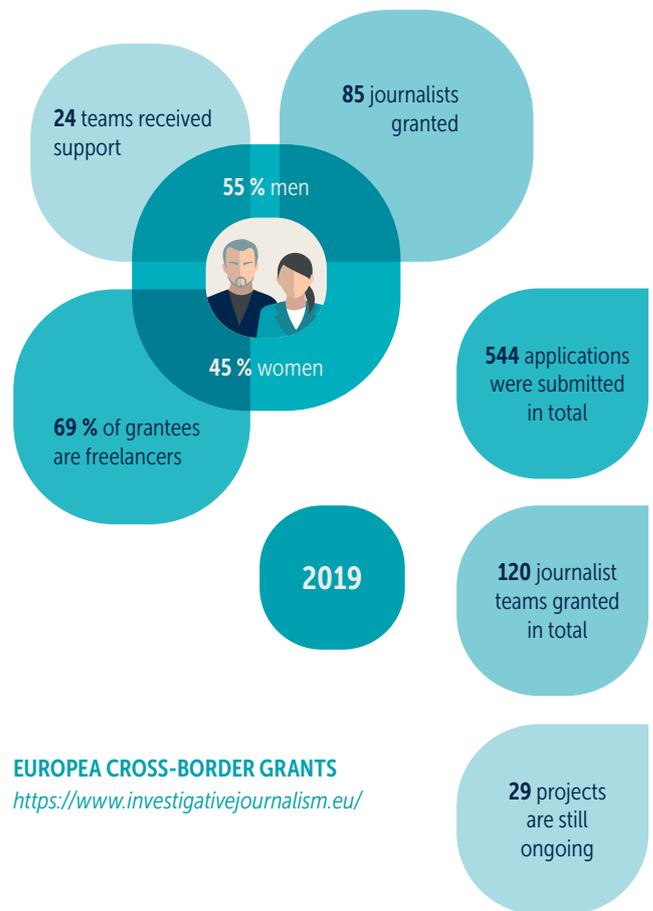
In 2019, we mainly dealt with new teams filing an application. We received applications from 43 countries.

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.

In 2019, the applicants came from 43 different countries, 37 of which were European. Six applicants came from non-European countries (Canada, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa and the United States) and we also had applicants from four of the five candidate member states of the EU (none from Montenegro).

We didn't receive applications from Latvia, Luxemburg, Slovakia and Cyprus.

Most applications came from Spain and the United Kingdom (18), followed by Italy (17), France and Germany (16) and the Netherlands (15).



EUROPEA CROSS-BORDER GRANTS
<https://www.investigativejournalism.eu/>

GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD

Our European Cross-border grant programme is very inclusive, it supports journalists who live in the Council of Europe member countries.

● Countries with applicants



PRE-APPLICATION ADVICE

The ECBG team schedules regular advice sessions in case applicants wish to discuss their proposals before submitting a final application. During these talks, we discuss, amongst others, questions about the application process, regulations, timing, etc. In 2019, the questions predominantly concerned an assessment of the eligibility of an applicant's proposal for a grant, the editorial planning of the investigative process, the need for an extra team member based on specialisation, language, country and occasional questions about the overall application procedure.

The interest in pre-application advice and editorial advice was considerable in 2019. In all, we scheduled 9 Skype conference talks of more than 8 hours.

<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/pre-application-editorial-advice-0>

PRE-APPLICATION ADVICE							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
# DATES	4	14	8	6	11	3	46
# TALKS	33	33	21	40	25	8	160
# PARTICIPANTS IN TALKS	58	80	21	30	28	8	225
# TEAM MEMBERS IN SUPPORT	n/a	31	19	28	30	8	116
# APPLIED	11	26	7	2	3	6	55
# GRANTS	3	11	2	3	1	1	21

JURY

The evaluation of the proposals for a *European cross-border* grant is done 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 composed 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 judge member may serve on the jury for maximum 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 according to the available budget, the jury members also suggest which amount should be awarded to which 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 in one file in view of 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.

For two jury members of our European jury for cross-border grants, their four-year mandate came to an end in 2019.

The following ECBG jury members left the jury:



Nataša Pirc Musar is a former journalist and former Information Commissioner of Slovenia and now director of law firm Pirc Musar.



Nils Hanson is an award-winning freelance investigative journalist and former chief editor of the programme *Mission Investigate* of the Swedish public broadcaster SVT.

On the website of Journalismfund.eu, you can read how they look back on their time as a jury member and give 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	Added value compared to mainstream coverage / a forgotten story
2	Relevance in society
3	Originality and innovative ideas, research methods
4	Feasibility
5	Experience of the applicants, references
6	Newsworthiness
7	Work effort requirement
8	Cross-border research, cross-border stories
9	Networking between countries, pooling research
10	Watchdog of EU institutions, policies, money

OVERVIEW OF GRANTS PUBLISHED IN 2019

In 2019, twelve ECBG investigations were published. On 31/12/2019, 29 investigations were still ongoing. In all, 85 reports were published or broadcast through various media channels (online, television, radio, printed editions, podcast) across the world.

How the Italian Ndrangheta infiltrated into the Reconstruction of East Berlin

- The story explores how the Italian Mafia made business on the debris of the Berlin Wall. The article explains how the Italian mafias grew roots in Germany and how the Fall of the DDR and the Treuhandgesellschaft were key assets for them.
- The team consisted of an Italian investigative journalist (Sabrina Pignedoli) and a freelance journalist based in Berlin (Ambra Montanari).
- The story was initially published in the Italian edition of L'Espresso, but will also be published in Germany and in the UK 'Property Week' business-to-business magazine.
- The team received a working grant of €6,537 that was allocated on 20 November 2017.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/how-italian-ndrangheta-infiltrated-east-berlin-reconstruction>

Messages from the Dark Side

- This series of articles (published in Finnish, Danish and English) investigated in general the strategies employed in disinformation campaigns related to the EU elections, and also the pro-Kremlin networks on social media that spread propaganda and disinformation. More specifically, the articles investigated if the EU's warnings of Russian disinformation in the run-up to the EU elections of May 2019 were justified.
- The team consisted of a Finnish, a Danish and a Russian journalist (Anna Saraste, Anne Sofie Hoffmann Schroder and Roman Dobrokhotov).
- The series resulted in **5+ stories** and several appearances in other media. The team also presented its findings to think tanks, academic institutions and the general public.
- They received a working grant of €7,200 that was allocated on 16 April 2019.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/messages-dark-side>

Shot, Concealed, Irradiated?

- The article explores the effects of uranium on soldiers of the German unified armed forces who fought in Kosovo in the 1990s.
- The team of four journalists and photographers (Tatjana Mischke, Marius Münstermann, Christian Werner and Alessandro Alviani) followed the stories of four German Armed Forces soldiers who were stationed in the Balkans during the 1990s and have been diagnosed with unusually high levels of heavy metals in their bodies.
- The story was initially published in the German edition of BuzzFeed but will be translated and published in its English edition as well. BuzzFeed is a media brand that has a global reach of over 650 million people.
- The team received a working grant of €9,600 that was allocated on 23 June 2015.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/shot-concealed-contaminated>

The Chlorpyrifos Case

- The series explains the devastating effects of chlorpyrifos, a chemical substance used to kill insects on growing vegetables, for consumers across Europe. The substance is still permitted in many European countries.
- This important cross-border investigation on chlorpyrifos was initiated by Investigative Reporting Denmark and Danwatch and was realised in collaboration with journalists from *Knack* and *EUObserver* in Belgium, *Le Monde* in France, *Dagbladet* in Norway, *Newsweek* in Poland, *Ostro* in Slovenia, *El Confidencial* in Spain and The Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting in the United States.
- The collaboration produced more than **16 stories** in more than **6 countries** and was picked up by several other media outlets.
- Journalismfund.eu supported the following journalists: Wojciech Ciesla (Poland), Staffan Dahllot (Denmark), Anuska Delic (Slovenia), Nils Mulvad (Denmark) and Jesper Nymark (Denmark).
- The team received a working grant of €14,500 that was allocated on 20 June 2018.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/chlorpyrifos-case>

Online Dating: A Separate Universe for Men and Women

- This story addresses the question of how the architecture of a dating application influences users' behaviour.
- The investigation was a collaboration between two French journalists: Judith Duportail and Nicolas Kayser-Bril.
- The story was published as a long-read on the website of *Le Monde*.
- The team received a working grant of €7,600 that was allocated on 31 July 2018.

The Abortion Battleground

- Although women have the legal right to abortion across the vast majority of countries in Europe, women in some Eastern European countries are finding it tougher to terminate pregnancies. An investigation into cases in Croatia, Romania and Poland.
- The project is a collaboration between three experienced investigative journalists: Lina Vdovii from

IMPACT OF THE STORY



© Marcos Garcia Rey

Thanks to this ECBG-funded cross-border investigation, chlorpyrifos-methyl and ethyl have been banned by the EU. The EU Member States voted for a ban on chlorpyrifos. The series of articles (published in Finnish, Danish and English) generally investigated the strategies employed in disinformation campaigns by market lobbyists. Chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl, two pesticides harmful to the brains of foetuses and young children, are now banned in the European Union (EU).

During a meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCOPE) on Friday, 6 December 2019, the Member State representatives voted against the renewal of the authorisation for both insecticides, which was due to expire on 31 January 2020. According to two sources, the ban on chlorpyrifos-methyl, which was uncertain, got 68.34% of the votes (in such committees, a qualified majority requires 55% of the Member States representing at least 65% of the EU population).

Romania, Michael Bird from the United Kingdom and Blaz Zgaga from Slovenia.

- The stories led to 9 articles on several online publication platforms, mostly in the Balkan region.
- The team received a working grant of €5,202 that was allocated on 16 January 2019.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/abortion-battleground>

The Bottleneck of the Balkan Route

- This cross-border investigation shows that Slovenian police often deny illegal migrants access to asylum or turn a deaf ear to their appeals. The stories are based on first-hand accounts of migrants along the Balkan route from Slovenia to Bosnia.
- The project was a collaboration between five journalists and a photographer from Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia: Boštjan Videmšek, Mašenjka Bačić, Nerminka Emrić, Klara Škrinjar, Maja Čakarić and photographer Matej Povše.
- Six articles were published in online news portals across the Balkans.
- The team received a working grant of €11,995 that was allocated on 22 May 2019.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/bottleneck-balkan-route>

Climate Change and the Coal Industry in Greece and Poland

- An investigation into the future of the coal industry in Greece and Poland as the price of coal is increasing and the industry is operating against EU environmental and economic policies.
- The investigation took four months and was done by a Polish and two Greek journalists: Justyna Piszczatowska along with Yannis-Orestis Papadimitriou and Augustine Zenakos from the investigative team The Manifold.
- Articles were published on the Greek independent online journalism platform Inside Story and the Polish news portal Biznesalert.pl.
- The team received a working grant of €9,600 that was allocated on 25 April 2019.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/climate-change-and-coal-industry-greece-and-poland>

Romania and Bulgaria: Safe Havens for Italian Mafia Money

- An investigation into how Romania and Bulgaria became ever more interesting to Italian mafia networks for vast money-laundering operations through companies that not only succeeded in operating below the radar but also won government contracts.
- Two journalists from Romania (Catalin Prisacariu and Sorin Ozon) and one from Bulgaria (Stanimir Vangelov) spent several months investigating the story.
- The story was published on three online platforms in the Balkans.
- The team received a working grant of €3,050 that was allocated on 12 April 2019.

 https://www.journalismfund.eu/mafia_money

The Toxic Valley

- The Toxic Valley project looks into the environmental consequences of industrialisation in Turkey and reveals a pattern of chemical dumping and polluting that has led to a widespread health crisis in the Kocaeli region, the most heavily industrialised area of the country.
- The investigation and story were initiated by investigative platforms The Black Sea, Media scope and the journalistic partnership EIC, and were carried out by an experienced team of journalists from Turkey, the UK and Romania (Zeynep Sentek, Elif Alcinkaya, Craig Shaw and Petrut Calinescu).
- The investigation led to 14 stories in a wide range of outlets across Europe such as *NRC* in the Netherlands, *Der Spiegel* in Germany and *Mediapart* in France.
- The story had immediate political impact. 22 MPs from CHP, the main opposition party in Turkey, filed a written motion urging the Turkish Parliament to investigate the toxicity of the landfill.
- The team received a working grant of €9,895 that was allocated on 20 September 2018.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/toxic-valley>

IMPACT OF THE STORY



Reporter examining the toxic landfill in Dilovasi in July 2019. © Petrut Calinescu/TBS

Twenty-two MPs from CHP, the main opposition party in Turkey, filed a written motion urging the Turkish Parliament to investigate “the toxicity of the landfill and to urgently take the necessary precautionary measures and establish how the landfill consisting asbestos could have come about and which parties were responsible for it”.

Turkish MPs asked that a commission would be set up to investigate the lethal landfill “that damaged the Dilovasi town to the point of catastrophe”.

The Bitter Seeds of Christmas

- An investigation into the lucrative business of European and Georgian companies that harvest and export the Nordmann fir seeds to Europe for Christmas trees.
- The team consisted of five journalists: three French (Clement Girardot, Clementine Metenier, Julien Pebrel), a Swedish (Jenny Gustaffson) and a Georgian (Nino Bakradze) journalist.
- The investigation led to 11 stories published in many European countries: Switzerland, Belgium, France, Sweden, Norway, UK: in the *Aftenposten Innsikt*, in *Göteborgs-Posten*, in *Le Temps* and two portfolios in *De Morgen* and *L’Obs*. The radio report was broadcast on the Swiss public radio channel La Première. The investigation was also quoted/reproduced by a wide range of other media outlets across Europe.
- In the course of January 2020, the stories will also be published/broadcast by France Inter, RFI, RTBF, The Guardian, Dagbladet Information as well as in the US (The Washington Post). One of the team members, Nino Bakradze, published in Georgian on her online investigative platform ifact.ge in late December 2019.
- The team received a working grant of €8,100 that was allocated on 05 July 2019.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/bitter-seeds-christmas-0>

MENTORING PROGRAMME ECBG

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 his or her competence in a specific skill. Having the help of a mentor can have a significant positive impact on a team and its story. Particularly teams of journalists less experienced in the field of cross-border investigative stories can reap the benefits from help from more experienced colleagues. The jury can also make the awarding of a grant subject to collaboration with a mentor.

The ECBG 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 itself. 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

How Ukraine Exports Illegal Timber to the EU

- The series deals with illegal logging in Ukraine, from the violation of forestry laws by state officials to illegal exports to the EU through corruption among customs authorities.
- The investigative team consisted of four journalists: two Ukrainians (Taras Zozulinsky and Kseniia Naidenko), a Hungarian (Márton Sarkadi-Nagy) and a Romanian who wants to remain anonymous.
- The story was published in four episodes on the Ukrainian investigative journalism outlet ‘detectives.org.ua’. The Hungarian team member is still looking for publication in Hungary.
- The team received a working grant of €8,150 that was allocated on 20 September 2018.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/supported-projects/how-ukraine-exports-illegal-timber-eu>

total remuneration will depend on the number of days that he/she will be needed. The fee per day amounts to €250.00, exclusive of VAT. The mentor will issue an invoice to Journalismfund.eu on a quarterly basis.

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

- **Gwen Lister** (Namibia) - Journalist, columnist and press freedom activist. Founder, editor of *The Namibian*. Early ICIJ member.
- **Nick Mathiason** (United Kingdom) - Founder and Co-Director of *Finance Uncovered*.
- **Sheila Coronel** (United States/ Philippines) - Director Stable 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 Offshore leaks, Panama Papers and Paradise projects of ICIJ.
- **Oliver Schröm** (Germany) – Finance reporter and Editor-in-chief at *Correctiv*.
- **John-Allan Namu** (Kenya) – Investigative Journalist for/CEO of *Africa Uncensored*.
- **Eric Smit** (The 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** (The 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. She has knowledge of and experience in both areas and can bring techniques and tools to journalism that create added value in current media developments.

GRANTS AWARDED BY THE PASCAL DECROOS FUND FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM – PROJECT

PURPOSE

The Pascal Decroos Fund is a project of *Journalismfund.eu* vzw and aims to keep the memory of Pascal Decroos alive and to continue his life's work:

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

The Pascal Decroos Fund wants to give financial support to special and investigative Flemish journalism by way of 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 does not suffice to realise the project. The projects must also outperform regular reporting, daily journalism or the 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*. Next to a description of the content of the project, they must also add a detailed budget showing how the grant would be used.

STATISTICS

For the Flemish Pascal Decroos Fund programme, Journalismfund.eu received in 2019 149 applications from 194 applicants in three application rounds. The jury came together 3 times and awarded a grant to 61 projects (89 applicants).

