



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

With its manyfold activities in 2023 continued to contribute to a more connected European information space – creating lasting relationships between journalists and media, opening perspectives beyond our usual frames, connecting the dots in a complex world.

We did so on three levels of intervention:

Publishing projects turning the spotlight on countries, topics and opinions that lack our attention:

- our collaborative newsletter *European Focus*, co-produced by the newsrooms of ten partners from Warsaw to Madrid
- the European press review *eurotopics*, offering the daily spectrum of European opinions with its tensions and diverse perspectives in five different languages

Networking projects offering journalists and media across Europe the resources to research collaboratively and discuss shared topics:

- the *Europe Ukraine Desk* strengthening ties and establishing stable information channels between journalists and media from war torn Ukraine and six European countries (Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain)
- the cross-regional investigation *Spheres of Influence* with collaborative teams uncovering the mechanisms of Chinese influence on the Western Balkans, in the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

Capacity building projects boosting the integration of journalists from smaller countries and of underrepresented perspectives into the wider European discourse - like

- our climate journalism projects in Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova, Uzbekistan, Kasachstan and Kyrgystan connecting local journalists with international experts and supporting their reporting on global warming
- our network for regional media in Ukraine, *Fight for Facts*, providing sixteen Ukrainian media with training, language classes and infrastructure.

Our curiosity and interest in the contradictions and tensions, but also the similarities between the countries and people in larger Europe are the foundation of our work. We want to contribute to an improved European self-perception, which is so indispensable in a time that puts societies across Europe at stress and reshuffles established roles and old certainties. Please read on the following pages how we pursue this vision.

Apart from state and private funds we also rely on the contributions of individuals sharing our vision: an independent multiperspective, multilayered European journalism that helps to steer through challenging times. Donations help us to research and publish, to support and connect. Thank you!

Anastasia Rodi (Board Member)

Hanno Gundert (Managing Director)

INTRODUCTION

n-ost is a European journalistic network. The media NGO has a focus on Eastern Europe and is committed to cross-border and multiperspective reporting. n-ost connects journalists and media, supports research and provides training: 500 correspondents, photographers and editors work from across Europe. n-ost headquarters are based in Berlin, Germany.

FOCUS AREAS

We are always reacting to current issues. At the same time we cover topics which have been recurrent issues in our work: n-ost is active in ten different focus areas.

1 - Focus Area “Networking Journalism”

Amid growing political and economic pressures, journalists face multiple obstacles in showing us a complex world. Our media conferences, research trips and events provide spaces where we connect, share insights, and support each other.

2 - Focus Area “European Public Spheres”

National issues dominate the medias’ agenda. But Europe’s differences and perspectives can only be understood if we broaden the focus: We connect newsrooms and facilitate cooperation across the continent.

3 - Focus Area “Foreign Reporting”

The world fades away, when correspondents have to cover entire continents, and newsrooms lack the resources to report even on neighboring countries. Through our reporting we overcome biases and fill the blind spots on our mental maps.

4 - Focus Area “Documentary Photography”

Images convey the diverse realities of our societies with an emotional immediacy that words can’t match. We connect photographers across the continent to show a Europe beyond our information bubbles.

5 - Focus Area “Investigative Journalism”

In our interconnected world, investigative journalism has to transcend borders. We connect the dots on local issues that resonate globally and equip journalists with the skills to investigate and uncover cross-border stories.

6 - Focus Area “(Dis)Information”

Disinformation poisons public discourse and replaces democratic debate with polarization. With our journalistic formats we explore answers to this global challenge: sensitive to our own biases, but firm in our commitment to fact-based information and science.

7 - Focus Area “Queerness & Feminism”

Gender and sexuality are weaponized in public discourse, distorting perceptions and deepening divides. We help journalists uncover authentic narratives and boost diverse voices in the media through a queer feminist lens.

