



CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Summary

The Association Umbrella, with financial support of Swiss Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina announces the Call for submission of request for emergency financial support for independent, investigative, non-profit, non-state media outlets in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The objective of the program is to provide direct financial support to independent, investigative, non-profit, non-state media outlets to cover operational costs.

1. TOPIC OF THE CALL

This intervention is critical to ensure the sustainability of media outlets that promote investigative journalism, fact-based reporting, and freedom of expression in an increasingly hostile and financially strained environment. Through this call, independent, investigative, non-profit, non-state media outlets in Bosnia and Herzegovina will receive operational funding to maintain their workforce, sustain investigative journalism, and strengthen democratic discourse. The initiative will offer financial relief, ensuring that journalists and media professionals continue their work without financial constraints that could lead to self-censorship or shutdowns.

2. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

The funds in the minimum amount of 2.000 BAM and maximum amount of 30.000 BAM will be awarded to the applicants who submit the request in a competitive procedure, and based on the media needs assessed by the evaluation committee. The applications will be rated on the following criteria:

- Number of jobs at risk
 - Assessment of emergency situation
 - Active projects, existing funding sources
 - Financial Vulnerability
 - Percentage of lost revenue compared to the previous year due to the withdrawal of donations
 - Number of employees on minimum wage due to revenue decline
 - Inability to cover essential operational costs (e.g., rent, electricity, internet, basic equipment)
- Proof: Bank statements from March 31, 2025, payroll records from March 2025.
- Extent of Impact on Operations
 - Reduction in operational scope (e.g., fewer investigative media content).

- Cancellation of key projects due to lack of funds.
- Reduction in fees or number of engaged journalists/collaborators.

Proof: Work reports, review of published content in previous periods.

- Priority Needs
 - The amount of funding necessary to ensure the minimal functioning of the newsroom.
 - Existence of plans for financial stabilization in the upcoming period.

Proof: Cost plan with a clear explanation of how the funds will be utilized.

Eligible costs under this Call are:

- staff costs;
- office rent
- office expenses
- utility charges
- communication expenses

Ineligible costs under this Call are:

- Procurement of equipment
- Procurement of vehicles;
- International travel;
- Travel for conferences and study tours
- Costs incurred before conclusion of the Contract;
- Debts and debt service costs
- A reserve for losses, debts;
- Purchase of land or properties
- Loans to third parties
- New project ideas
- Charity events or sponsorships
- Consulting, planning, and evaluation services as standalone activities

3. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The planned duration of the request is maximum five (5) months, starting in May 2025 and lasting until September 2025.



UMBRELLA

Udruženje „Umbrella“, Obala Kulina Bana 5, 71 000 Sarajevo

Email: info@uba.ba

4. CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC CALL:

Eligible candidates for this Call are non-state investigative media outlets of any form (web portal, blog, Radio station, TV station, newspaper) that are not owned, not financed, not managed, not influenced, nor editorially controlled by government(s). Media outlet implies various kind of official registration i.e. media outlets registered as Civil Society Organization, Entrepreneur, Company, etc.

The additional eligibility criteria include demonstrated experience in technical areas relevant to the award focus i.e.

- The media outlet is registered as a legal entity (proven by copies of registration documents – registration decision, registration certificate (ID number), statute)
- There are no court proceedings against the legal entity and its legal representative and it has not been criminally punished for a serious business offense (proven by a certified statement)
- Proven track record of investigative reporting (proven by Statute or with a list of investigative media contents)
- That its statutory and program goals are aimed at providing an active, professional, responsible and quality contribution to freedom of speech and enabling access to truthful information for citizens, promoting independent, objective and analytical and investigative journalism based on the highest professional standards in Bosnia and Herzegovina (proven by Statute)
- That the media outlet has a clearly stated imprint, and that it complies with the Journalist Code (proven with a print screen of the imprint or proof that the media outlet is a member of the Press and Online Media Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Demonstrating a commitment to editorial independence, and exposing corruption and public institutions, officials and governments malfeasance
- That the media outlet has been active for at least three years
- That media outlets it is part of one of the investigative journalism networks in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Demonstration clear mapping/explanation of an emergency situation

DOCUMENTS FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

- Filled out application form
- Registration certificate
- Proof of the number of people employed under an employment contract



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- Statute
- Bank statement on March 31 2025
- Payroll records from March 2025
- No court proceedings and no criminal penalties (certified statement signed and stamped by authority person)
- List of investigative media contents
- Proof of the existence of an imprint/impressum and proof that the media outlet is a member of the Press and Online Media Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina

5. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Application is to be submitted electronically, via email to info@uba.ba by **April 13, 2025**.

The subject of the electronic message (title) must contain name of the applicant. Incomplete and untimely applications (submitted after April 13, 2025) will not be considered.

6. LANGUAGE

All applications must be written in one of languages in the official use in Bosnia and Herzegovina or in English.

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any inquiries concerning this Call are to be sent only by email to info@uba.ba