In all, a sum of €274,295 was awarded, whereas a record amount of €884,911 was applied for. Never before in the history of the Pascal Decroos Fund, so much support for journalistic projects had been applied for. As a result, the demand amply exceeded our resources, which unfortunately meant that a great many strong projects could not be given the support that they deserved. As for the profile of the applicants, the share of women is higher than ever.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NUMBER OF PROJECTS APPLIED FOR	86	71	134	84	149
NUMBER OF PROJECTS AWARDED	38	37	58	43	61
AWARDED GRANTS IN EURO	187,414.00	195,504.00	280,050.00	250,461.00	274,295.00
PAID	144,775.00	177,666.00	209,666.00	167,231.00	174,034.76
MINIMUM PROJECT SUPPORT	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,540.00	500.00
MAXIMUM PROJECT SUPPORT	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
AVERAGE PROJECT SUPPORT	4,931.95	5,283.89	4,828.45	5,824.67	4,496.64
REQUESTED BUDGET	555,968.00	469,210.00	875,629.65	658,987.00	884,911.39
AVERAGE REQUESTED BUDGET/SESSION	138,992.00	156,403.33	291,876.55	329,493.50	294,970.46
NUMBER OF SESSIONS	4	3	3	2	3

RATIO DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL TOPICS (AWARDED)

	DOMESTIC	INTERNATIONAL
2019	34%	66%
2018	42%	58%
2017	40%	60%
2016	27%	73%
2015	34%	66%

PROFILE OF APPLICANTS

PROFILE OF APPLICANTS – both awarded and rejected					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
FREELANCE	75	64	126	82	136
WAGE-EARNER	16	17	34	23	35
STUDENT	8	1	13	2	8
UNEMPLOYED	7	3	10	1	5
PENSIONER	0	0	0	3	2
OTHER	9	10	3	7	8
TOTAL	115	95	186	118	194
NUMBER OF SESSIONS	4	3	3	2	3

PROFILE OF APPLICANTS – grantees					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
FREELANCE	28	33	54	45	55
WAGE-EARNER	7	10	21	8	21
STUDENT	1	1	2	0	4
UNEMPLOYED	3	2	1	1	2
PENSIONER	0	0	0	3	2
OTHER	3	5	1	3	5
TOTAL	42	51	79	60	89

APPLICANTS: starters vs seniors – both awarded and rejected					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
STARTERS	66	34	86	38	72
SENIORS	49	61	100	80	122
TOTAL	115	95	186	118	194

APPLICANTS: starters vs seniors – grantees					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
STARTERS	20	15	27	16	35
SENIORS	22	36	52	44	54
TOTAL	42	51	79	60	89

APPLICANTS: male vs female – both awarded and rejected					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
MALE	70	66	103	71	105
FEMALE	39	29	83	47	89
% FEMALE	35.78	30.53	44.62	39.83	45.88

APPLICANTS: male vs female – grantees					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
MALE	29	34	46	39	45
FEMALE	13	17	33	21	44
% FEMALE	30.95	33.33	41.77	35.00	49.44

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 4 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 composed 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 Ogenhaffen (2011-2015)

Ingrid Vander Veken (2013-2018)

Luc Van der Kelen (2013-2018)

OVERVIEW OF GRANTS PUBLISHED IN 2019

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

HET VERDRIET VAN VLAANDEREN. (FLANDERS' SORROWS.) On a journey with Hein and Toon, twin brothers of the collaboration.

Flanders and the Netherlands have a long tradition of keeping silent about the shameful collaboration with the German occupiers during World War II. Twin brothers Hein and Toon Van den Brempt want to break that silence. Together with Kristien Hemmerechts, they went on a journey and in search of the truth behind the taboos, half-truths, lies and myths.

AUTHORS: Kristien Hemmerechts, Toon Van den Brempt, Hein van den Brempt

GRANT: €12,970

BOOK

Title: Het verdriet van Vlaanderen (Flanders' sorrows)
Subtitle: Op pad met Hein en Toon, tweeling van de
collaboratie (On a journey with Hein and Toon, twin
brothers of the collaboration)

Publisher: De Geus

ISBN: 9789044540895

Binding method: Paperback

Number of pages: 352 pages

Publisher: De Geus

Publication date: 19/02/2019

– 4th edition (March 2019)

BOOK PRESENTATION:

Book presentation with debate in Bozar: 20 February
2019 – 20.00h with debate: "Drawing lessons from the
collaboration: a lasting necessity?"

IN THE PRESS

– *"Kristien Hemmerechts: Vlaamse SS'ers waren wreder
dan hun Duitse collega's"*, De Morgen, 16/02/2019.

– *"Kristien Hemmerechts: Vlaamse SS'ers waren de
ergste"*, Trouw, 19/02/2019.

– *Kristien Hemmerechts over de collaboratie:
'Hartenpijn om Vlaamse zwarten'*,
Bruzz, 19/02/2019.

– *Kristien Hemmerechts wil taboe op collaboratie
doorbreken: "Vlaamse SS'ers waren de ergste"*,
Het Laatste Nieuws, 19/02/2019.

– *Kristien Hemmerechts ging op pad met kinderen
van Vlaamse SS'ers: 'Wij komen uit een zwart nest,
maar voor ons was het vooral een warm nest'*,
Knack.be, 21/02/2019.

– Kristien Hemmerechts was a guest in news
programme *De Afspraak* on Canvas on 19/02/2019.

NOBODY WANTS THEM. Europe and its refugees.

Journalist Linda Polman describes the development of the strategy in Europe's immigration policy since 1938. Drawing on her own investigations, experiences and interviews, she takes the reader on a discovery tour from Evian to the post-war camps in Western Europe and the 'safe enclaves' for refugees in the Balkans in the nineties to the dozens of refugee camps in Africa today.

AUTHOR: Linda Polman

GRANT: €5,000

BOOK

Publisher: Jurgen Maas (distribution within Belgium: EPO)

ISBN: 978 94 91921 53 7

Pages: 230 pages.

Binding method: paperback

Publication date: 22 February 2019

- 1st edition: 3500 copies, 2nd edition: 2000 copies
- Italian translation at the end of February 2020
- Polish translation in the course of 2020
- Negotiations for an English translation are ongoing

IN THE PRESS

- *Essay: Hardvochtig Europa - Vergeetgaten*, Linda Polman in De Groene Amsterdammer 20/02/2019.
- *De vluchteling is nog even slecht af als in 1938*, Trouw, 24/02/2019.
- *'Vandaag moeten mensen hun leven wagen om het te kunnen redden, dat is onmenselijk'*, Knack.be, 25/02/2019.
- *'Er zijn al duizenden vluchtelingen verdronken. Dat vinden veel mensen niet erg'*, interview with Linda Polman, De Standaard, 01/03/2019.
- *Refugee speak in Europe, book review 'Niemand wil ze hebben'* De Wereld Morgen, 04/09/2019.
- *"EU sluit akkoordjes met massa-moordenaars om grenzen te bewaken"*, De Morgen, 21/03/2019.
- *Opvang in de regio: cruciaal of onmenselijk? VVD-politicus Malik Azmani en onderzoeksjournalist Linda Polman gaan in gesprek*, De Volkskrant, 1/03/2019.
- *Interview with Linda Polman*, Interne keuken, Radio 1, 02/03/2019.
- *Vluchtelingen: Niemand wil ze hebben*, De Wereld, BNR, 21/03/2019.
- *Live debate: to a new and humane migration debate*, Bureau buitenland, NPO Radio 1, 06.11.2019.
- *Interview with Linda Polman*, VPRO Boeken, 31/03/2019.

IN SEARCH OF THE ENEMY. The story of a terrorist who wanted to be a friend.

During a visit to the Dutch troops in Afghanistan in 2006, journalist Bette Dam discovered how little the soldiers knew about their enemy. She left the military camp to do research into the dreaded taliban leader mullah Omar. Dam describes how a country and its population were disrupted with brutal force and ended up in a war that was unnecessary.

AUTHOR: Bette Dam

GRANT: €25,000

BOOK

Title: Op zoek naar de vijand. (In search of the enemy.)

Subtitle: Het verhaal van een terrorist die een vriend wilde zijn (The story of a terrorist who wanted to be a friend).

Publisher: De Bezige Bij

ISBN: 978 94 031 4420 7

Binding method: paperback

Pages: 240 pages

Price: €19.99

Publication date: 21 February 2019

- Copies sold: 3168 (at the end of 2019)

IN THE PRESS

- *'De oorlog die niet nodig was'*, De Standaard 21/02/2019.
- *'Most wanted terrorist' Mullah Omar verschool zich 12 jaar lang onder neus van de Amerikanen'*, De Volkskrant, 21/02/2019.
- *Bette Dam ontrafelde het leven van Talibanleider Mullah Omar: 'Hij had een gesprekspartner kunnen zijn'*, Interview with Bette Dam, De Volkskrant, 22/2/2019.
- *Mysterie rond talibanleider eindelijk ontsluit*, HLN.be, 21/02/2019.
- *De mens achter de mythe van Talibanleider moellah Omar*, MO.be, 21/02/2019.
- *Fugitive Taliban leader lived short walk from US base, book reveals*, The Guardian, 10/03/2019.
- *The last days of Taliban Head Mullah Omar*, The Wall Street Journal, 11/03/2019.
- *Interview with Bette Dam in 'VPRO Boeken'*, 24/2/2019.
- *'Zo zag het leven van 'most wanted terrorist' moellah Omar eruit'*, Goede Gesprekken, De Correspondent, 19/04/2019.
- *Bette Dam op zoek naar de vijand*, Lezen in het donker, NPO Radio 1, 09/05/2019.
- More information about the international press coverage of the book can be found here. <https://www.bettedam.com/latest>

THE DISUNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A Republican mayor of a border town striving for good relations with Mexico loses the elections as a result. A seventy-four year old undertaker who starts working again because his successor could not cope with the number of drug-related deaths... Rudi Rotthier travelled across The Disunited States of America and found nuance next to vibrating anger, bitterness alongside resistance and, above all, a lot of incomprehension.

AUTHOR: Rudi Rotthier

GRANT: €9,000

BOOK

Title: De Verscheurde Staten van Amerika
(The Disunited States of America)

Subtitle: Berichten uit Trumpland (Messages from Trump country)

Publisher: Atlas Contact

EAN: EAN 9789045037530

Binding method: Paperback

Number of pages: 256 pages

Publication date: 1 May 2019

– Circulation: 1500

IN THE PRESS

- Welcome in Trump country, Knack, 8/11/2017.
- *'Hoe een drugspecialiste haar eigen zoon aan heroïne verloor: 'Mijn kennis liet me in de steek'*, Knack.be, 21/01/2019.
- *Hoe een Amerikaanse begrafenisondernemer terugkeerde uit pensioen om de drugsdoden te begraven*, voorpublicatie, Knack.be, 02/05/2019
- *VS-journalist Rudi Rotthier: 'De pers is medeverantwoordelijk voor het succes van Trump'*, Knack.be, 02/05/2019.
- *"De Verscheurde Staten van Amerika"*, Bureau Buitenland, NPO Radio 1, 30/04/2019.

BREASTS

It was only when **Corien Sweden** lost her left breast to breast cancer that she started to study the biology and meaning of this intimate body part. She discovered that there is no other part of the body with such a multi-faceted life story as the female breast.

AUTHOR: Corien van Zweden

GRANT: €5,750

BOOK

Title: Borsten (Breasts)

Subtitle: De levensloop van een intiem lichaamsdeel
(The life story of an intimate body part)

Publisher: De Bezige Bij

ISBN: 9789403144801

Number of pages: 240 pages

Binding method: paperback

Publication date: 16/05/2019

- Number of copies sold (at the end of 2019): 809
- A Polish translation will come out in the fall of 2020
- A Finnish translation is under preparation

IN THE PRESS

- *Borsten - De levensloop van een intiem lichaamsdeel*, book review in Humo, 21/05/2019.
- *Borsten hebben allerlei rollen in een vrouwenleven. Daarom is er nu een borstenbiografie*, Trouw, 29/05/2019.
- *Mijn mooiste tante*, De Groene Amsterdammer, 3/07/2019.
- *Corien: Borsten zijn verleidsters, voedsters en vernietigsters*, De Telegraaf, 01/09/2019.
- *De borst als verleidster, voedster en vernietigster*, Onderweg naar morgen, NPO Radio 1, 16/05/2019.
- *"Barely a third of all women is satisfied with her breasts"*, Interview with Corien van Zweden, Weet ik veel, VRT/Radio 1, 29/07/2019.
- You can find a complete overview through the following link: <https://corienvanzweden.nl/>

THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE: The Jazidi's account about the latest genocide.

In the summer of 2014, IS invaded the Sinjar region in Northern Iraq. Not only to expand the caliphate but also to eradicate the Jazidi, a community with its own religion and ancient culture. The men were killed, the women and girls sold as slaves and the boys were transferred to IS training camps.

Brenda Stoter Boscolo investigated this latest genocide.

AUTHOR: Brenda Stoter Boscolo

GRANT: €9,450

BOOK

Publisher: *De Arbeiderspers*

ISBN: 9789029526463

Binding method: paperback

Number of pages: 288 pages

Publication date: 01/10/2019

– Number of copies sold (9/12/2009): 2,000

IN THE PRESS

- *Brenda Stoter Boscolo schreef boek over Jezidi's: 'Een grote emotionele rollercoaster'*, Villamedia.nl, 16/09/2019.
- *'Moeders houden van hun kind, zelfs als ze de vader dood wensen'*, excerpt prior to publication, De Groene Amsterdammer, 02/10/2019.
- *Hoe het gruwelijke verhaal van de Jezidi's ondersneeuwde in de IS-storm*, AD, 02/10/2019.

- *Boek tekent extreem zware lijdensweg jezidi's op*, interview, Het Parool, 03/10/2019.
- *Het vergeten volk*, podcast, De Groene Amsterdammer, 3/10/2019.

DEBATE

- *The Lost People, the Stories and Experiences of the Yazidi*, De Balie, Amsterdam, Monday, 7 October.

LAND INVEST GATE

Tom Cochez and David Leloup tell the shocking story behind Land Invest that should never have been made public. In spite of its disputed Antwerp construction projects, the project developer could all the time rely on conspicuous political support.

AUTHORS: Tom Cochez, David Leloup

GRANT: €2,905

SERIES: Apache.be

ca. 10,000 readers per article

- *Land Invest Gate (1): De verdwenen miljoenen*, Apache.be, 29/11/2018.
- *Land Invest Gate (2) : Fornuis à gogo, een bedrijfskantine met een ster*, Apache.be, 6/12/2018.
- *Land Invest Gate (3): Excessieve uitgaven, cumulatief, werken zonder contract*, Apache, 7/02/2019.
- *Land Invest Gate (4): 906.000 euro voor de 'favoriete architecte' van Stéphane Moreau*, Apache, 9/02/2019.
- *Land Invest Gate (5): de 'vergeten' factuur van 261.000 euro van de Ogeo baas*, Apache, 20/02/2019.
- *Land Invest Gate (6): politieke sturing achter toren Tunnelplaats*, Apache, 10/05/2019.
- *Land Invest Gate (7): een lening van € 200.000 aan Alain Mathot*, Apache, 15/05/2019.
- *Land Invest Gate (8): huiszoeking bij Alain Mathot: de geheime villa in Koh Samui*, Apache, 16/05/2019.
- *Land Invest Gate (9): de verborgen lening van 3 miljoen aan Bernard Tapie*, Apache, 16/07/2019.
- *Politici, vastgoedbonzen en verborgen camera's in Megève*, Apache, 23/10/2019.

IMPACT

- *Gerecht onderzoekt dossier Tunnelplaats*, Apache, 25/02/2019.

THE ULTIMATE FIELD GUIDE ON NUCLEAR WASTE

The nuclear debate is eternally topical, a bit like the fact that the waste itself remains (almost) eternally radioactive. Tine Hens plunged into clay layers, salt mines, man-made lakes and other burial places. Armed with a Geiger counter and one clear question: what to do with nuclear waste?

AUTHOR: Tine Hens

GRANT: €4,500

PRINT: MO*

An underground castle in the air, MO*, summer edition 2018.

ONLINE

Dossier: MO.be

- *Wat blijft er van de grote stormloop op Frans uranium? Eeuwig afval*, MO.be, 26/03/2019.
- *Bestaat er een oplossing voor kernafval? Nee. Kunnen we het opslaan? Ja*, MO.be, 26/02/2019.
- *Kernafval: het "kleine probleem" voor later dat weigert te verdwijnen*, MO.be, 19/02/2019.
- *Kernenergie heeft zich altijd al gewenteld in stoutmoedige dromen. Tijd om realistisch te worden*, MO.be, 09/02/2019.

BOOK

The publication of the book is scheduled for 2020.

IN THE PRESS

Chemin radioactif, Interne Keuken, VRT, 29/03/2019.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE IN IRAN

Dancing in the Islamic Republic of Iran? Is this even allowed? Basically not. Dancing is physical and thus suspect in the eyes of the strict Islamic regime. Still, in the folds of the Iranian performing arts landscape, an early yet vivid contemporary dance scene is emerging that is bubbling with enthusiasm and ambition.

AUTHOR: Ines Minten

GRANT: €1,850

SERIES: Rekto:Verso

- *Hedendaagse dans in Iran, deel 1: dansen op de rand van wat mag*, Rekto:Verso, 5/03/2019.
- *Hedendaagse dans in Iran, deel 2: prille professionalisering*, Rekto:Verso, 6/03/2019.
- *Hedendaagse dans in Iran, deel 3: een blik op het werk*, Rekto:Verso, 7/03/2019.

SUFISM

In the Muslim world, Sufism, after a long period of decline and even persecution, experiences a major revival. Meetings of photographer Kurt Deruyter with worshippers in Brussels and Paris finally brought him to Southern France, Andalusia, Morocco, Senegal and Algeria where Sufi communities have rediscovered their self-confidence and dynamism.

AUTHOR: Kurt Deruyter

GRANT: €3,300

SERIES: MO* and MO.be

- *Verweven mystiek. Andalusisch soefisme toont verstrengeling van historische culturen*, MO.be, 10/04/2019.
- *Het soefisme voert een strijd tegen het salafisme. Ook in Europa.*, MO.be, 17/04/2019.
- *Soefisme is meer dan esoterie, spiritualiteit en magie*, MO.be, 24/04/2019.
- De soefi is altijd een kind van zijn tijd, MO*, Spring 2019 (*Sufis are always children of their time*)

THE UNSUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE EU

Turkey and the EU need one another. Even within a context of tense relationships, harsh rhetorics and an accession process that is as good as dead, they still call on one another. Think of the refugee deal, counter-terrorism, trade, energy... Is this a new friendship emerging or rather a forced LAT relationship without any passion?

AUTHOR: Sarah Lamote

GRANT: €2,905

ARTICLES – Knack en Knack.be

- 'Niet getrouwd, wel bij elkaar op de schoot', Knack 24 April 2019.
- *'Turkije en de EU: waarom Ankara en Brussel tot elkaar veroordeeld zijn'*, Knack.be, 24/03/2019.
- *'Sinds de vluchtelingendeal is Europa minder kritisch voor Turkije'*, Knack.be, 24/03/2019.

DOES CHANGE WORK?