8 - Focus Area “Journalism in Ukraine”

Journalists in Ukraine face many challenges exacerbated by the war: safety risks, source validation, financial hurdles, and access. We support them with resources, platforms for knowledge transfer, and strong international networks.

9 - Focus Area “Climate Journalism”

The climate crisis impacts every part of life - as does the transformation needed to address it. We provide access to global climate discourse and support journalists in integrating this crucial topic into their daily reporting.

10 - Focus Area “Decolonization & Exile”

Deeply rooted power structures and authoritarian aggression fuel repression, conflict and forced migration. We create safe spaces allowing journalists in exile and elsewhere to reflect and deconstruct colonial narratives.

PROJECTS

Competing Narratives

	
Focus Area	Foreign Reporting
Countries	Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Turkey, Ukraine
Duration	2023–2024
Volume	180,840 €
Sponsor/Client	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Managers	Mila Corlateanu (n-ost), Vigen Sargsyan (MIC)

The "Competing Narratives" project, running from June 2023 to March 2024, has successfully brought together 20 journalists from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Turkey, and Ukraine to focus on integrating editorials and opinion articles into the media landscape of their respective countries. Through a series of workshops and collaborative efforts, this project implemented, together with the [Media Initiatives Center](#) (MIC, Armenia), aims to strengthen the role of opinion pieces in shaping public discourse on international affairs.

The project's first milestone was the offline workshop in Yerevan, held in July 2023. During the three-day event, participants explored the structure and argumentation of op-eds, practiced writing exercises, and engaged with Armenian political scientists to analyse the impact of regional and global geopolitical dynamics on media reporting. A key outcome of the workshop was that participants began producing their own commentaries by the end of July, with the support of experienced mentors assigned to each country.

The second offline workshop, held in October in Tbilisi, focused on cross-border collaboration and content sharing. Participants engaged in sessions discussing the reflection of political developments in Georgian media, led by mentors and guest speakers. A significant portion of this workshop emphasized planning future content exchange and collaboration between the participating newsrooms.

Throughout the project, the participants published dozens of articles in 7 languages (Armenian, Georgian, Romanian, Ukrainian, English, Russian, Turkish) covering a wide range of issues such as security developments, regional conflicts, and international relations. In particular, the publications on Armenia's relations with Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, and Turkey played a key role in bridging the gap in reporting on these critical

topics. The op-eds generated through the project not only provided new perspectives to readers but also increased the engagement of audiences with participating media outlets, helping to boost readership and trust.

Furthermore, the knowledge gained by the participants has been passed on to more than 80 young journalists through additional workshops, ensuring the project's impact reaches beyond the initial group of participants. This knowledge transfer is critical in building capacity within the participating newsrooms, many of which face challenges like staff turnover and limited resources.

As the project moves into its final phase, there are plans for continued content exchange between newsrooms, with a focus on covering topics from diverse perspectives. Competing Narratives has successfully laid the groundwork for a regional network of journalists committed to cross-border collaboration. However, the sustainability of this network will require ongoing support, given the structural challenges that many media organizations in the region face.

Central Asia's Climate Change Reality: Workshop in Dushanbe



Focus Area	Climate Journalism
Countries	Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
Duration	2023
Volume	29,611.75€
Sponsor/Client	Green Central Asia: Transboundary dialogue on climate, environment and security in Central Asia
Project Managers	Iryna Ponedelnik, Angelina Davydova

The workshop "Communicating Climate Crisis: Causes, Pathways, and Solutions in Central Asia" is part of a broader effort to empower Central Asian journalists to report effectively on climate issues. The region is particularly vulnerable to climate change due to its water scarcity, agricultural reliance, and geopolitical challenges. Yet, media coverage in Central Asia often lacks depth due to limited resources, training, and censorship. By strengthening journalistic capacities and fostering cross-border collaboration, this project aims to address information gaps and highlight local climate impacts and solutions, contributing to regional awareness and advocacy.

