

WHAT DOES CORRUPTION DO TO WATER?

Water Integrity Investigative Journalism Fund

1 ABOUT THE FUND

The water sector is vulnerable to corruption due to many reasons: fragmented governance, lack of oversight and accountability; and the sheer amount of money that is involved in complex infrastructure projects. More than ever independent media plays a critical role in dampening corruption and promoting good governance by bringing issues to the public domain, and providing a voice to the needs of the disadvantaged groups whose positions are often overlooked by official monitoring systems.

Objectives: WIN's Water Integrity Journalism Fund aims to strengthen researching, reporting, and disseminating in-depth investigative reports on corruption in the water sector. The outcomes of the Initiative will contribute to better understanding and documentation of how the prevalence of corruption can result in leakage of much-needed resources, undermine the human right to water and sanitation, and prevent the achievement of universal access to water and sanitation as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

What is funded: in-depth journalistic research on the impacts of corruption in the water sector and its subsectors.

In particular, the reporting should be designed to reveal the impact and costs of corruption in quantitative terms to the extent possible. The impact of corruption can include a broad range of social and economic damage, such as direct financial losses, impact on affected communities, environmental and public health costs, and other damage that are attributable to such corruption.

Fund amount: The funding amount will range from €2,000 to €12,000, and can be used to cover travel and technical expenses, however may not be used for the purchase of any equipment.

Depending on resources available and the content of applications received, the number and the value of each project funding is entirely at the discretion of WIN, who may choose to award multiple projects or not award any in a given year.

Timeline: Recipients will be expected to complete the production of their work within three-months of receiving funding.

WIN's involvement: WIN will be available on an ad-hoc basis to contribute expertise if and when needed, however, it is expected that recipients have access to their own sources and experts.

Deadline: Queries need to be submitted before 23 October 2018 (23:59, Central European Time).

The deadline for submitting full proposals is 20 November, 2018 (23:59, Central European Time).

See "how to pitch" for more details.

2 ELIGIBILITY

The Fund is intended for investigative and data journalists worldwide, but preference will be given to those reporting in developing countries. Freelance or permanently employed individual journalists, or small teams of journalists can apply.

Applicants must be accredited and published journalists with at least five years' experience and a track record of prior publications.

Assigning editors at journalism outlets may also query us on behalf of a reporter.

3 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- The applicant needs to demonstrate having clear information or unique access to information required to successfully undertake the reporting project.
- A letter of intent from a relevant media organisation will be required before funding can be approved. In the letter, an editor needs to confirm the commitment to publish or air the proposed reporting project. Such a letter is not necessary when submitting a query and full proposal. The relevance of the media outlet needs to be justified by the applicant and approved by WIN.
- The original reporting can be produced in a local language. However, the queries, applications, and reporting to WIN will be accepted only in English.
- Applications can be made for investigative and data journalism as well as data visualization products in various formats including text, video, audio (including podcasts), multimedia, or others. Regardless of the choice of format for the final reporting, the background research report will need to be submitted to WIN.
- Applicants need to provide at least two credible references.

4 AWARD CRITERIA

Each application will be reviewed independently.

WIN will assess the proposal according to three main criteria: relevance, feasibility, and potential for impact.

Relevance refers to both the relevance of the topic, and also the qualifications of the applicant.

Feasibility refers to whether the story can be successfully completed within the proposed time and budget. Given the scarce resources and time we have for this initiative we will only consider applicants who already have clear information or unique access to necessary information to complete the report in a short period of time.

Potential for impact refers to the extent to which the story may contribute to our understanding of the impacts of corruption.

Applicants must meet all criteria listed above and only complete applications will be considered for selection. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Given the expected volume of applications, WIN will not be able to provide individual feedback on why an application is unsuccessful.

5 HOW TO PITCH

STEP 1

Send us a query using [this form](#) and your CV to uallakulov@win-s.org (deadline 23 October 2018). You do not need to have a commitment from an editorial outlet at this stage.

STEP 2

If your query meets our requirements, you will be asked to submit a full proposal with a budget request, using a simple application form we'll provide. The deadline for submitting full proposals is Tuesday, 20 November (23:59, Central European Time).

STEP 3

Secure commitment from a media outlet. The choice of media outlet will need to be approved by WIN. Funding is approved upon the receipt of a letter of intent from an editor from the media outlet.

6 ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN REPORTING

To ensure highest standards of ethics and integrity in reporting, we require journalists we work with to abide by the Society of Professional Journalists' [Code of Ethics](#).