For three months, Peter Bauwens wandered around Flanders to speak with N-VA politicians and followers. His investigation shows how N-VA has become a power party and led him to seven conclusions about the political party.

AUTHOR: Pieter Bauwens

GRANT: €3,450

SERIES: Doorbraak.be

- up to 20,000 readers per article
- Part I: *De gele vloedgolf, hoe de verandering in de N-VA begon*, Doorbraak.be, 23/04/2019.
- Part II: *'De Wever minister-president van Vlaanderen dat is een halve staats hervorming'*, Doorbraak.be, 24/04/2019.
- Part III: *Een radicale CD&V, dat moest en zou de N-VA worden*, Doorbraak.be, 25/04/2019.
- Part IV: *Wat is het netto-resultaat van Michel I voor N-VA?*, Doorbraak.be, 26/04/2019.
- Part V: *De N-VA, een partijportret door insiders*, Doorbraak.be, 27/04/2019.

LAST RESOURCE

Nearly two thirds of women in poor areas of Africa are selling sex to feed themselves and their families. That is the result of an interview exercise carried out by the African Investigative Publishing Collective in seven African countries in areas where the average income does not exceed \$1.90 per day.

AUTHORS: Evelyn Groenink, Eric Mwamba, Patience Akumu, Vanessa Offiong, Mae Azango, Muno Gedi, David Dembele, Laurelle Mbaradza, Isabelle Ktanga Kabeya, Suzie Manyong Nawat, Precious Mbewu

GRANT: €16,000

ARTICLES: Knack.be, Trouw and several African publications

- *Risquer la mort pour nourrir les enfants*, Grand Journal (RDC), 13/05/2019.
- *Waarom sekswerk voor veel Afrikaanse vrouwen onontkoombaar is*, Trouw, 4/05/2019.
- *Sekswerk als laatste redmiddel in Afrika, hiv doodt je binnen 20 jaar, maar honger binnen twee dagen*, Knack.be, 06/05/2019.
- *Travail du sexe en Afrique: «Le VIH tue en vingt ans, mais le faim en deux jours*, LeVif.be, 06/05/2019.
- *Apartheid and the useless men in our lives*, City Press, 06/05/2019.
- *The last resource: Risking death to feed your kids (Full report)*, ZAM Magazine, 07/05/2019.
- *Prostitution feminine: la recette miracle contre la pauvreté au Mali*, Dépêches du Mali, 07/05/2019.

- *Liberia: surviving amid predators and hunger*, Front Page Africa, 20/05/2019.
- *Sex work as the last resource: risking death to feed your kids*, Daily Trust (Nigeria), 30/05/2019.
- *Poverty, hunger drives up prostitution rates*, The Observer (Uganda), 22/05/2019.

IMPACT

"I think that the publications (in a total of ten countries, seven of which are in Africa) have at least initiated a number of debates, both in Africa and in Europe, on the situation of women in the countries concerned. There haven't been any real law amendments or suchlike but this wouldn't have made much difference in most African countries anyway given the governments' total lack of capacity to enforce existing laws. But it did result in a renewed debate.

After the publication in the Daily Trust, City Press and the Observer, attention was paid in other local media and on social media in Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda to the fact that prostitution is not only done by so-called 'fallen women' and that women who (are forced to) feed their children/families in this way are victims of failing governments. For the first time, governments in Nigeria, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Mali and South Africa were faced with this situation. Government officials were made accountable. This does not often happen in these countries." *Evelyn Groenink*, 9/1/2020.

THE MOUNTAIN AGAINST THE KING

Imider can be barely found on maps but in this tiny spot on the globe a world record is being set. Here, in the Southern Moroccan Atlas Mountains, under a colourful Berber flag on the top of a hill, the longest sit-in ever across the world is still ongoing. -

AUTHORS: Tine Danckaers, Filip Claus

GRANT: €3,015

ARTICLES: MO*, MO.be and De Standaard

- De berg tegen de koning, MO*, *summer edition 2019*.
- *Ooggetuige: Zitten blijkt zilver*, De Standaard, 20/09/2019.
- *Al acht jaar voeren dorpsbewoners koppig protest tegen zilvermijn in Zuid-Marokko*, MO.be, 27/06/2019.

MIRACLE HORMONE OR HORROR HORMONE: DISINTEREST FOR HORMONAL TAMPERING

DES is a hormonal drug that was widely prescribed to pregnant women. It is a synthetic hormone to prevent miscarriages that was promoted as a wonder drug. But DES appeared to be extremely harmful to the unborn child *and* the mother. The consequences are still being felt today.

AUTHORS: Greet Pluymers, Elisabeth Broekaert

GRANT: €5,000

ARTICLE: De Standaard, Médor, own publication

- *'Waarom overheid en dokters blijven zwijgen over de gevolgen van het hormoon DES'*, De Standaard, 15/06/2019.
- *Wonderbaby?*, once-only paper, Greet Pluymers & Elisabeth Broekaert.
- Distilbène. L'hormone increvable, Médor, n° 17, December 2019. (also online)

IN THE PRESS/IMPACT

- *"Di-ethylstilbestrol, of het DES-hormoon"*, Interne keuken, Radio 1, 11/05/2019.
- *DES-dochters*, Terzake, VRT/Canvas, 14/06/2019.
- Several articles and editorials on VRTNWS and the Facebook page of VRTNWS – as suggested by Pluymers (just as as the press release of Belga came upon a suggestion of Pluymers) – during her research for the Pascal Decroos Fund:
 - <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2019/04/10/open-brief-aan-het-farmaceutische-bedrijf-ucb-pharma/>
 - <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2019/04/17/koppel-eist-700-000-euro-van-belgisch-farmabedrijf-voor-gehandic/>
 - https://www.facebook.com/vrtnws/posts/10158328362509622?comment_id=10158329543184622&reply_comment_id=10158330619034622&comment_tracking=%7B%22tn%22%3A%22R%22%7D
 - <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/de/2019/03/05/belgisches-pharmaunternehmen-ucb-muss-mann-mit-behinderung-fast/>
- Lecture/education session: 28/5/19 in Mechelen. Also during the VVOJ conference in Tilburg on 22/11/2019 + still scheduled: information at the meeting of fellow-sufferers of 1/3/2020 organised by vzw DES in Belgium in Hasselt, in the presence of, a/o, Petra De Sutter, member of the European Parliament.
- Permanent follow-up: the non-profit organisation DES in Belgium has a link to the article. The non-profit organisation considers a second edition of the paper in view of its further distribution + translation into French of the entire paper.

- The monthly magazine Goed Gevoel publishes its own article following the publication of the DES paper (January or February 2020?) – Journalist Sandra Genijn.
- Also in the exhibition “*Blood test*” in the Dr. Guislain Museum, attention was paid to DES: distribution of newspaper + exhibition of photographs of Elisabeth Broekaert (21/06/2019 - 20/10/2019).

THE GLASS CEILING IN SCIENCE

Over the past years, the five Flemish universities booked quite some progress in terms of gender equality. Still, at this pace it would take until 2050 before gender balance would be reached among academic staff. Only slightly over one in four professors in Flanders is a woman – whereas there is no lack of highly educated women.

AUTHOR: Selma Franssen

GRANT: €500

ARTICLE: Charlie.be

- *Gendergelijkheid op de Vlaamse universiteit: “Wij zijn optimistisch, maar vanzelf gebeurt er niets”*, Charlie Magazine, 26/6/2019.

BLACK NEIGHBOURHOODS

While Helen Debeuckelaere and Munganyende Hélène Christelle were walking through Paris, they were both attracted to Château Rouge, an African neighbourhood immediately behind Montmartre. The positive aspects as well as the neighbourhood’s struggles with gentrification and crime reminded them of Matonge in Brussels. It was the beginning of a long search for the history, identity and future of black neighbourhoods in Europe.

AUTHORS: Heleen Debeuckelaere and Munganyende Hélène Christelle

GRANT: €7,500

SERIES: De Standaard, De Groene Amsterdammer

- *Smile, je bent in Matonge*, De Groene Amsterdammer, 26/06/2019.
- *Zwart of wit: iedereen komt naar hier om te genezen*, De Standaard, 28/06/2019.
- Other publication are planned in the course of 2020.

ROHANI 2.0: PURE DECORATION FOR THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

It is already over a year that the US unilaterally pulled out from the nuclear agreement with Iran. Since that time, Iran’s economy is increasingly suffering from fierce sanctions while unemployment and poverty in the country are rising. Whatever Americans want to achieve with this, their policy does not only generate losers, but also winners.

AUTHOR: Anonymous

GRANT: €4,675

ARTICLES: MO* and MO.be

- *En op het einde wint...de Revolutionaire Garde*, MO.be, 11/07/2019.
- And the winner is...the Revolutionary Guard, MO*, autumn number, 2019.

THE FLEMISH STORY BEHIND HERITAGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Margot Cassiers examines what has been achieved by years of investments by the Flemish Community in intangible cultural heritage in southern Africa. What was the local impact of the project? How do the persons involved in southern Africa look at this ‘aid’ from the West themselves?

AUTHOR: Margot Cassiers

GRANT: €8,150

SERIES: Rekto:Verso and Apache.be

- *Het Vlaams verhaal achter erfgoed in zuidelijk Afrika*, Apache, 17/07/2019.
- *Het Vlaams verhaal achter erfgoed in zuidelijk Afrika*, Rekto:Verso, 18/07/2019.
- *Erfgoed in zuidelijk Afrika: over potten en partijdigheid*, Apache, 19/07/2019.
- *Erfgoed in zuidelijk Afrika: over potten en partijdigheid*, Rekto:Verso, 20/07/2019.
- *Erfgoed in zuidelijk Afrika: waar het tastbare en ontastbare samenkomen*, Apache, 23/07/2019.
- *Erfgoed in zuidelijk Afrika: waar het tastbare en ontastbare samenkomen*, Rekto:Verso, 23/07/2019.
- *Erfgoed in zuidelijk Afrika: de demystificatie van tradities*, Apache, 25/07/2019.
- *Erfgoed in zuidelijk Afrika: een kritische eindnoot*, Rekto:Verso, 25/07/2019.

THE HIRAK WOMEN

Three years ago, the Hirak protests broke out in northern Morocco. Following the horrible death of a fishmonger, the Rif people took to the streets shouting for good education, health care, work, a fair justice system and the fight against corruption. But the regime hit back hard, with hundreds of arrests as a result. The leaders of the non-violent Hirak movement were sentenced to twenty years in prison.

AUTHOR: Ellen Debackere

GRANT: €1,650

ARTIKEL – Knack.be

- *Vrouwen op de barricaden in de Marokkaanse Rif: "Het begin van een stille revolutie"*, Knack.be, 23/12/2019.

ARAB SPRING 2.0

The 'Arab Spring' of 2011 had enormous consequences: dictators were brought down, wars started, we had the refugee crisis and the global impact of IS. In 2019, a sequel of the 2011 events seemed to have started. In Sudan, Algeria, Iraq and Lebanon, new revolts are raging, elsewhere the fight continues. 'Arab Spring 2.0' goes in search of the new fault lines of a crucial region in crisis.

AUTHOR: Jorn De Cock

GRANT: €15,000

BOOK/SERIES

- *'We voelen ons het belangrijkste exportproduct van Libanon'*, De Standaard, 16/11/2019.
- In 2020, the newspaper 'De Standaard' zooms in on the new revolutionary wave in the Arab world. This is the first article of the series, a book will follow later on.

TOUR OF RWANDA

The Tour of Rwanda is the most important cycling race on the African continent. When the race crosses the land of a thousand hills, hundreds of thousands of people gather along the track to cheer on their heroes. Job Van Nieuwenhove tried to find out whether cycling strengthens Rwandan unity.

AUTHOR: Job Van Nieuwenhove

GRANT: €3,000

DOCUMENTARY

- VRT/Canvas – Vranckx & De Nomaden, 23/02/2019. Number of viewers: 161.047. Can still be watched online on VRT.nu up to 23/02/2022.

UN PAYS PLUS BEAU QU'AVANT

Un pays plus beau qu'avant is a film about Congo made by Hannes Verhoustraete in Brussels. The wanderings of Jean-Simon reveal the microcosm of the shadow economy within the Congolese community.

AUTHOR: Hannes Verhoustraete

GRANT: €5,000

DOCUMENTARY

- Preview session: Beursschouwburg on 6 December 2018
- World premiere: Millennium Festival Brussels (March 2019)
- Courtisane Festival Gent (April 2019)
- Budascoop Summer festival Kortrijk (August 2019)
- Love at first sight Festival Antwerp (September 2019)
- KASKcinema Gent (October 2019)

INNOCENCIA ASESINADA

Jan De Deken and Roel Nollet meet Maria Teresa De Rivera. She is 34 and had a miscarriage on the toilet. Due to the strict abortion laws in her country, she was sentenced to a prison sentence of 40 years. She not only loses a child but also her freedom. Under pressure from, amongst others, the Catholic Church, El Salvador has one of the most severe abortion laws in the world.

AUTHORS: Roel Nollet en Jan De Deken

GRANT: €9,000

DOCUMENTARY

- VRT/Canvas – Vranckx & De Nomaden, 09/03/2019. Number of viewers: 150,285. Can still be watched online on VRT.nu up to 9/03/2022

REBUILDING RAQQAH

Ar-Raqqah, in northern Syria, is proclaimed in 2014 as the Caliphate's capital by the jihadist terrorist movement IS. To pave the way for the Kurdish-Arab alliance, the city was bombed for four months on end by an international coalition led by the US. Roel Nollet and William Staes travel to Raqqah to capture the consequences for the population and the scale of the challenges for local organisations.

AUTHORS: Roel Nollet and Willem Staes

GRANT: €12,000

DOCUMENTARY

- VRT/Canvas – Vranckx & De Nomaden, 16/03/2019. Number of viewers: 180,655. Can still be watched online on VRT.nu up to 16/03/2022

IN THE PRESS

- *Raqqah na het kalifaat: 'België moet de heropbouw van Syrië steunen*, Knack, 13 /03/2019: Interview with Willem on the situation in north-east Syria, on the occasion of the broadcast in 'Vranckx'. Article written by Joanie De Rijke.
- RADIO 1, De Ochtend, 16/03/2019: interview with Roel Nollet about the situation in north-east Syria, on the occasion of the broadcast in 'Vranckx'. Interview by Thomas De Graeve.
- HET JOURNAAL, VRT news item in the News of 16/03/2019.

ON AIR

Manno Lanssens follows Bob Rugurika, director of Radio Publique Africaine (RPA), the most popular independent radio station in Burundi. As an investigative journalist, he is a pioneer in the struggle for freedom of speech in his country, prepared to risk his life to uncover the truth.

AUTHOR: Manno Lanssens

GRANT: €5,000

DOCUMENTARY

- On Air, preview at the film festival Docville Leuven, 01/04/2019.
- *Mooov Film Festival*:
Turnhout: 25/04/19, 28/04/19, 04/05/19
Lier: 25/04/2019
Bruges: 26/04/19, 28/04/19
- *Docpoppies*: 28/05/2019
Leuven: Cinema Zed - 19.30 h
Antwerp: Cartoon's - 20.00 h
Ghent: Sphinx - 20.00 h
Bruges: Lumière - TBC
Koersel: The Roxy Theatre - TBC
Brussels: Cinema Aventure - 19.30 h
Kortrijk: Buda - 20.15 h
Heist-op-den-Berg: CC Zwaneberg - 15.00 h & 20.00 h
- *Nacht van de dictatuur*, De Balie Amsterdam, 12/09/2018: documentary + debate.

IN THE PRESS

- *Geen persvrijheid meer in Burundi: internetradio's informeren vanuit Rwanda*, Apache.be, 30/04/2019.
- *Manno Lanssens in Burundi: 'De agent riep: De volgende kogel is voor jou!'*, Humo, 20/05/2019.

BEWITCHED

For this documentary, the makers went to the shores of Lake Victoria in Uganda. A team of young Ugandan psychologists visits fishing villages along the shores of Lake Victoria. They talk to them about mental health and that it is good to talk, because all too often people with mental issues consult a witch.

AUTHORS: Daan Bauwens, Yann Verbeke and Rien Bauwens

GRANT: €8,750

DOCUMENTARY

- VRT/Canvas – Vranckx & De Nomaden, 23/03/2019. Number of viewers: 180.293. Can still be watched online on VRT.nu up to 22/04/2022.

DEMIGODS

In India, there is a centuries-long, deeply rooted culture around transgenders. Transgender model Valentine Hingh travels to India with Stig Junes to establish contact with this particular community. However, they soon learn that these so-called 'hijras' face extreme violence and abuse and that, for lack of social perspectives, they all too often end up in dangerous prostitution.

AUTHOR: Stig Junes

GRANT: €4,444

DOCUMENTARY

- VRT/Canvas – Vranckx & De Nomaden, 30/03/2019. Number of viewers: 180,655
Can still be watched online on VRT.nu up to 30/03/2022
- VPRO (the Netherlands), 28/07/2019.

PERSIAN PICNICS

Nowruz literally means 'new day' and marks the New Year on the Persian calendar. It takes place when we celebrate the beginning of spring on 21 March. According to the tradition, Iranians must start the new year with a clean slate. But can these proud people enjoy this symbolic new start given its precarious situation.

AUTHORS: Robbe Vandegehuchte, Willem De Maeseneer, Arno Van Rensbergen, Thibaut Aerts and Hannes Blommaert

GRANT: €4,500

DOCUMENTARY

- VRT/Canvas – Vranckx & De Nomaden, 08/06/2019. Number of viewers: 152,805
Can still be watched online on VRT.nu up to 08/07/2021

HOSPITAL PRISON

In the maternity clinics of Kinshasa, hundreds of mothers and their new-born children are imprisoned, for weeks, months, sometimes even for years. Reason: they cannot pay the bill of the delivery. Carl Theunis investigates this phenomenon and goes in search of the underlying cause of this problem.

