



DIGITAL MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY GRANT

Application Guidelines and FAQs



OVERVIEW

The Libyan Media Development Programme (LMDP) is a joint initiative funded by the European Union and implemented by RNTC and Annir. It aims to strengthen Libya's media ecosystem by fostering pluralism, supporting press freedom, protecting human rights, and developing both independent and public media, ensuring citizens have access to credible, inclusive, and democratic information.

The programme is structured around six specific working packages, ranging from professional capacity-building and digital safety to advocacy for media freedom and resilience against disinformation. Within this framework, Working Package 6 (WP6) focuses on the long-term sustainability of independent media and civil society organisations (CSOs) with a focus on digital transformation.

The Small-Scale Action Grants are a tool to translate digital transformation ambitions into concrete, measurable improvements.

Applications must address operational improvements directly linked to digital transformation. Proposals focused solely on content production or internal organisational matters unrelated to digital sustainability are outside the scope of this grant.



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THE SMALL-SCALE ACTION GRANT

1.1 Purpose

The Small-Scale Action Grant supports Libyan independent media outlets and CSOs working in the media sector to implement targeted digital transformation plans. These plans are expected to address concrete operational challenges which would support the media outlets or CSO's long term sustainability.

The grant is intended to fund activities that strengthen organisational capacity, operational efficiency, and/or long-term media viability in areas such as technology adoption, financial sustainability, human resources, digital security, and audience engagement.

1.2 What Each Application Should Include

All applications must address the following elements:

- A clear description of the operational problem or need the organisation is seeking to address, and why digital transformation is the appropriate response.
- A brief overview of the current situation, including any prior assessments or self-evaluations conducted.
- A Digital Transformation Plan describing the proposed activities, with a realistic timeline, defined deliverables, and an identified project lead within the organisation.
- A description of the success trajectory: what will change as a result of the grant? How will improvement be measured? What is the plan for sustaining the results beyond the grant period?
- A budget overview covering all anticipated costs. All costs must be included and justified.
- Information on any external parties involved (e.g. technical partners, advisors, consultants), and whether they will contribute in kind or financially.
- Applicants are encouraged to be specific and practical. There is no fixed template: the guidelines above define what must be covered, and applicants are free to structure their submission accordingly.

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1.3 Budget

- Maximum grant amount per organisation: EUR 10,000 per year
- Up to 3 grants will be awarded per cycle
- Disbursement: 80% upon signing the grant agreement; 20% upon verified completion of deliverables
- All costs must be included in the submitted budget. No costs may be added after award.

Eligible costs include:

- Staff time directly related to implementation of the plan
- Freelancers or external consultants supporting implementation
- Software, tools, or platform subscriptions
- Training, workshops, or events related to the plan

Ineligible costs include:

- Capital equipment purchases (e.g. hardware, office infrastructure)
- Internal organisational costs unrelated to digital transformation
- Retrospective costs (costs incurred before the grant agreement is signed)

1.4 Who Can Apply

The grant is open to:

- Libyan independent media outlets
- Civil society organisations (CSOs) working in the media sector in Libya
- Good command of the English language is a priority requirement since the application and mentorship process will be in English.

Organisations that have not yet undergone a **DTA** may still apply. In such cases, a DTA will be conducted as part of the mentorship process if awarded, to guide implementation. Annir may also recommend additional organisations for consideration by the committee, in line with the programme's reach and objectives.



Application Step	Timeline
Open call for applications published	30.07.2026
Application Workshop: How to create a Digital Transformation Plan	25.08 2026
Deadline for applications including Digital Transformation Plans	31.08.2026
Eligibility screening of submitted applications	01.09.2026-15.09.2026
DTA conducted for shortlisted applicants	15.09.2026 – 30.09.2026
Full assessment of shortlisted plans	09.10.2026
Award decision communicated to applicants	12.10.2026
Grant agreement signed; first instalment disbursed (80%)	19.10.2026
Mentorship and advisory support begins	21.10.2026
Monthly check-ins and implementation	21.10.2026 – 23.04.2027
Mid-implementation check-in	22.01.2027
Completion report submitted by grantee	23.04.2027
Verification of deliverables and final disbursement (remaining 20% of payment)	30.04.2027
Learning and exchange event for all grant recipients	Early December 2027
Final reporting and lessons learned documented	Dec 2027

1.6 Implementation and Reporting

Once awarded, grantees are expected to:

- Set up their implementation workplan within two weeks of signing the grant agreement.
- Maintain regular contact with their assigned RNTC/Annir advisory contact throughout the implementation period.
- Participate in a mid-implementation check-in with the joint committee.
- Submit a completion report covering results achieved, lessons learned, and recommendations for future similar activities.
- Participate in the learning and exchange event organised for all grant recipients at the close of the cycle.

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Frequently Asked Questions and Logistics

Who can apply?

Libyan independent media outlets and CSOs working in the media sector. Priority is given to organisations that have completed a DTA under WP6.1.1, but others may also apply.

How large is the grant?

Up to EUR 10,000 per organisation per year. Up to 3 grants will be awarded per cycle.

How is the money disbursed?

80% is disbursed upon signing the grant agreement. The remaining 20% is released after the committee has verified that deliverables have been completed as agreed.

Can I include staff time in my budget?

Yes. Staff time directly dedicated to implementing the plan is an eligible cost and should be included in the budget.

What if my idea is not directly linked to digital transformation?

The grant is specifically scoped to digital transformation and operational sustainability. Proposals focused primarily on content production, editorial activities, or purely internal administrative matters are outside the scope of this grant.

Will I receive feedback on my application?

Yes. Feedback will be provided to all applicants after the decision is announced, regardless of outcome.

What happens after the grant period?

Grantees are expected to participate in a learning and exchange event together with other recipients. The committee will also document lessons learned across all funded projects to inform future programming.

Where do I send my application?

Applications should be submitted under the following link:
<https://forms.zoho.eu/tactick1one/form/DigitalMediaSustainabilityGrantSmallScaleActionGra>

Who can I contact if I have questions?

For questions about the application process, please contact: noyan.er@rnw.media



Thank You

We look forward to collaborating and
creating meaningful impact together.

