

A New Push for Excellence, Ethics and Collaboration in Journalism Partnership of RSF, FPU, Copeam, CMFE and COMMIT receives EU funding

Bruxelles, 28 April – Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE) and COMMIT are pleased to announce the signing of a grant agreement with the European Union to continue its support for cross-border partnerships. In a first round of the newly launched Creative Europe programme to promote collaboration, excellence and pluralism in the media, the consortium led by RSF will further invest in existing regional networks, the Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI) to drive compliance with professional standards, and three topical clusters to focus on.

Over the course of the next two years, targeted offers are to be developed for participating media outlets, regional networks and individual journalists to facilitate excellence in reporting and eventually to contribute to a more diverse information space. Partners in the programme include the Amsterdam- and Prague-based media development organisation Free Press Unlimited (FPU), the Standing Conference of Audiovisual Media Operators in the Mediterranean (Copeam) and the Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE) with its leading Austrian member COMMIT.

In times where trustworthy information is needed more than before, but also where disinformation and propaganda flourish to the extent of threatening national and regional security, the excellence of and the trust it journalism is considered a critical component of societal resilience and social inclusion. The unique composition of this consortium brings together an unparalleled network of member organisations, partnerships and individuals across Europe.

CMFE and COMMIT will contribute to this partnership by developing “a Media and Information Literacy Approach for Civic Empowerment in Public Health”. To do this we will explore innovative and effective methods of engaging communities in pro-active and trust-worthy ways via their local community media.

With a combination of those existing and new tools, support to journalists will include traditional training formats, mentoring and fellowships, micro grants and dedicated, collaborative spaces and resources online. Around three topical clusters, participants are expected to focus on climate change, public health and migration in particular.

First activities are planned to be announced as early as September 2022.

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