AUTHOR: Carl Theunis

GRANT: € 5,000

DOCUMENTARY

- VRT/Canvas – Vranckx & De Nomaden, 15/06/2019.
Number of viewers: 193,498
Can still be watched online on [VRT.nu](https://www.vrt.nu) up to 15/07/2021

IN THE PRESS

- [Gasthuis gevangenissen](#), Interview in 'Interne Keuken', Radio 1, 15/06/2019.

FISH

Fisseha is born in Eritrea and grows up in Ethiopia. After his father died, his uncle takes him under his wings. When tensions break out in the region, Fisseha and his uncle are no longer safe because of their religious beliefs.

AUTHOR: Laura Zuallaert

GRANT: €8,500

DOCUMENTARY

- VRT/Canvas – Vranckx & De Nomaden, 22/06/2019.
Number of viewers: 178,929
Can still be watched online on [VRT.nu](https://www.vrt.nu) up to 22/07/2021

MOTHER

In a village in Thailand, Pomm works in a care centre for Europeans with Alzheimer. From sheer necessity, she lives separated from her children while she nurses Elisabeth during the last stages of her life. Meanwhile, Maya, a new patient, is on her way from Switzerland.

AUTHOR: Kristof Bilsen

GRANT: €4,000

DOCUMENTARY (will be broadcast on Canvas)

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.
- You can find a complete overview through the following link: <https://www.motherdocumentary.com/>

IN THE PRESS

- [Mother Review: Tender portrait of a charismatic career](#), 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, the ideal destination for people with dementia...](#), Radio 1, 28/09/2019.
- [Interview with Kristof Bilsen](#), De Zevende Dag, VRT, 6/10/2019.
- [Interview with Kristof Bilsen](#), Humo, 7/10/2019.
- [Speeddate with Kristof Bilsen](#), Cinevox, 6/10/2019.
- [5 tips for Film Fest Gent](#), 08/10/2019.
- ['Ik doe het voor mijn moeder'](#), De Standaard, 14/10/2019.

DE ROMA IS OURS.

More than 450 volunteers ensure that De Roma booms. Why do they put their hearts and souls into this popular theatre in the heart of Borgerhout?

AUTHOR: Lies Van der Auwera

GRANT: €1,000

DOCUMENTARY

- [De Roma is van ons](#), Canvas, 10/11/2019.

IN THE PRESS

- [Documentaire 'De Roma is van ons' vanmiddag in première](#), ATV, 09/01/2019.
- [Zondag op Canvas: glansrol voor vrijwilligers in documentaire 'De Roma is van ons'](#), Het Laatste Nieuws, 08/11/2019.
- [De Roma is van ons](#), Knack Focus, 06/11/2019.

EL TARANGU

El Tarangu (the 'tenacious') is a six-part podcast series in which Audio Collective ARRANGE goes in search of a man who should actually be in his grave. Travelling from northern Spanish mountainsides to Flemish cycling pubs, they find themselves in a world of old heroes, unreliable sources and disturbed minds. They come ever closer to the truth until bumping into lies from their own past...

AUTHORS: Mirke Kist, Siona Houthuys, Nele Eeckhout

GRANT: €3,500

PODCAST

- *El Tarangu*, Sporza, as from 8/07/2019.
- *El Tarangu*, VPRO, as from 8/07/2019.
- Number of listeners: downloaded over 500,000 times

IN THE PRESS

- *Mosselen eten met een dode? Lucien Van Impe en José Manuel Fuente: 'Ik heb gezwegen omdat men mij gek zou verklaren'*, Humo, 01/07/2019.
- *16 jaar geleden ging Lucien Van Impe eten met een dode wielrenner. Hoe kan dat?*, De Morgen, 5/07/2019.
- *El Tarangu: op zoek naar de waarheid over de wielrenner die overleed, en daarna een pannetje mosselen at*, De Volkskrant, 7/07/2019.
- *Deze 4 podcasts zijn het luisteren waard*, Het Parool, 14/07/2019.
- *Podcast of the week: El Tarangu*, deLagarde (BNN/Vara), 17/07/2019.
- *Report on podcast El Tarangu*, Vive le vélo, Sporza, 7/07/2019.

THE IMPACT OF SUICIDE

As a child, journalist Brecht Castel lost his father after he committed suicide. Twenty years later, he is still left with questions. Questions in which he is not alone because in Flanders an average of three people a day commit suicide. The podcast is a reflection of the preliminary inquiry: the report of a long walk with other surviving relatives. Other publications will follow.

AUTHOR: Brecht Castel

GRANT: €4,600

PODCAST

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

THE S53

Every night, the last train leaves for Beervelde, located along the E17. From this station, young men and women try every day, usually on foot, to reach one of the nearby motorway car parks. There, they climb on a truck heading for Calais and then up to England. 'The S53' is a portrait of people who watch the headlines pass by but fail to do anything. Because what can they do? What can they change? What can you do for people who try to reach 'the other side'.

AUTHORS: Tinne Claes and Wederik De Backer

GRANT: €3,623

PODCAST

- Festival van de Gelijkheid, Cinema Sphinx, 29/11/2019, 13u00 - 14u00.
- *Radio Apache*, 24/12/2019.

FLEMISH JOURNALISM FUND

GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The launch of the Flemish Journalism Fund (VJF) was announced in the summer of 2018 by the then Flemish Media minister Sven Gatz, after preparatory work in the Media Commission of the Flemish Parliament.

According to the minister, the VJF "had to ensure future-oriented and medium-neutral support to independent, high-quality and innovative journalism". The operational objectives set to the VJF were coordinating subsidies for innovative journalism, encouraging cooperation between Flanders and the Netherlands and setting up a knowledge sharing platform on news and media.

The objectives, operation and financing of the VJF were described in a Partnership Agreement between three parties:

- the Dutch-speaking Community (represented by the Flemish government)
- the Flemish Association of Journalists (VVJ)
- Journalismfund.eu vzw

These three parties together formed a steering group advising the VJF. The Partnership Agreement was formally approved of by the Flemish government on 7 December 2018. It applied to the period 2018-2020.

The daily management and operation of the VJF were entrusted to Journalismfund.eu, which also acts as legal representative of the VJF. As such, the Flemish Journalism Fund is not a separate entity but a project

initiated by Journalismfund.eu vzw in cooperation with the Flemish Federation of Journalists (VVJ) and the Flemish government. This is also communicated as such to the general public.

The Partnership Agreement also included a clause that the Dutch-speaking Community would order a study in 2019 to assess whether the corporatisation of the VJF after 2020 would be a good option.

The VJF started its operations on 10 September 2018. The focus in the first few months was on the organisation of a grant programme for innovative journalism projects. The Partnership Agreement allocated for this a distributable subsidy budget of 500,000 euro. In 2019, no subsidies were provided for, only operational costs for offering support to the subsidised projects and for setting up and developing the other assignments of the VJF. For 2020, the Partnership Agreement provided for a new subsidy round with a budget of 200,000 euro.

On 20 March 2019, the Flemish Parliament approved of a resolution for "the development of future-oriented and medium-neutral support to independent, high-quality journalism". In this resolution, the parliament asked 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. The resolution was submitted across all party lines and was unanimously approved of by parliament.

However, in November 2019, the new Flemish government decided not to include resources for the VJF in its 2020 budget, neither operational resources, nor the resources that had already been allocated for the new subsidy round for innovative journalism projects.

However, the majority of the projects supported by the VJF in December 2018 ran up to and including 2020. That's why at the end of December 2019, the Flemish government awarded another operational subsidy to the VJF to be able to further meet its assignments and commitments. In the first half of 2020, the VJF will still remain responsible for support to, supervision on and the settlement and assessment of the projects and for disclosing the results.

When launching the VJF in June 2018, the then Media minister had also announced a study into the best possible spending of Flemish resources for journalism. This study was also included in the Partnership Agreement regarding the VJF. During the VJF steering group meeting of 26 April 2019, the CJM Department and the cabinet of the Media minister said that for an optimum policy impact of the study it would be opportune to establish its specifications with the future cabinet, after the elections and the formation of the new Flemish government. The specifications could then be published at the end of 2019. In the end, no study assignment was launched in 2019.

GRANT PROGRAMME FOR INNOVATIVE JOURNALISM

We need strong and diverse media so that the press can play its role of fourth power in our democracy. For this, these news media must adapt themselves in a timely and accurate manner to the rapidly evolving technology and changing media behaviour of the population. That is why VJF, with resources made available by the then Flemish Media minister Gatz, organised in the autumn of 2018 a subsidy call for innovative journalism projects that renew and broaden the news offer and make it more diverse. In all, 37 applications were submitted for a total amount of 1.8 million euro. In December 2018, the VJF awarded a total sum of 500,000 euro to 11 projects:

- **Vocvo vzw – Wablieft goes digital**
This project develops an online news magazine for low-literate adults.
- **Eva Moeraert – Podlab XL**
Podlab XL is a training path training and coaching non-fiction storytellers and teaching them how to make a podcast.
- **Jan Jagers – FactRank Pro**
FactRank develops software that automatically distills allegations in texts that are worth fact-checking.
- **Sonderland vzw – Production agency Sonderland**
Sonderland wants to become an interdisciplinary production house for non-fiction by gathering a group of journalists, scientists, video and radio producers, illustrators and photographers. Sonderland focuses every year on one major theme (first year: housing) and sells its productions to various media.
- **De Werktitel cvba – Apache Local**
With Apache Local, news site Apache experiments with local and regional investigative journalism. This takes the form of four thematic rounds and also involves calls for public input and cooperation. Another important element is the cooperation with other local journalists.
- **Textgain bvba – factcheck.vlaanderen**
Factcheck.vlaanderen is an online platform using artificial intelligence to retrieve disinformation and polarisation to have it identified and countered by expert fact-checkers.
- **RTVB vzw (RINGtv) – Op de rooster / Nieuwsneuzen**
In the run-up to the regional elections, seven classes from seven different secondary schools assume the role of critical journalists and interview a political figurehead. They are coached and prepared for this by RINGtv. The interviews are broadcast on television and can be watched online. There is a jury award and a public award for the best interview. This project combines media literacy with local journalism and broadens the public reach.

– **Ethercentrum vzw - Chase Social Stories: grants for innovative social stories**

Chase is an urban community of young digital storytellers, creating stories for a young, diverse target group on social media and reaching quite a crowd with it. In doing so, Chase is always looking for influences that initiate change.

This project awards grants to young talents for creating stories on social and community issues.

– **Find Muck Productions vzw / Robbe Vandegheuchte – UITLANDER**

UITLANDER will be an online magazine with stories and media creations from Belgian and Dutch emigrants.

– **Jan De Deken – The Polar Project**

The Polar Project is a cross-media investigative journalism project reporting about climate change.

– **Getbasic vzw – U:nite**

This project is a collaboration between news site DeWereldMorgen and Brussels cultural centre Le Space. Using new web formats, they aim to bring news to 16-24 year old video consumers brought by a team of starting actors and artists in words.

Follow-up of supported projects

The 11 projects supported by the VJF started in 2019. For all 11 projects, a grant agreement was concluded between vzw Journalismfund.eu and the project owner establishing the subsidy terms and conditions and reporting instructions.

The VJF followed up all 11 projects individually. The basis for this were the two-monthly progress reports that the project owners had to submit according to the grant agreements. Whenever needed or advisable, the VJF requested for additional information, whether or not after having consulted the VJF steering group. In mid-year, all projects also submitted a detailed financial progress report.

Given the very diverse nature of both the projects and project owners, the follow-up of these projects by the VJF was equally diverse, both as to nature, frequency and intensity. Most project owners considered the VJF (also) as a partner or soundboard rather than a mere funding and supervising authority.

For some of the projects, contacts were mainly limited to the periodic progress reports. For others, the frequency of the contacts was higher. As all these projects were by definition 'innovative' projects, the development for the project owners themselves was also uncharted territory. With some of them, we had regular consultations, usually at their request. On such occasions, the VJF gave feedback or advice or referred the project owners to experts from within its network. Obviously, this was always done within

the confines of the grant agreement. The project owners remain at all times fully independent and responsible for the development and execution of their project.

Another aspect of the follow-up and assistance by the VJF was communication. The VJF co-communicated about project launches, (interim) results, calls for entries, events, etc. The VJF was also present during public showings and events across Flanders.

Obviously, the follow-up of the projects and the close contacts with the project owners from the sector was also very enriching and instructive for the VJF itself, in view of the further development of its policy and the launch of a next, adapted call for entries.

Most projects run up to March 2020. After the projects have been completed, the VJF will perform an evaluation and disclose the project results and findings. This will be done in the first half of 2020.

Preparation of new grant programme

In the Partnership Agreement 2018-2020 governing the operations of the VJF, the Dutch-speaking Community did not provide for a budget for a new subsidy round in 2019. For 2020, the Partnership Agreement did schedule a new subsidy round with a total distributable budget of 200,000 euro.

For the VJF, a timely and thorough preparation of the subsidy round 2020 was an important priority in 2019.

– **Timely:** The high number of applications in 2018 and our talks with the sector have clearly shown a need for a renewed grant programme for innovative journalism projects that renew and broaden the news offer and make it more diverse. The fact that there was no subsidy round in 2019 was in itself already disappointing and a motivation for the timely launch of the 2020 round. Besides, based on the limited term of the Partnership Agreement, the VJF had to play safe and assume that the whole process, including the finalisation of all projects and the final reports to the Dutch-speaking Community would have to be completed before 31 December 2020.

– **Thorough:** setting up a grant programme for innovative journalism projects is an essential key task of the VJF. Furthermore, it was neither possible nor advisable that the subsidy regulations for 2020 would be a copy of the regulations for 2018, such for various reasons. Given the above-mentioned timing restrictions, this subsidy round had no alternative but to target much shorter projects (ca. 6 months) than the previous one (max. 16 months). In addition, the total available subsidy budget (ca. 200,000 euro) would be less than half that of the previous round (500,000 euro). Also, since its start the VJF had also gained a more accurate

picture of the needs and challenges of the sector with regard to which such a grant programme could pay a positive contribution, and it had also learnt from its experiences with the current regulations. Besides, the subsidy regulations for the 2018 subsidy round had been developed at the request of the Media cabinet by the steering group under considerable time pressure, even before the VJF had started its operations and the VJF project coordinator had started to work.

Although the VJF grant programme of 2018 were evaluated, both in terms of quantity and quality, as a major improvement to the subsidy rounds organised by the Dutch-speaking Community in 2016 and 2017 prior to the launch of the VJF, it was for the above-mentioned reasons necessary to subject the regulations for 2020 to a careful review.

In April 2019, the VJF steering group discussed the contours and basic principles of the subsidy regulations for 2020 and formulated a number of items requiring attention. Based on this, the VJF worked out a complete proposal during the summer. In October, the steering group would again discuss this proposal so that after this the latest adjustments could be made. The launch of the new call for applications for the new subsidy round and the publication of the new grant programme were scheduled for 18 November 2019. As the final entry date for application files, 13 January 2020 had been scheduled. In December 2019, the VJF would organise a public information session about the project call.

After the new Flemish government was sworn in on 2 October 2019, the scheduled meeting of the VJF steering group was postponed at the request of the Flemish government until there would be more clarity about the Flemish budget for 2020. In November 2019, the new Flemish government formally decided, contrary to the ongoing Partnership Agreement, not to include resources for the VJF or for a call for innovative journalism projects in its 2020 budget (check also section 1).

As a result, the scheduled subsidy round was cancelled. By way of information and in view of transparency and as a policy preparation, evaluation or reflection document for the future, the VJF did publish the draft grant regulations on its website.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

In line with the operational objective established in the Partnership Agreement, the VJF started in 2019 with the 'development of a news and media knowledge-sharing platform'. Based on an analysis and talks with several stakeholders from the sector, the VJF determined how, within the given framework and with the available resources, it would best fulfil this rather broad and vague assignment.

The analysis and talks resulted in three key elements:

1. We definitely need more knowledge sharing on journalism and journalistic innovation. Much is being done, both in practice and in terms of research, but too little knowledge is shared about it.
2. A knowledge sharing platform must be very accessible. No new consultative structures, no useless talking shops, no new hip events but a simple and efficient way in which the various stakeholders from the sector can stay abreast of interesting news on, research in and practical examples of innovative journalism.
3. The impact is more important than the reach. The total reach of this knowledge sharing platform is less important than the people that it does reach and how they value the shared knowledge.

Based on these guiding principles, the VJF started in 2019 with the publication of **website articles** and **newsletters** about news and media. The focus was on today's challenges for journalism, innovation, research, practical examples and news from Flanders, the Netherlands and the world. Knowledge was also spread through **social media**, particularly Twitter and Facebook.

Offline, the VJF worked on networking and **its presence within the sector** in view of creating two-way traffic: gaining knowledge, keeping a finger on the pulse and detecting needs on the one hand and communicating the role of the VJF as a player within the sector and as knowledge sharer on the other hand.

Finally, the VJF created and published in 2019 a **memorandum** containing an analysis and policy recommendations for a diverse future-oriented journalism landscape in Flanders.

Knowledge-sharing event with VRT, the Flemish public service broadcaster

A recurrent issue in talks with several stakeholders in the sector is recognition of and appreciation for the knowledge and expertise within the VRT, but – at the same time – the complaint that the VRT as a public service broadcaster does not enough to share its knowledge. It's true that the VRT organises its Sandbox Sessions (usually twice a year) and the annual Media Fast Forward congress, but journalists above all need a simpler, more practical and less event-like form of knowledge sharing about how a news organisation can make and spread news today and tomorrow. This is not about business secrets but about an exchange that can inspire and help all parties involved.

That's why in 2019 the VJF started talks with the VRT to discuss what was possible. With the VRT-Innovation department, we agreed that the VJF would come with a limited group of professional journalists to the VRT for a targeted, yet informal half-day programme in which

various people would give concrete information about certain projects, followed by an exchange of ideas. Based on this pilot, both parties would assess whether or not to organise this on a regular basis, in an adjusted form or not.

Still, the above-mentioned knowledge sharing needs with regard to journalism are not limited to the Innovation department of the VRT. Therefore, the VJF established contact with several other departments as well: VRT NWS Digital and Audience Commitment, VRT Start-up, Open VRT, Creative Lab and the VRT study. Except for the study, all these departments were willing to participate in the knowledge-sharing afternoon. 4 June was set as date. For preparing the programme, the VJF contacted several organisations from the sector.

However, in April VRT Innovation informed us that meanwhile the idea had been picked up by the central communications department of the VRT. They wanted to turn it into a bigger event that would take place in the course of October, with a clear focus on news and innovation. As a result, the scheduled event of 4 June was cancelled. In early August, the VJF had a preparatory meeting with the VRT Communications department to discuss the content of the event. During this meeting, we talked about an informal event with the VRT News division in October (as preferred by the VJF) and/or the Media Fast Forward On Tour events that the VRT would organise for the first time in 2019 ahead of its annual Media Fast Forward conference in December.

At the end of August, the VJF received the communication that the VRT had decided not to organise a stakeholder event with the News division in 2019. The VJF was merely entitled to delegate a few project owners to the private Media Fast Forward **On Tour** events, i.e. AI@work (UGent, 25/10) and The War on Truth (KUL/UA, 7/11).

Desin(t)forum

On 6 December 2019, the VJF organised, together with Mediawijs, imec-SMIT-VUB and Square Truth Network, **Desin(t)forum**, an informal forum that allows actors from education, research, journalism and fact-checking to meet and talk to one another and to set up joint projects.

This was the programme:

- Keynote "When nothing is true and everything is possible. How to handle disinformation in Flanders"
 - Nathalie Van Raemdonck, Associate Analyst at the European Union Institute for Security Studies
- Five minute talks
 - Mathias Vermeulen and the Mozilla foundation support research in how to counter Disinformation
 - Tim Pauwels – Square Truth Network for fact-checkers and anti-Disinformation workers

- Michael Opgenhaffen – Factcheck.Vlaanderen, it's on the net, but is it also true?
- Nadia Vissers – EUfactcheck checks the European elections
- *Pause*
- Jan Jaegers – FactRank automatically detects what is to be fact-checked
- Maarten Schenk – Lead Stories debunk trending Fake news with algorithms
- Guy De Pauw – Textgain retrieves disinformation using Artificial Intelligence
- Michiel Scharpé – the Flemish Journalism Fund supports actions of journalists countering disinformation

- Rollout by Ike Picone, imec-VUB-SMIT

- Network session

Initially, the VJF wanted to use the forum to provide more information about the new subsidy round for innovative journalism projects. However, due to the decision of the Flemish government, this subsidy round was cancelled in November. Instead, the VJF discussed in detail some aspects of the challenges for journalists to counter disinformation.

Many attendees, both academics and people from the field, publicly praised the first achievements of the VJF, stressed the need to support small initiatives in the future and expressed their incomprehension about the early termination of the programme.

Media cafés

In Media cafés, experts discuss in a relaxed atmosphere themes that relate in a wide sense to media and (investigative) journalism. The organisation has been entrusted to the Flemish-Dutch agency deBuren, in cooperation with with a number of partners, including the Flemish Journalism Fund. More specifically, the VJF is among the stakeholders that have a say in the selection of topics and speakers.

In 2019, two Media cafés were organised: on 27 March in the Arteveldehogeschool (Gent) about the role and future of regional media, and on 14 November in the Zebrastraat (Gent) about artificial intelligence and journalism.

The VJF also spoke in 2019 with deBuren about the content and approach of the Media cafés in 2020.

Other knowledge contributions

– DIAMOND stakeholders' event

'DIAMOND – Diversity and Information Media: New Tools for a Multifaceted Public Debate' is a multi-annual research project of the Catholic University of Leuven, Antwerp University and the Free University of Brussels. It researches diversity in the day-to-day journalist practice in three domains: diversity of topics, actors and points of view.

During the annual stakeholders' event of the project on 16 December 2019, the VJF was a respondent for one of the presented studies and entered into a debate with various parties from the sector.

– RHETORIC

The online news debate on social media is becoming increasingly polarised. Considering the increase of offensive and hateful comments and the challenges for controlling them, several Flemish news websites have closed their comments feature.

The RHETORiC project aims to address this problem by offering tools to news editors and readers that can help them to detect and combat polarisation and support a civilised social discourse.

The RHETORiC-project is a joint project of VRT, Mediahuis, Textgain, Wieni, Tree Company, KU Leuven (mintlab) and UGent. It receives financial support from imec and VLAIO.

The Flemish Journalism Fund is part of the user group that helps to follow up the project.

– Journalistic mission management agreement VRT

Within the scope of the negotiations for the new management agreement between the VRT and the Flemish government, the Administration for Culture, Youth and Media of the Flemish government and the Sector Council Media of the SARC gave an assignment to the research centres imec-SMIT (VUB) and imec-MICT (UGent) to organise a broad consultation among the relevant stakeholders of the VRT.

In a first phase, various organisations and media players from different fields, including the VJF, were asked to share their vision and points of view on the role and mission of the VRT in a written memo.

In a second phase, focus group discussions were held with a range of stakeholders on specific challenges and issues related to the next management agreement. The VJF took part in the round-table discussion on the journalistic mission of the VRT.

This process resulted in a report "Stakeholder survey in preparation of the new management agreement of the VRT with the Flemish government", in which input from the VJF was included as well.

Other events

In view of knowledge sharing and communication, the VJF was present at the following events within the sector. On the one hand to share knowledge itself or to communicate about what we do and on the other hand also to gather knowledge, keep a finger on the pulse and detect needs. Here is a selection of events in which we took part:

- Symposium 10 Years of News Checkers (24 January, Leiden)
- KVAB Symposium: The fight for the truth. About fake news and disinformation in the digital media world (22 March, Brussels)
- Difference Day (3 May, Brussels)
- Innovating Media Economics (27 June, Brussels)
- Festival for Young Journalists (19 September, Brussels)
- Global Investigative Journalism Conference (26-29 September, Hamburg)
- The Battle for the Truth – Democracy & Disinformation in the Digital Media World (11 October, Flemish Parliament)
- VRT Media Fast Forward On Tour: Al@work (25 oktober, Gent)
- FoME Symposium 2019 – Rethinking media development – New actors, new technologies and new strategies (7-8 November, Bonn)
- FT Future of News Europe (26 November, Amsterdam)

Referral desk for questions about journalism

The Partnership Agreement between the VJF and the Flemish government included yet another, fourth operational objective: 'Acting as referral desk for questions about journalism in close cooperation with the VVJ and the Journalists' Desk'. Upon its launch, the VJF was also meant to become a 'point of contact for all journalists'. When the Partnership Agreement was being finalised, the partners in the steering group found that it would not be advisable to pre-set objectives that could overlap the activities of existing structures. The VJF as a point of contact was not considered opportune, hence the shift to a referral desk.

In practice, this division of roles was also considered natural by the sector. The VJF received but a few general or specific questions about journalism, but mostly questions about the subsidy regulations and/or innovation. On its website and, whenever necessary, in direct contacts, the VJF referred to the VVJ and the Journalists' Desk for general and specific questions for journalists and the sector in Flanders.

FLEMISH-DUTCH COOPERATION

The final operational objective of the VJF Partnership Agreement was promoting Flemish-Dutch cooperation: "Together with the Flemish-Dutch agency deBuren, VJF maintains in close contact with media players, media organisations, media policy makers and Journalism studies in the Netherlands and stimulates cooperation with Flanders wherever possible."

Dutch Journalism Fund

An important partner for VJF in terms of promoting Flemish-Dutch cooperation is the Dutch Journalism Fund (Stimuleringsfonds voor de Journalistiek, SvdJ). For the launch of the VJF, this fund was referred to as an example. Furthermore, the SvdJ gave the assignment for drawing up a research report *One language, multiple voices. Journalism, innovation and cooperation in the Netherlands and Flanders*, which has contributed to the incorporation of the VJF.

The SvdJ followed our activities with interest and was always prepared to share its knowledge. The SvdJ also published articles about innovative projects supported by the VJF. It is also a partner in joint projects such as the Media cafés or the consultation structure for Dutch-Flemish Journalism education institutions.

On 3 September, the VJF was a guest at a private 'sprint event' organised by the SvdJ. At such sprint event, projects that have been awarded an innovation grant, present their interim result and discuss them with their coaches. This provided inspiration to the VJF for scheduling a coaching or feedback moment in the planned subsidy round of 2020.

In 2019, both VJF and SvdJ confirmed their intention to organise a joint congress or knowledge event in 2020.

Major joint VJF-SvdJ projects still appeared rather difficult given the imbalance between both organisations in terms of development stage and budgets. However, the relationship with the SvdJ remained active at all times and the contacts were always warm and constructive. At the end of 2019, the director of the SvdJ also expressed his perplexity and disapproval about the early termination of the VJF.

Flemish-Dutch agency deBuren

At the end of 2018, the Flemish Journalism Fund and Journalismfund.eu moved their office to the building of the Flemish-Dutch agency deBuren. Having an office in one building with both deBuren and the Dutch 'Taalunie' definitely offers added value to promoting the Flemish-Dutch cooperation. With deBuren, we worked closely together for the organisation of, a/o, the Flemish-Dutch Media cafés and for the consultation structure between Dutch and Flemish Journalism education institutions.

Media cafés

In Media cafés, experts discuss in a relaxed atmosphere themes that relate in a wide sense to media and (investigative) journalism. Media cafés are organised in Flanders and the Netherlands. The organisation has been entrusted to the Flemish-Dutch agency deBuren, in cooperation with a number of partners, including the Flemish Journalism Fund. More specifically, the VJF is among the stakeholders that have a say in the selection of topics and speakers.

In 2019, Media cafés took place about the role and future of regional media and artificial intelligence and journalism.

Consultation structure between Dutch and Flemish Journalism education institutions

In 2019, the Dutch embassy in Brussels wanted to facilitate regular consultations between all journalism studies in Flanders and the Netherlands. In February, a first meeting took place attended by the Flemish Media cabinet, deBuren, the VJF and the CJM Department. During this meeting, the necessary information was brought together (the VJF referring, a/o, to the already existing consultation structures from the education institutes themselves). It was also agreed that the ultimate goal and objective would have to be defined more clearly.

In April, the Dutch and Flemish diplomatic bodies resumed talks about this. At a new meeting, it was decided that the VJF (for Flanders) and the Dutch Stimulation Fund would inquire among the relevant education institutes themselves after the advisability and objectives of such initiative. This inquiry showed cautious interest but also questions about the use and concrete objectives because there are already several structures for cooperation.

It was therefore decided that at the moment there is no need to impose a top-down initiative in this regard.

Oorzaken Festival – De Brakke Grond

On 29 March, the VJF was a guest at the Industry Day of the 'Oorzaken Festival', a podcast festival organised by the Flemish Cultural Agency De Brakke Grond in Amsterdam. On this Industry Day, podcast and audio professionals debated about the opportunities and challenges in connection with the creation, distribution and funding of various kinds of podcasts. The VJF also had a number of speed dates with Flemish and Dutch people from this industry.

After this event, De Brakke Grond expressed its ambition to examine together with, a/o, the VJF, deBuren and the VRT what the opportunities are to further stimulate this emerging genre in the future.

Exhibition on documentary photography in the Low Countries

The Pascal Decroos Fund organised in September and October in Community Centre De Markten in Brussels an exhibition on documentary photography in the Low Countries. Also the VJF and deBuren contributed to the event, which next to exhibition activities also included a debate programme.

The exhibition also drew the attention from other exhibition venues. It will be shown from 20 January up to 1 March 2020 in CC Ter Dilft in Bornem.

FINANCES

As established in the Partnership Agreement between the Flemish government and the Flemish Journalism Fund, the Flemish government awarded a subsidy of 100,000 euro to Journalismfund.eu vzw for the realisation of the operational objectives and the operating costs of the VJF.

Detailed annual accounts and the report of the company auditor can be found on the website of Journalismfund.eu.

 <https://www.journalismfund.eu/about-us/financial-documents>

MONEY TRAIL PROJECT

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM AGAINST ILLICIT FINANCE

In May 2018, Money Trail was launched at the EJIC & Dataharvest conference in Mechelen. Money Trail is a cooperation project between Journalismfund.eu, the renowned journalism and training organisations Finance Uncovered and Free Press Unlimited and Oxfam Novib. We also received support from the Dutch 'Nationale Postcode Loterij'.

Investigative journalism is a powerful weapon in the fight against illicit finance. 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 each year deprived of 100 billion dollar on account

of tax evasion and fraud by international companies. Money that they need real hard for public facilities such as education, health care and infrastructure. The project wants to contribute to the end of tax evasion, financial scandals, corruption and dubious investments.

Grants

The *Money Trail* project of Journalismfund.eu supports African, Asian and European journalists investigating international illegal financial flows, tax evasion, tax avoidance and corruption in Africa, Asia and Europe.

In 2019, Journalismfund.eu received 42 applications from 104 applicants in three application rounds organised in March, June and September.

The jury came together 3 times and awarded a grant to 24 projects (75 applicants). In all, a sum of €195,764 was awarded, whereas a record amount of €981,942.70 was applied for. Unfortunately, we can per round award but a total sum of ca. 50,000 euro.

By way of comparison: in 2018, the total awarded sum was lower (€117,253). This was mainly due to the fact that the project was launched in May 2018 and was not yet commonly known among journalists. The increasing number of applications and awarded grants in 2019 is also the result of the eased application criteria for African and Asian journalists. Initially, only mixed intercontinental teams from Africa, Asia and Europe could apply for a grant. Every team had to contain journalists from at least two continents. Since early 2019, African and Asian journalists are allowed to set up local teams and they can also apply for a grant individually. For European journalists, this rule has not been changed yet. They still have to work together with a partner from Africa and Asia.

Dutch project call

In November, we launched a separate call for Dutch journalists to investigate financial flows from and to Africa or Asia passing through **the Netherlands**. We expected from these journalists that their article would be published in Dutch in a Dutch media. The deadline for this call coincided with the deadline for the regular Money Trail call on 16 December. The grants will but be awarded in January 2020. This call was launched because so far we received but a few applications from the Netherlands although it is the Dutch 'Postcode Loterij' that supports the project financially.

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
TOTAL	100

Criteria for the Dutch call

CRITERIUM	RELATIEF GEWICHT
1. Toegevoegde waarde ten op zichte van de mainstream berichtgeving / nieuwswaarde	15
2. Maatschappelijk relevant (in Nederland en elders)	10
3. Originaliteit en innovatief karakter	13
4. Haalbaarheid	10
5. Ervaring van de indiener/referenties	7
6. Verkoopbaarheid/marktgerichtheid	13
7. Tijdrovendheid	14
8. Grensoverschrijdende verhalen, mogelijke samenwerking tussen collega's in verschillende landen, het bundelen van onderzoekscapaciteit en kennis is een pluspunt, maar geen vereiste	8
9. Waakhond zijn van instellingen, bedrijven en beleid	10
TOTAL	100

STATISTICS

Check the table below:

	2018	2019
NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS	29	42
NUMBER OF GRANTEES	37	75
NUMBER OF GRANTS	12	24
AMOUNT GRANTED IN EURO	€ 117.253,00	€ 195.764,00
MINIMUM PROJECT SUPPORT	€ 4.993,00	€ 2.200,00
MAXIMUM PROJECT SUPPORT	€ 19.070,00	€ 13.900,00
AVERAGE PROJECT SUPPORT	€ 9.771,08	€ 8.156,83
AMOUNT APPLIED FOT	€ 664.838,64	€ 981.942,70
AVERAGE AMOUNT APPLIED FOR PER PERSON	€ 17.968,61	€ 23.379,59
NUMBER OF ROUNDS	3	3

Profile of applicants:

Of the 104 applicants, 68 were men and 36 women. 58 journalists worked as a permanent member of staff and 44 as freelance journalists.

Profile Applicants – granted and denied

	2018	2019
FREELANCE	59	58
EMPLOYED	31	44
SCHOLARSHIP	0	1
STUDENT	2	0
JOB SEEKER	0	0
PHD	1	0
SABBATICAL	0	0
PENSION	0	0
TOTAL	93	103
NUMBER OF ROUNDS	3	3

Applicants Mvs F – granted and denied

	2018	2019
MALE	52	68
FEMALE	39	36
% FEMALE	42,86	34,62

Profile of the grantees:

The journalists who actually received a grant could be subdivided into 40 freelance and 30 permanently employed journalists. 45 were men, 26 were women.

Profile grantees		
	2018	2019
FREELANCE	25	40
EMPLOYED	11	30
TOTAL	36	70

Grantees: M vs F		
	2018	2019
MALE	22	45
FEMALE	14	26
% FEMALE	38,89	36,62

In 2019, we had quite a diverse group of applicants. They came from 36 different countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

NATIONALITY	NUMBER OF APPLICANTS	NATIONALITY	NUMBER OF APPLICANTS
Bangladesh	1	Malawi	1
Belgium	1	Mozambique	2
Cameroon	3	Nepal	4
Canada	2	The Netherlands	4
Central African Republic	1	Nigeria	8
Denmark	1	Romania	2
Egypt	1	Sierra Leone	1
Emirates	1	Singapore	1
Ethiopia	1	South Africa	9
France	3	South Korea	4
Germany	6	Spain	1
Ghana	2	Sweden	1
Guinea	1	Syria	10
India	3	Tajikistan	2
Indonesia	2		1
Iraq	1	United Kingdom	9
Ireland	1	United States	3
Italy	5	Yemen	1
Knowledge	10	Zimbabwe	1
	TOTAL		104

OVERVIEW OF GRANTS PUBLISHED IN 2019

11 projects were published in 2019: 8 of these projects received a grant in 2018 but were but published in 2019. Check the overview below.



© Hui Ning – Madagascar 2019

1. Millions of UN dollars fail to reach villages fighting to survive in Mozambique

Estacio Valoi and his Chinese colleague reveal how a ten million dollar United Nations programme to combat environmental destruction disintegrated in Mozambique. The investigation showed how the failure of a UNDP funding programme, meant to combat environmental destruction, left Mozambique communities on their own in their fight against cyclones, floods and drought.

AUTHORS: Estacio Valoi (Mozambique) and a Chinese journalist who wishes to remain anonymous.

GRANT: €9,000

PUBLICATIONS:

Online

- *Millions of UN dollars fail to reach villages fighting to survive in Mozambique* – ZAM Magazine, 27 March 2019
- *Millions of UN dollars fail to reach villages fighting to survive in Mozambique* – Oxpeckers, 29 March 2019

Magazine

- *Milhões de Dólares Americanos das Nações Unidas não chegam às aldeias que lutam para sobreviver em Moçambique* – IKWELI, 29 March 2019

IMPACT:

After the publication of the story, the UNDP did assign the money to some of the communities and resumed the project according to the reports that we received from the affected organisations.

2. Chinese Flying Money: the secret key to China's international trading success

The biggest obstacle that law enforcement officers face in combatting the illegal wildlife trade is the lack of a money trail that can serve as evidence in court to ensure convictions of key figures.

AUTHORS: John Grobler (Namibia) and Alex Hofford (Hong Kong)

GRANT: €7,333

PUBLICATIONS:

- *Perlemoen: Rampokkerbedryf floreer in die tentakels van korrupsie* – Vrye Weekblad, 7 June 2019
- *How Chinese Flying Money 'finances' illegal wildlife trade* – Oxpeckers, 28 June 2019
- *Multi-billion wildlife trafficking by Chinese exposed* – The Village News, 25 June 2019

RADIO

- *WC 'number gangs' running abalone trade in cahoots with Chinese underworld* – Cape Talk, 26 June 2019

NEWSPAPER

- *Flying out of Africa* – Financial Mail, 25 July 2019

IMPACT:

The publication of the investigation led in Namibia to heavy protests and a call for tightening the export rules. The journalist in question was also regularly interviewed on the subject on television. Legislation has indeed been changed: the regulations for exporting rough rosewood and other hardwood from Namibia were tightened. A few hundreds of tonnes of illegally logged wood were refused an export permit. Two corruption cases were initiated and some top executives of the customs office were transferred.

The United Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) <https://www.unodc.org/> quoted the document in a report on integrity among law enforcement officers in the fight against wildlife trafficking. The article was also quoted in the EU-funded ENACT report "African's illicit financial flows". The article is also part of the ongoing TRAFFIC project to help Namibia in the fight against money laundering.

3. I put a spell on you. How witchcraft corrodes the African economy and society

Under the guise of witchcraft, people in many sub-Saharan African countries are corrupted, tortured and murdered, but local authorities and international aid agencies continue to look the other way.

AUTHORS: Alberique Houndjo (Benin), Anneke Verbraeken (Nederland), Chief Bisong Etahoben (Cameroon) and Fidelis Mac-Leva (Nigeria).

GRANT: €5,000

PUBLICATIONS:

- *Sorcellerie Et Charlatanisme : Impacts Négatifs Sur Le Développement* - Matin Libre, 14 June 2019
- *From money guzzling animals to witchdoctors: How belief in witchcraft is costing Nigeria* - Daily Trust, 16 July 2019
- *Geloof in hekserij tiert welig in Afrika, organisaties kijken weg: 'Iedereen is bang om zelf doelwit te worden'* - Knack.be, 5 August 2019
- *WITCHES EXIST AND THEY COME IN NUMBERS* - Zam, 19 September 2019

4. How Frank Timis uses UK-registered companies to exploit Africa's resources

An investigation into how a controversial Australian/Romanian businessman, Frank Timis, paid the brother of Senegalese President Macky Sall for a secret oil and gas deal in Senegal.

AUTHORS: Shanna Jones (UK), Mohamed Kabba (Sierra Leone), Michelle Madsen (UK) and Cooper Inveen (VK/Sierra Leone).

GRANT: €7,400

PUBLICATIONS:

- *An oily threat to Sall* - Africa Confidential, 14 June 2019
- *Suppressed Report Finds AML Boss Unfit for Senegal* - Awoko, 30 July 2019

5. On the trail of Chinese pharmaceuticals in Africa

The trade in counterfeit medicines has grown into a black market industry worth 30 billion dollar and killing thousands of people every year. Experts warn that the number of counterfeit or sub-standard drugs that enters Africa, is increasing.

AUTHORS: Jacob Kushner (US), Anthony Langat (Kenia), Qian Sun (China) and Felix Franz (Germany).

GRANT: €10,785

PUBLICATIONS:

Online

- [China Is Leading the Next Step in Fighting Malaria in Africa](#) - The Atlantic, 4 July 2019
- [In quest for UHC, Kenya faces pharmacy regulation battles](#) - Devex, 5 July 2019.
- [Kenia: Verhütungsmittel per Chatbot](#) - Deutsche Welle, 16 July 2019
- [In Kenya, a stagnating fight against malaria calls for new strategies](#) - The New Humanitarian, 13 August 2019

Podcast

- [One Chinese Company's Bold, Controversial Plan to Wipe Out Malaria in Kenya](#) - The China Africa Report, 29 August 2019

6. Online illegal wildlife trade

Although cyberspace is not the most important platform for the illegal wildlife trade, it offers an anonymous and versatile market place to buy and sell. These journalists find out whether the Internet is playing a role in the increasing illegal wildlife trade.

AUTHORS: Roxanne Joseph (South Africa), Rudi Bressa (Italy), Fiona Macleod (South Africa) and a Chinese journalist who wants to remain anonymous.

GRANT: €19,070

PUBLICATIONS:

- [How we \(almost\) became reptile smugglers](#) - Oxpeckers, 30 July 2019
- [Inside the temple of trade](#) - Oxpeckers, 2 August 2019
- [Tech solutions for rhino trade](#) - Oxpeckers, 8 August 2019
- [Rhino trade in the heart of darknets](#) - Mail & Guardian, 8 August 2019
- [Ecco come siamo \(quasi\) diventati trafficanti di rettili](#) - La Stampa, 2 September 2019

MICROSITE

- [Online Illegal Wildlife Trade](#) - Wildlife Trafficking Stories, 23 August 2019
- [On the frontline](#) - Wildlife Trafficking Stories, 23 August 2019

NEWSPAPER

- [Com'è facile \(purtroppo\) diventare trafficanti di rettili e animali protetti](#) (How we [almost] became reptile smugglers) - La Stampa, 25 August 2019
- [Darknet rhino trade needs high tech solutions](#) - Daily Dispatch, 23 August 2019

7. An investigation into the 2.7 billion USD of blue economy investments of China in Madagascar

When on 6 September 2018 the news from Beijing reached Madagascar that a 2.7 billion dollar deal was made about the 'blue economy' that one was setting up with China, many people panicked on the largest island of the world but one. Rightly so because no one, not even at the Ministry of Fishing, had already heard something about such a deal. How a 2.7 billion dollar fishing deal between China and Madagascar came and went out of the blue.

AUTHORS: Hui Ning (China) and Riana Raymonde Randrianarisoa (Madagascar).

GRANT: €4,993

PUBLICATIONS:

Online

- [馬達加斯加：被一紙巨額中資漁業協議攪動的一年](#) - The Initium, 10 October 2019
- [Economie Bleue: un an après. L'accord cadre de 2 milliards 700 millions de dollar conclu entre AMDP Madagascar avec les Chinois tombe à l'eau.](#) - Mada24, 10 October 2019
- [Madagascar rocked by fishing deal that never was](#) - China Dialogue, 17 October 2019

8. Stash or Trash: Does Africa have a taste for the World's e-waste?

Due to the lack of capacity to control the influx of e-waste from abroad, mainly from Europe, Asia and the United States, Nigerian officials can only do so much to prevent their country from being transformed into a garbage dump for discarded digital devices that are increasingly becoming an integral part of life in the 21st century.

AUTHORS: Kolawale Talabi (Nigeria) and Mattheo Civillini (Italy)

GRANT: €12,500

PUBLICATIONS:

- [Stash or Trash: Despite control measures, Nigeria still top e-waste destination](#) - Premium Times, 26 October 2019
- [Stash or Trash: Does Africa have a taste for the World's e-waste?](#) - ICIR, 30 October 2019
- [Pannelli solari, quelli dismessi in Italia? "Smaltiti" in Africa: in 6 mesi sequestrati 3.500 diretti in Burkina Faso. Nigeria, la discarica Ue](#) (IT) - Il Fatto Quotidiano, 19 November 2019
- [Stash or trash: Despite control measures, Nigeria still top e-waste destination](#) - Africa China Reporting Project, 29 November 2019

IMPACT:

This investigation was first published in Nigerian and Italian media, with a total online reach of over one million readers per month. Subsequently, it was picked up by media in South Africa.

The project also had an impact on future projects involving cross-border cooperation between journalists. Journalist Kolawale Talabi: "The project enabled me to further develop my leadership qualities. It is not always easy to cooperate across borders or lead international teams to investigate a story with international perspectives. As such, the project gave me an idea of how in future projects I will operate on a strategic level."

9. The money trail of the Japanese Imperial brothel system

An investigation into the victims of the system of forced prostitution that was set up between 1932 and 1945 by the Imperial Japanese Army, Navy and Air Force in all occupied territories in Southeast Asia. Journalists Griselda Molemans and Hee Seok Park found evidence of this systematic abuse in archives in the Netherlands, England, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and South Korea; with as absolute showpieces the locked away jurisprudence on rape and forced prostitution and the money trail of the army and navy brothels.

AUTHORS: Griselda Molemans (the Netherlands) en Hee Seok Park (South Korea).

GRANT: €13,000

PUBLICATIONS:

Online:

- 사라진 ‘일본군 위안부’ 피해자들의 예금은 어디로 갔나 - Monthly Chosun, 31 October 2019
- New proof in ‘comfort women’ issue - New Straits Times, 21 November 2019

Print:

- New proof in ‘comfort women’ issue - New Straits Times (Malaysia), 17 November 2019

Book:

- Griselda Molemans, Levenslang oorlog (Quasar Books)

IMPACT:

The impact of this story starts to become clear in the first weeks of 2020. Besides attention in South Korea and Malaysia, there was, a/o, an interview with SBS Australia, attention by the Dutch public broadcast and among Dutch parliamentarians.

10. Highway 10. How West Africa pays for Europe's cocaine addiction

The cocaine that we use comes to Europe through Ivory Coast, where local merchants are not paid in cash but in cocaine. Result: the number of addicts is rising explosively and the region is becoming increasingly unstable. How did it get this far? An investigation of Daan Bauwens and Nicholas Ibekwe on how West Africa pays the price for Europe's cocaine addiction.

AUTHORS: Nicholas Ibekwe (Nigeria) and Daan Bauwens (Belgium).

GRANT: €10,396

PUBLICATIONS:

Online

- *West-Afrika betaalt de tol voor Europese cocaïne-verslaving* - MO* Magazine, 13 December 2019
- *SPECIAL REPORT: Drug Frontier: How cocaine trafficking is impacting West Africa* - Premium Times, 1 January 2020
- *West-Afrika betaalt de prijs voor Europese cocaïneverslaving* - Oneworld.nl, 3 January 2020

Magazine

- West-Afrika betaalt de tol voor Europese cocaïneverslaving (West Africa pays the price for Europe's cocaine addiction) – MO* Magazine, December 2019

11. Tracking the European Union's migration millions

An investigation into how much money Europe spends in Nigeria to curb migration. The answer appeared impossible to trace. The European financial flows for migration are as complex as a plate of spaghetti. This is both problematic and typical of Europe's migration policy in Africa.

AUTHORS: Maite Vermeulen (the Netherlands), Ajibola Amzat (Nigeria) and Giacomo Zandonini (Italy).

GRANT: €10,000

PUBLICATIONS:

- *Europe spends billions stopping migration. Good luck figuring out where the money actually goes* - The Correspondent, 9 December 2019
- *A breakdown of Europe's €1.5bn migration spending in Nigeria* - The Correspondent, 9 December 2019
- *Niemand weet, niemand weet... hoe Europa zijn migratiemiljarden besteedt* - De Correspondent, 9 December 2019
- *Grensbewaking en migranten terugvliegen. Zo besteedt Europa 1,5 miljard euro aan migratie in Nigeria* - De Correspondent, 9 December 2019

- [How the EU created a crisis in Africa – and started a migration cartel](#) - The Correspondent, 11 December 2019
- [De EU heeft in stilte een crisis uitgeroepen in 26 Afrikaanse landen. En omzeilt zo de eigen aanbestedingsregels](#) - De Correspondent, 11 December 2019
- [Europe spends billions stopping migration. Good luck figuring out where the money actually goes](#) - ICIR, 18 December 2019

12. Thousands of Syrian Camels disappear during the war

Over thousands of camel herders have fled to the European Union, they crossed the sea and the mountains to seek refuge because of the tragic ongoing war that totally changed their way of life. At the same time, they are losing their camels on account of illegal trade.

AUTHORS: Daham Alasaad (Syria/Denmark) and Mohammad Bassiki (Syria/ France)

GRANT: €7,000

PUBLICATION

- [دودج الجارخ إلى إيروسالء ارحصل انم لامج الج بيهت عبتت تاراسم قم ع ي ف](#) - Daraj, 30 December 2019

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.

In 2019, four training sessions were held in Jakarta (Indonesia, March), Abuja (Nigeria, July), Nairobi (Kenya, September) and London (United Kingdom, November). 122 journalists and activists took part in the training. The majority of the attendants were journalists. Over 10 percent submitted an application after the training.

MENTORING

Journalismfund.eu makes available mentors to 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, also when things don't go as planned. In all, we have **eighteen** mentors available.

In 2019, **11 teams** got a mentor assigned to them by the Money Trail jury. Below, you'll find a list of our mentors:

1. [Gwen Lister](#) (Namibia) - Journalist, columnist and press freedom activist. Founder, editor of *The Namibian*. Early ICIJ member.
2. [Finance Uncovered](#) team (UK) – The team at Finance Uncovered trains and mentors journalists on how to investigate tax abuse, money laundering and corruption.
3. [Sheila Coronel](#) (United States/ Philippines) - Director Stable Centre for Investigative Journalism.
4. [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.
5. Finance reporter and instructor at the National Taiwan University's School of Journalism and deputy editor at Taiwan's *CommonWealth* magazine. Participated in Offshore leaks, Panama Papers and Paradise projects of ICIJ.
6. [Oliver Schröm](#) (Germany) – Finance reporter and Editor-in-chief at *Correctiv*.
7. [John-Allan Namu](#) (Kenya) – Investigative Journalist for/CEO of *Africa Uncensored*.
8. [Eric Smit](#) (The Netherlands) – Finance and money laundering specialist. Editor-in-chief of *Follow the Money* (ftm.nl).
9. [Paula Fray](#) (South Africa) – Managing Director at *intermediafray*.
10. [Laurent Richard](#) (France) – Investigative Journalist. Co-founder of the French inquiry magazine *Cash Investigation*. ICIJ member. Worked on Luxleaks.
11. [Pavla Holcova](#) (Czech Republic) – specialises in organised crime groups in Europe, money laundering and media projects. She is the founder of the *Czech Centre for Investigative Journalism*.
12. [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.
13. [Sylke Gruhnwald](#) (Switzerland) – reporter based in Switzerland specialising in reporting on white collar crime, fraud and following the money trail.

14. [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](#).
15. [Ron Nixon](#) (United States / South Africa) – International Investigations Editor at The Associated Press. Former New York Times journalist. Computer-Assisted Reporting specialist.
16. [Khadija Sharife](#) (South Africa) is an investigative journalist, researcher and Africa editor for [OCCRP](#).
17. [Will Fitzgibbon](#) (United States) is a senior ICIJ reporter. He is also ICIJ's Africa and Middle East partnership coordinator.
18. [Fiona Macleod](#) is a seasoned investigative environmental journalist, who heads Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism.

MONEY TRAIL: ADVICE PRIOR TO SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

To increase the accessibility of Money Trail and the quality of the applications, we are strongly committed to give assistance and advice to applicants. Journalists can ask the project coordinator of Money Trail to pre-check their application.

During 30-minute sessions on Skype, Jitsi or WhatsApp, they ask whether or not their story would qualify for a grant. They receive suggestions for potential team members and can discuss their budget with the project coordinator.

In 2019, we had 34 of such online talks. A majority of these applicants did effectively submit an application (check the overview below).

You can find all information on procedure, timing, criteria, etc. through the following link: <https://moneytrail.journalismfund.eu/en/rules>

#IN TALK	COUNTRIES	TYPE OF Q	APPLIED	GRANT?	#TALKS
27				9	34
1	France/Syria	Is my story eligible for a grant?	yes	1	2
1	Italy/Germany	Is my story eligible for a grant?	yes	1	1
1	EN	Budget			1
1	EN	Eligibility of their story idea			1
0					0
1	Nigeria/NL	Budget, idea, jury	yes	1	2
0	Kenya				0
1	Mozambique	General idea and teammate			2
1	Ghana	Finding a teammate	yes	1	2
1	US	Find me a teammate: Germany, Italy, Spain	yes	1	2
1	Germany	Budget, story idea	ECBG grant	1	1
1	Belgium	Budget, story idea	no		1
1	Italy	Budget, story idea	yes	1	1
1	Italy	Budget, story idea	yes	1	1
1	Cambodia/BE	Story idea, teammate, budget	no		1
1	BE/Canada	Story idea & budget & teammate			1
2	South Africa	Story idea & budget & teammate	yes	1	2
1	Burundi	Story idea & budget & teammate	no		1
1	Nigeria	Is our story good enough?	no		2
2	South Africa	Is our story good enough?	yes		2
1	Cameroon	Story idea & budget & teammate	no		1
1	Italy	Story idea & budget & teammate	no		1
1	UK/Kenya	Story idea & budget & teammate	no		1
1	Canada	Story idea & budget & teammate	yes		2
1	Nepal	Story idea & budget & teammate	yes		1
1	French	Story idea & budget & teammate	yes		1
1	American/China	Story idea & budget & teammate			1

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 during 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 financing.

In 2019, they realised two major projects:

1. [Inside a Troll Farm](#)
2. [The 5G mass experiment](#)

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

EUROPEAN INVESTIGATIVE COLLABORATIONS NETWORK

The primary objective of the EIC.Network is to jointly report and publish investigative journalism with a focus on European topics in view of a better understanding of how power structures have an impact on European societies.

Cooperation

The basis for the cooperation between EIC members / organisations is to share information on a regular basis and to exchange ideas for possible stories with one another. EIC.Network holds regular meetings and is active on several fronts: tackling European stories; finding, composing, processing and analysing big data sets; development of their own collaboration tools, platforms and information drafts and such under an open-source license.

EIC.Network applies a long-term approach and therefore involves generation #25 journalists, who work together with senior reporters and editors, in their collaboration projects.

Membership

This is a non-exclusive network, meaning that members can be part of other networks, but only one media or media outlet of any European country can be an EIC member, which guarantees national exclusivity.

Coordination

Stefan Candea coordinates the communication, workflow and tools. In every investigation, Stefan works closely together with the initiators of the topic.

EIC Board

The ECI Board decides about EIC partnerships, membership, future developments and the agenda of EIC's General Meeting. The board members are journalists who work together with editorial boards of EIC members. The current board is composed of Pierre-Yves Warnotte (Le Soir), Jörg Schmitt (Der Spiegel), Yann Pilippin (Medi Part), Zeynep Sentek (The Black Sea), Anne Mette Svane (Politiken) and Alfred Weinzierl (Der Spiegel), who is also the board's chairman. Jörg Schmitt is currently responsible for the outreach of the network.

EIC.Network believes that networks will continue to exist. Because of their structure and methodology, collaborative networks are one of the few mechanisms that are able to keep pace with the global power structures (i.e. governments, businesses...) and thus the only way forward for investigative journalism.

Journalismfund.eu plays the part of intermediary between the donor (Adessium) and EIC.Network. Within the multi-annual plan of Journalismfund.eu, this activity fits into the category of 'Facilitating and co-ordinating investigative teams'. Also in 2020, Journalismfund.eu will continue to develop and improve this activity.

 Read more: www.eic.network

AWARDS

In 2019, the following projects received an award:

Pascal Decroos Fund

- Faire-Part: RIDM Montréal International Documentary Festival - Prix Meilleur Documentaire international
- Er was eens... (*Once upon a time*): Ensors - best TV documentary (nominated)
- Ademloos (*Breathless*): Ensors - best documentary film (won)
- Mother: several film festivals such as Sheffield, Gent, Chicago... (nominated)
- Fraude in de zorg (*Fraud in healthcare*): Belfius Press Award (nominated)
- No friends but the mountains: Best short Documentary at the Beloit International Film Festival (USA) (won)
- Ghana for you: Compétition documentaire long-métrage FEPASCO - Burkina Faso (nominated)

Investigate Europe

- Investigate Europe won the Hans-Matthöfer Award for its publication on the [BlackRock Investments](#).

Flanders Connects Continents

Land of plenty, land of but a few

- Shortlist for the New Media Writing Prize (NMWP) in the category 'journalism'.
- Nominated for the Prix Europa in the category "TV current affairs".
- Awarded with the Prémio Gazeta Multimedia, the main journalism award in Portugal.

Mercy Killing

- Nominated in the category 'signal function' of De Loep – VVOJ

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

POSTGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNALISM

PURPOSE

The course targets people with a master education of whatever nature (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 (during the academy year).

The ultimate goal of the course is to teach students how to make news. The students are familiarised with techniques where mainstream journalists have little or no knowledge of. For instance, considerable attention is paid to data analysis and visualisation, searching on the internet, making use of the 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 but 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 academy year 2018-2019, 26 students attended the training course.

PUBLICATIONS BY STUDENTS

The publications in Flemish media of the works of students from the academy year 2018-2019 prove the relevance of this course.

- [Corruptie en klimaatuitdagingen blijvende voedingsbodem voor jihadisme in Mali](#) (MO*, 14 juni 2019) by Yannick Remans.
- [Jaarlijks duizenden vrachtwagens grond illegaal gedumpt](#), (Apache.be, 25 juni 2019) by Esmeralda Borgo and Tinne Claes.
- Another 2 projects will be published in Humo and De Standaard in early 2020.

OBJECTIVE II

Facilitating networks of journalists in Europe

GRANTEES AT CONFERENCES

Journalismfund.eu finds 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.

In 2019, five journalists presented their funded Money Trail projects at two major international conferences: The Global Investigative Journalism Conference and the African Investigative Journalism Conference.

- **Estacio Valoi** presented his story at the Global Investigative Journalism Conference and the African Investigative Journalism Conference.
- **Shanna Jones** presented her story at the Global Investigative Journalism Conference. We paid for her accommodation and access to the conference.
- **John Gobler** presented his story at the African Investigative Journalism Conference.
- **Jeff Kelly** presented his story at the African Investigative Journalism Conference. We paid for his flight.
- **Fiona Macleod** presented her story at the African Investigative Journalism Conference.

LECTURES / EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

Throughout the year, Journalismfund.eu attended several 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 with conferences / networking events:

- Brussels – 23 January 2019 – Can the EU do more for a healthy media sector? – conference organised by Fondation Euractiv, The Greens/EFA group and the ALDE group. – Panel
- BERLIN (Germany) – 31 January and 1 February 2019 – UNCOVERED – a conference on investigative journalism in Europe organised by the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF). In addition to keynote speeches and workshops, presentations were given by 12 teams of journalists who had been working on cross-border investigations through a special ECPMF fund. Ides Debruyne was a speaker in a panel.
- JAKARTA, Indonesia – 25 February up to 1 March 2019: Lisa Akinyi May attended the Money Trail training in Jakarta to promote our grants to investigative journalists from all over Asia.
- NEWPORT BEACH (California, USA) – 7 March 2019 – NICAR conference – the biggest Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference in the United States. ECBG reached more than 10 European editors and reporters and recruited two mentors.
- AMSTERDAM (the Netherlands) – 22 March 2019 – DE LOEP AWARD – the award ceremony for the Dutch-Flemish Association of Investigative Journalists VVOJ's award, De Loep. Ides Debruyne is a member of the jury.
- LEUVEN (Belgium) – 28 March 2019 – DOCVILLE – participation in a panel on investigative journalism and fake news at the international documentary film festival DOCVILLE in Leuven, together with investigative journalist Lars Bové and journalists Tim Verheyden and Karine Claassen.
- PERUGIA (Italy) – 4 April 2019 – Global Fund for Investigative Reporting Meeting – a one-day meeting on the possibility of setting up a global fund for investigative reporting.
- KALMAR, Sweden – 5 to 6 April 2019: Lisa May Akinyi spoke about Journalismfund.eu and all our grants programmes at **Gräv**, the annual annual investigative

- journalism conference in Sweden organised by the Swedish Association of Investigative Journalists (Föreningen Grävande Journalister).
- BRUSSELS (Belgium) 3 May – Difference Day – BOZAR and VUB University’s annual event on the UN’s World Press Freedom Day that critically examines freedom of the press and pays homage to good journalism. ECBG promoted its grants programmes and other activities.
 - MECHELEN, Belgium – 16 to 19 May 2019: Ides Debruyne was a panel member, together with representatives from other journalism funds at the **European Investigative Journalism Conference & Data Harvest**. We sponsored a grantee from Flanders Connects Continents to talk about her [project](#) and its impact and used this session to promote Money Trail.
 - BERN, Switzerland – 21 to 22 May 2019: Ides Debruyne attended a seminar on collaborative journalism, organised by the Swiss Association of Investigative Journalists.
 - WARSAW, Poland – 23 to 24 May 2019: During the day programme of the **European Press Prize** ceremony, Ides Debruyne gave a “strategy session”, among others on how applicants can get together a credible budget when applying for a grant.
 - ABUJA, Nigeria – 1 to 5 July 2019: Lisa Akinyi May attended the Money Trail training in Abuja to promote our grants to investigative journalists from all over Africa.
 - ATHENS, Greece – 28 May 2019: Katerina Voutsina gave a workshop to Greek investigative journalists about our European cross-border grants.
 - ATHENS, Greece – 13 June 2019 – GEN Summit – promotion for the ECBG grants.
 - RIGA (Latvia) – 13 June 2019 – Future Media Management Programme of the Stockholm School of Economics – the programme specifically focussed on news media founders, chief editors and publishers looking to improve their managerial and decision-making skills and learn monetisation options in the industry.
 - HAMBURG, Germany – 25 to 29 September 2019: Journalismfund.eu attended the **Global Investigative Journalism Conference**. Ides took part in a round-table discussion on Donors & Grantees.
 - NAIROBI, Kenya – 30 September up to 3 October 2019: Lisa May Akinyi spoke at the **7th Pan African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation** about our Money Trail programme. Oxfam Novib and Finance Uncovered gave a Money Trail training to journalists and activists from across Africa.
 - CHISINAU, Moldova – 3 to 5 October 2019: Ides Debruyne took part in the conference “Off the beaten track!”, organised by N-Ost.
 - Tilburg, the Netherlands – 22 to 23 December 2019: Lisa Akinyi May attended the VVOJ Conference “Open De Poort!” to promote the Dutch project call of our Money Trail programme and the Pascal Decroos Fund.
 - ACCRA, Ghana – 25 to 27 November: Lisa Akinyi May joined the General Meeting and Workshop of **CENOZO** (Norbert Zongo team for investigative journalism in West Africa), where about thirty West African journalists came together. She gave a presentation on the Money Trail and Journalismfund.eu grants.

MEDIA CAFES

These events are organised by Journalismfund.eu in cooperation with deBuren, Zebrastraat, VVOJ and other partners, depending on the theme. In 2019, two Media cafés were organised.

REGIONAL MEDIA: WHICH ROLE CAN THEY STILL PLAY?

The future of regional media is a very topical issue, both in Flanders and the Netherlands. This Media café gives insight in the expectations of the general public.

Which news does one want to see, hear or read through regional media?

What are the differences in expectations compared to what the public wants to learn from national television broadcasts, papers, radio or websites?

Does the offer match the expectations?

All these questions were addressed during this Media café, in which new research performed by WHY5Research and recent findings of the Dutch Stimulation Fund for Journalism were central.

Presentation and debate with a/o:

- **Tom Meere**, CEO WHY5Research
- **Dr. Nel Ruigrok**, investigator and director of LJS Media Research

Date: Wednesday, 27 March 2019

Place: Artevelde College of Advanced Education, Gent

AI AND JOURNALISM

What does the rapid development of artificial intelligence mean to media and journalism? Will we soon be able to dispel *fake news* thanks to automated fact-check techniques or can we have less and less trust in what we see and read because the journalist disappears into the background? How can artificial intelligence help journalists to do their work better? What are the risks?

Debate with:

- **Tom Van de Weghe** (VRT journalist VRT who lived for a year in Silicon Valley doing research into AI in the fight against *fake news*)
- **Danielle Arets** (associate lecturer Journalism and Innovation, Fontys College of Advanced Education Tilburg, teacher Design Academy Eindhoven)
- **Ike Picone** (professor Media and Journalism Studies VUB, Senior Researcher IMEC-SMIT)
- **Elger van der Wel** (freelance journalist and tech expert)
- Moderator: **Raf Njotea**.

Date: 14 November 2019

Place: Zebrastraat, Gent.

DIFFERENCE DAY

This year, Journalismfund.eu was the organising partner of the **World Press Freedom Day** in Brussels. Ides Debruyne, Lisa Akinyi May, Michael Scharpé and Kristof Polfliet were present for networking.

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 called out 3 May to 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.

The programme included: films, debates and exhibitions on freedom of speech and press freedom in all their aspects and with all their challenges.

Alan Rusbridger, former editor of The Guardian and author of *Breaking News: the remaking of journalism and why it matters now*, gave a guest lecture.

DEBATES

IN SEARCH OF THE ENEMY

11 September 2019

Location: deBuren, Brussels

In March 2019, Bette Dam gained international fame when she revealed the secret hiding place of most-wanted terrorist mullah Omar, proving that the CIA, their counterparts in the Afghan government and Western media had had it wrong. **Bette Dam** and **Corry Hancké** (*De Standaard*) welcomed several guests, including media scientist **Emiel Martens** (UvA, Erasmus University) and Afghan journalist **Ahmad Issa**, who knew Taliban leader Mullah Omar and had flown especially from Kandahar to Brussels for this debate.

Bette Dam and her Afghan colleague Ahmad Issa spoke about their investigation into the mysterious Taliban leader mullah Omar. They compared the actual situation in the field with news reports from influential Western media such as Reuters or the *New York Times*.

In her book *Op zoek naar de vijand (In search of the enemy)*, realised with the support of the Pascal Decroos Fund, Dam explains why and how the US government failed, but she also addresses the major faults that were made by Western media in the still continuing *war on terror*. According to Dam, the news reports are based too strongly on a pro-Western, elitist perspective. During the debate, Dam and Issa suggested alternatives and explained how more cross-checks can result in better and more truthful war reporting.

Number of visitors: 110

DEBATE: DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY IN FLANDERS AND THE NETHERLANDS

01 October 2019

Location: Spiegelzaal, De Markten, Brussels

Within the scope of the exhibition 'New faces: documentary photography in Flanders and the Netherlands', we organised a discussion on the future of photojournalism.

In these times of social media, digitisation and smart-phones, the end of photojournalism has already been announced all too often. But shouldn't we instead be more optimistic? Successful photographers **Heleen Peeters** and **Jefrim Rothuizen** participated in the exhibition. In a panel debate led by **Raf Njotea**, they discussed their discipline with guest speakers **Frits Gierstberg** (curator Dutch Photo Museum, photography teacher) and **Paul Willemsen** (critic at *Rekto Verso*).

Number of visitors: 35

EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION: 'NEW FACES'

13 September 2019 – 24 October 2019
Location: De Markten, Brussels

With this exhibition, the Pascal Decroos Fund for Investigative Journalism aims 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 since 2016 works 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.

Number of visitors: 975
The exhibition will be shown from 20 January up to 1 March 2020 in CC Ter Dilft in Bornem.

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

IN THE PRESS:

- Duizend woorden (*a thousand words*), MO*, autumn number 2019.
- *Nieuwe gezichten en duizend woorden*, (*New faces and a thousand words*) interview with curator Sanne Schim van der Loeff, MO.be, 13/09/2019.



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 grants 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 increasing 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 per month).

In the new Journalismfund.eu communications strategy, we have also increased the volume of communication tools in view of showing 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, i.e. monitoring the impact of Journalismfund.eu as a whole and of the European cross-border grants programme in particular.



COMMUNICATION TOOLS

WEBSITE www.journalismfund.eu: **42,349** users

SOCIAL MEDIA  **5,900** followers on Facebook

 **4,900** LinkedIn group members

 **6,100** followers on Twitter

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER: **3,850** subscribers

DATABASE: **7,000** journalists

WEBSITES

Corporate website www.journalismfund.eu

The website – 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>

Here, you should in the long run find all projects that have been supported through our various grants programmes. To the extent possible, we are also translating the Flemish projects that have been sponsored across the years.

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

Here, you'll mainly find corporate news.

– 500,000 euro granted to innovative projects – 22/11/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/500000-euro-granted-innovative-projects>

– Mercy Killing nominated for De Loep 2019 – 11/02/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/mercy-killing-nominated-de-loep-2018>

– "Land of Plenty, Land of But a Few" shortlisted for the NMWP – 11/02/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/land-plenty-land-few-shortlisted-nmwp>

- 5-Day Money Trail Training in Jakarta – 26/02/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/5-day-money-trail-training-jakarta>
 - Searching for an enemy: the secret life of Mullah Omar – 11/03/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/searching-enemy-secret-life-mullah-omar>
 - Inocencia Asesinada – 13/03/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/inocencia-asesinada>
 - Amended Money Trail guidelines for a larger number of investigations – 19-03-2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/amended-money-trail-guidelines-larger-number-investigations>
 - ‘Slavery of Care’ nominated for Belfius Press Award – 22/03/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/slavery-care-nominated-belfius-persprijs>
 - Apply now for Money Trail Training in Abuja – 28/03/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/apply-now-money-trail-training-abuja>
 - Results January 2019: European Cross-Border Grants – 09/04/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/results-january-2019-european-cross-border-grants>
 - Investigate Europe wins the Hans-Matthöfer-Preis – 09/04/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/investigate-europe-wins-hans-matthofer-preis>
 - Alan Rusbridger to speak at Difference Day 2019 – 29/04/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/alan-rusbridger-speak-difference-day-2019>
 - How to find a teammate – 07/06/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/how-find-teammate>
 - We are hiring a project coordinator – 05/08/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/were-hiring-project-coordinator-0>
 - Six ways in which a mentor can directly boost your investigation and story – 14/08/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/six-ways-mentor-can-directly-benefit-your-research-and-story>
 - Journalismfund.eu’s new digital security etiquette – 22/08/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/journalismfundeu-new-digital-security-etiquette>
 - ‘Impact is more than getting laws changed or shaping public opinion’ – 29/08/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/impact-more-getting-laws-changed-or-shaping-public-opinion>
 - Open letter to the new secretary-general of the Council of Europe – 18/09/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/news/open-letter-new-secretary-general-council-europe>
 - How civil society and journalism can work together to strengthen democracy – 31/10/2019
<https://www.journalismfund.eu/cso-journalism>
- Database of Journalists** – <https://www.journalismfund.eu/journalists>
- 549 journalists are on our site with their curriculum. 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...)
- In 2019, we had 42,349 visitors of the main Journalismfund.eu’s website from all over the world. They come from all over Europe and from the United States and the African continent. Over the past year, the following 10 countries topped the ranking in terms of numbers of visits: 1) Germany; 2) Belgium; 3) United Kingdom; 4) United States; 5) France; 6) the Netherlands; 7) Italy; 8) Spain; 9) Greece; 10) India.
- 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 secured website.
- In 2019, we adapted the site to the needs of applicants and jury members. We’ve added a few sections to the application form to the benefit of both applicants and jury members.
- moneytrail.journalismfund.eu**
- Also The Money Trail Grants Programme has its own project website – moneytrail.journalismfund.eu.
- www.money-trail.org**
- Additionally, The Money Trail project has another site – www.money-trail.org, which it shares with the Money Trail consortium.

www.fondspascaldecroos.org

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

At our request, grantees also add a short essay about their project, the story behind the story. This unique content can be an added value to visitors as well as an inspiration for (young) fellow journalists.

- [De S53: de menselijke kant van een gemediatiseerd verhaal](#)
- [Rudi Rotthier over zijn Verscheurde Staten.](#)
- [Pieter Bauwens zoekt uit of verandering werkt](#)
- [Collaborerende ouders en familie: na 150 jaar taboe, onze dubbele uitbraak](#)
- ["We krijgen dikwijls de vraag: Hoe komt het dat jullie daar zo goed zijn uitgekomen?"](#)
- [Hoe AIPC te werk ging voor Last resource](#)
- [Halfgoden - Achter de schermen](#)

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.

Since the measuring for the new website started (14 March) up to the end of 2019, the website had 63,543 page views and 19,239 users. Apart from Belgium, obviously, the other users mainly came from the Netherlands and the US.

www.pascaldecroosbeurs.org

Journalists can submit an online application through www.pascaldecroos.beurs.org. To this end, they must fill out a form and add some attachments (including the budget).

www.vlaamsjournalistiefonds.be

The VJF website had in 2019 5,130 users and 16,048 page views.

The highest peaks almost entirely coincides with the timing of the VJF newsletters. Barring the commotion about the termination of the support from the part of the Flemish government, the highest day peak was on 24 April, the date of our newsletter on the memorandum with policy proposals for innovative journalism in Flanders.

The subsidy regulations are the main driver of traffic to a site like that of the VJF. People want more information about the subsidy regulations, they want to know how they must submit their application and want to see which projects have been awarded a grant. In 2019, the VJF

did not organise a subsidy round so that the driver for website traffic did not exist. A new subsidy round would also structurally increase the reach of our knowledge dissemination.

Apart from the general pages about the VJF and the awarded grants, the most read articles were those about the journalistic production house Sonderland, about the fact that the fact-check fund announced by the federal government remains a dead-letter, about a review of the advice of the Central Economic Council about the federal press support, an interview with the CEO of Twipe (a Flemish company building innovative technology for international digital publishers) and the memorandum with policy proposals for innovative journalism in Flanders.

The VJF website was built under huge time pressure: it had to be online only one week after the start of the VJF in September 2018. That is why in the summer of 2019 a plan was set up to adapt the website, adding better functionalities and categories for a knowledge dissemination platform. Also the VJF steering group was informed about this. However, as soon as the future of the VJF appeared to be insecure, these plans have been put on hold.

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. Our Newsletter list has about 3,870 subscribers.

In 2019, the average publication frequency of the electronic newsletter was ca. twice per 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*.

An archive of all distributed Newsletters can be found on the MailChimp online platform. They are all saved in the 'Campaigns' section of the platform.

FDP Electronic Newsletter

Also for the electronic newsletter of the Pascal Decroos Fund (in Dutch), we use MailChimp. The Pascal Decroos Fund issued 13 e-newsletters in 2019

and had 2,750 subscribers at the end of 2019 (compared to 2,539 at the end of 2018). The Pascal Decroos Fund issues newsletters with information about its activities, supported projects, events, important media news updates...

The VJF newsletter

The VJF newsletter has evolved from a click-through medium to a newsletter that can be read by itself. In all, the VJF issued 16 editions in 2019: *(in Dutch, below the titles translated in English)*

1. Social media do not contribute to knowledge about current events
2. Money and diversity
3. Do fact-checks have effect?
4. The future of news
5. Algorithms and funnels
6. The rise of the podcast and lessons from the CEO of *De Persgroep*
7. Journalism and migration
8. 10 policy proposals for innovative journalism
9. Innovative journalism projects
10. Politics are covered by men in the centre
11. Lessons from the Digital News Report
12. News sites that earn money. What does Europe think? Web analytics.
13. Web analytics have little impact on political news
14. We don't know if Flemish people read more papers
15. About money and policy, AI and impact
16. No rocket science – time wall – Uitlander

All issues can be read here: <https://us19.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=5c1630c3defe27cef36aa9dc1&id=6114902f21>

Because of the GDPR regulation, we had to start the VJF newsletter in 2019 with 0 subscribers. However, the reach has grown steadily – a newsletter edition was opened up to 430 times. More important even (cf. above): the appreciation was high. This appeared from various reactions from the sector and from the figures. The open-and-click ratio amounted to 70% and over 20% respectively, which is four times the average percentage for newsletters on media (source: Mailchimp).

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 about campaigns and project results. The target audience of the organisation consists of:

potential grant applicants, journalists, general public, donors, international audience or 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 writings. By the end of 2019, we had over 6.100 followers of our Twitter page. We post an average of 8 to 15 posts per 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 organization has a LinkedIn company page with 60 followers and a LinkedIn group with about 4,900 members. 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 trainings, 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 2019, we had over 5.000 followers of our Facebook page. We usually post 8 – 15 times per week.
4. **Instagram** – Journalismfund.eu has its own Instagram account which is used mostly to promote supported projects. This channel was launched quite recently and is therefore still in full development. The aim is to reach a different, mainly younger audience via Instagram

Besides, in view of highlighting work supported by Journalismfund.eu, we start communicating simultaneously with the first round of publications once 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 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 2019 and went from 2,701

likes at the end of 2018 to 2,893 likes by the end of 2019 (followers: 2946). On Twitter, @pascaldecroos is being followed by 1,696 people (compared to 1,556 in 2018).

 <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://www.facebook.com/VlaamsJournalistiekFonds/)
This platform has 278 followers.

 Twitter: [@vlaamsfonds](https://twitter.com/@vlaamsfonds)
This Twitter account has 317 followers.

MEMORANDUM



In the autumn of 2018, the then Media Minister had asked in a meeting with the VJF to draw up a substantiated memorandum on the potential and advisable future Flemish media policy with regard to journalism by the spring of 2019, such as a policy document for the following administration. The steering committee of the VJF recommended that this memorandum would be drawn up on behalf of the VJF and Pascal Decroos Fund (FPD), the two projects that support journalism with Flemish funds and are executed by the non-profit organisation Journalismfund.eu.

For the realisation of the memorandum, we organised a broad consultation round with the various stakeholders within the journalism sector: various news media, umbrella organisations, journalists, academics, parliamentarians and also partners from the Netherlands.

The memorandum first argues why journalism is important and why the government should support journalism. This is followed by ten concrete policy proposals. Each proposal is substantiated, establishes a concrete pre-set outcome and, insofar as applicable, mentions the budget needed for it.

The VJF and FPD are convinced that the implementation of these ten policy proposals will lead to **more investigative journalism** that, through **more diverse media channels** will reach **more diverse target groups**. Such a policy encourages **innovation** in a sustainable way, is based on **knowledge and figures**, pays particular attention to **local journalism** and is **efficiently** organised.

The memo was first handed over to Minister Gatz, and then to the relevant MPs and key stakeholders. After this, the VJF published it on its website and made available printed copies for interested parties.

 <https://www.vlaamsjournalistiekfonds.be/memorandum>

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.

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 and one month after the publication at the latest. By the end of 2019, a total of 57 grantees had completed their surveys through the platform.

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 huge investigation materials in view of 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 abilities as reporters, both in gathering and in processing material.

All grantees also agreed on the effectiveness of the "Supported Stories" chapter on 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 2019, the platform included around 7,000 professional contacts.

PRINTED FDP NEWSLETTER

Every year, a printed newsletter is sent to sponsors, sympathisers, journalists and other stakeholders (in all 3450 addressees). The newsletter contains an overview of the projects that have been published in the past year. The newsletter is accompanied by a letter asking the reader to support the Fund financially.

PASCAL DECROOS FUND ADDS

The free advertising space that the Flemish print and online media allocated to the Pascal Decroos Fund, accounted in 2019 for a total amount of €107,803. Thanks to the support of Flemish newspapers, magazines and news websites, the Pascal Decroos Fund is 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 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 view of sharing 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.

In 2019 alone, we had about 4,000 unique visitors of the main Journalismfund.eu's website. They come from across Europe and from the United States and the African continent. Over the past year, the following 10 countries topped the ranking in terms of numbers of visits: 1) Germany; 2) Belgium; 3) United Kingdom; 4) United States; 5) France; 6) the Netherlands; 7) Italy; 8) Spain; 9) Greece; 10) India.

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)
- Communications & Money Trail Coordinator: Lisa Akinyi May (1 FTE – contract)
- Project Coordinator Pascal Decroos Fund: Kristof Polfliet (1 FTE - contract)
- Project Coordinator European Cross-border Grants: Katerina Voutsina (1/02/2019 – 30/09/2019)
- Project Coordinator European Cross-border Grants: Svitlana Slabinska (1 FTE – contract since 28/11/2019)
- Project Coordinator Flemish Journalism Fund: Michiel Scharpé (1 FTE – contract)
- Contact person within the organisation: Ides Debruyne (+32 2 705 59 19)

ORGANISATION

Board of Directors

- *Coessens Wim* (B) – acting chairman
- *Depuydt Piet* (B) – secretary
- *Musschoot Iris* (B)
- *Smit Margo* (NL)
- *Vandenberghe Kurt* (B) – treasurer – resigned in 2019
- *Van Hee Jacques* (B)
- *Wolters Hans* (NL)

In 2019, the members of the Board of Directors convened 6 times.

Daily management

- Wim Coessens (B)
- Ides MF Debruyne (B)
- Piet Depuydt (B)
- Kurt Vandenberghe (B) – resigned in 2019

International Advisory Board

In 2019, the members of the Advisory Board... This international advisory board is an advice body without formal influence. The members are representatives from national investigative journalism initiatives from all over Europe.

On 16 May 2019, the International Advisory Board came together in Brussels. – Lightning Talks Advisory Group Meeting.



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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 *atlatszo.hu center for investigative journalism* in Budapest.
🐦 [@abodoky](#)
- **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 Reporterow*, 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 a long experience as independent and 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 Sprinģe.

🐦 [@jemberga](#)

- **Eva Jung** is an investigative journalist with the Danish newspaper *Berlingske* and vice-chair of *The Danish Association For Investigative Journalism* (FUJ).

🐦 [@EvaJung_](#)

- **Nicolas Kayser-Bril** is a French journalist based in Berlin and co-founder of *Journalism++*.

🐦 [@nicolaskb](#)

- **Minna Knus-Galán** is a Finnish investigative journalist working for the *Finnish Public Broadcaster Yle*. She was given the Finnish Journalist of the Year Award 2014.

🐦 [@minnaknus](#)

- **Sasa Lekovic** is the founder and director of the *Investigative Journalism Centre* in Zagreb, Croatia. He is a freelance reporter and investigative reporting trainer.

🐦 [@SasaLekovic](#)

- **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*.

🐦 [@Xhelal_Neziri](#)

- **Rachel Oldroyd** is the Editor of *the Bureau of Investigative Journalism* in London (UK).

🐦 [@Raoldroyd](#)

- **Andras Petho** 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.

 [@andraspe](#)

- **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*.

- **Martin Stoll** is a member of the investigative desks of *Sonntagszeitung* and *Le Matin Dimanche*. He is deputy chairman of *Investigativ.ch* and chairman of *Öffentlichkeitsgesetz.ch*.

 [@freiedokumente](#)

- **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.

 [@tajatop](#)

- **Fouad Youcefi** is the chairman of the Swedish organisation for investigative journalists, *Grävande Journalister*.

 [@fouadyoucefi](#)

- **Zaklina Zafirova** is a Macedonian journalist and co-founder of *Scoop Macedonia*.

 [@Zaklina Zafirova](#)

General Meeting

According to Article 20 of the articles of association, the general meeting is composed of the effective members and chaired by the Chairman of the Board of Directors or, in his absence, by the eldest director present. However, a member can have himself represented at the general meeting by another member, provided that one member can but represent one other member. Every member has one vote at the general meeting.

Article 21 of the articles of association lists the powers of the general meeting. The general meeting is solely competent 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,
- giving discharge to the directors and statutory auditors,
- approving of 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 are the members of the General Meeting on 31 December 2019.

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

In 2019, the General Meeting convened once.

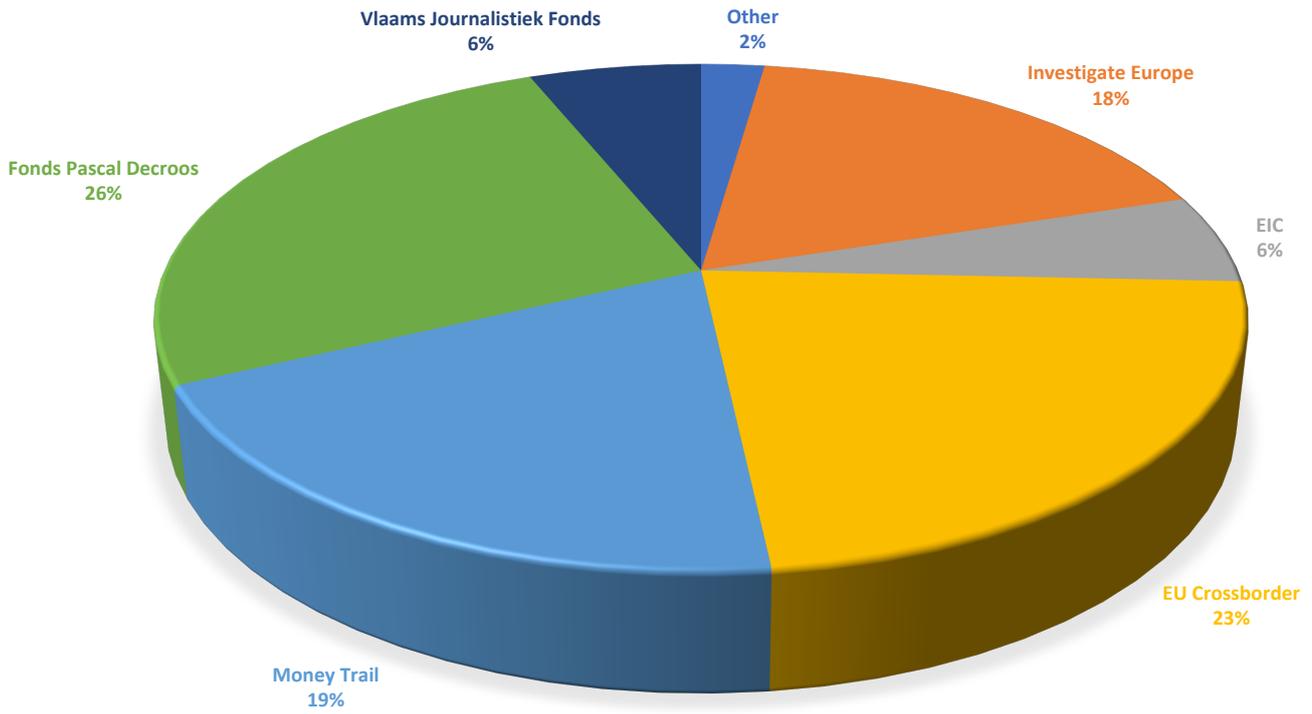
Finances

Annual Accounts in EUROS

Balance sheet		
Assets	2019	2018
Current Assets		
Amounts receivable within one year	€ 134.098	€ 135.990
Cash at bank	€ 1.384.547	€ 1.603.922
Deferred charges and accrued income	€ 0	€ 14.741
Total current assets	€ 1.518.645	€ 1.754.653
Fixed (Long-Term) Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	€ 19.441	€ 15.286
Total fixed assets	€ 19.441	€ 15.286
Total Assets	€ 1.538.086	€ 1.769.939
Liabilities and Equity		
Current Liabilities		
Amounts payable within one year	€ 57.851	€ 75.303
Deferred income	€ 618.605	€ 644.900
Total current liabilities	€ 676.456	€ 720.203
Provisions		
Provisions for liabilities and charges	€ 23.800	€ 0
Provisions for grants	€ 735.896	€ 1.045.286
Total provisions	€ 759.696	€ 1.045.286
Equity		
Available reserves	€ 4.547	€ 4.547
Unavailable reserves - social liabilities	€ 124.500	€ 64.500
Accumulated profits (losses)	-€ 27.113	-€ 64.597
Total equity	€ 101.934	€ 4.450
Total Liabilities and Equity	€ 1.538.086	€ 1.769.939

Income statement		
Operating Income and Charges	2019	2018
Operating income		
Turnover	€ 50.043	€ 90.588
Donations, foundation grants and subsidies	€ 1.485.243	€ 1.817.293
Other operating income	€ 121.851	€ 127.377
Financial income	€ 23	€ 43
Total operating income	€ 1.657.160	€ 2.035.301
Operating charges		
Grants paid	€ 1.221.057	€ 642.558
Purchases services and other goods	€ 279.773	€ 412.655
Remuneration and social security costs	€ 331.181	€ 244.731
Depreciations	€ 5.482	€ 4.178
Provisions for grants : Appropriations (uses and write-backs)	-€ 285.590	€ 629.635
Other operating charges	€ 55	€ 409
Financial charges	€ 7.613	€ 2.089
Total operating charges	€ 1.559.570	€ 1.936.255
Operating (profit) loss	€ 97.589	€ 99.046
Exceptional Income and Charges		
Exceptional charges		
Exceptional charges move offices	€ 105	€ 2.018
Total exceptional charges	€ 105	€ 2.018
(Gain) loss op the period available for appropriation	€ 97.484	€ 97.028
Transfer to reserves		
Transfer to unavailable reserves - social liabilities	€ 60.000	€ 64.500
Transfer to accumulated profits (losses)	€ 37.484	€ 32.528
Total transfer to reserves	€ 97.484	€ 97.028

2019 REPARTITION FUNDS BY PROJECT



2019 REPARTITION COSTS