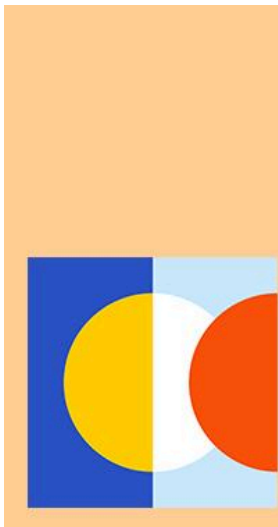
The initiative aligns with our mission to enhance climate communication and foster informed discourse on the climate crisis, which is crucial for local populations and policy decisions. The role of the media is essential in conveying the urgency of the climate crisis and shaping public narratives.

The Dushanbe workshop in June 2023 was offering in-depth training and mentoring to 8 journalists from across the region. Participants explored the causes, pathways, and solutions of the climate crisis, focusing on region-specific challenges such as water resource depletion, agriculture, and security issues.

An important highlight of the workshop was the participation in the IFAS 30th Anniversary Conference, where PIK presented valuable climate data and demonstrated access tools such as their Klimafolgen database. This exposure gave participants firsthand experience with international climate data resources, strengthening their ability to incorporate scientific data into their reporting.

The Dushanbe workshop marked an important step in strengthening climate journalism in Central Asia. Despite some challenges, the participants' enthusiasm and dedication led to substantial achievements, including the development of relevant media projects and the formation of a regional journalist network.

The Europe-Ukraine Desk



Focus Area

Journalism in Ukraine

Countries

Ukraine, Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, France, Spain

Duration

2023–2024

Volume

1,257,949.06€

Sponsor/Client

European Commission

Project Managers

Antonina Rybka, Oksana Mamchenkova

The Europe-Ukraine Desk (EUD) Project aims to enhance European media coverage of Ukraine, while amplifying Ukrainian voices and perspectives through cross-border cooperation. In 2023, the project kicked off with a study visit to Kyiv, where 18 journalists from EU countries explored the war-torn city. Despite heavy shelling in May, they spent a week gaining insights into Ukraine's media landscape and making the first network connections.

In early June, 12 Ukrainian journalists continued the journey to Berlin, Brussels, and Paris, meeting newsrooms like Deutschlandfunk, Tagesspiegel, Politico, and Radio France, as well as EU high officials. After the summer break, the group resumed in September, visiting Budapest, Rome, Sofia, and Madrid, engaging with over 10 newsrooms and dozens of journalists.

Meanwhile, the [Kyiv Media Hub](#) launched in May 2023 as a monthly series for Ukrainian journalists and international correspondents. Four discussions at Urban Space 500 in Kyiv featured prominent journalists who addressed topics like multiple perspectives, risks, challenges, and ethics in war reporting.

While on this journey, the experiences were documented in the *Covering Ukraine* podcast, where listeners can hear reflections from the study visits and professional discussions on what it's like to be a journalist covering Ukraine. The first three episodes were available by the year's end.

In October, the EUD team launched *What About Ukraine*, a newsletter that reviews Ukraine's coverage in Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, and Spain, and sheds light on key debates in Ukraine via translated articles. Since then, it has been weekly delivered to over 500 recipients – all journalists within the EUD network. Lastly, the connections formed through the project have led to cross-border publications supported by our grant programme. The programme backed four projects by the year's end – and will be 35 by the end of 2024..

European Focus



Focus Area	European Public Spheres
Countries	Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Duration	2022–2024
Volume	245,000€
Sponsor/Client	Creative Europe
Project Managers	Alexandra Zeitlin, Judith Fiebelkorn

The European Focus was n-ost's pilot project to explore collaboration between newsrooms. We set up a consortium of nine renowned news organisations and developed workflows for the joint production of a weekly newsletter with the common goal of strengthening European coverage by adding new perspectives to current debates.

The consortium consisted of Delfi (EST), Domani (ITA), Gazeta Wyborcza (POL), El Confidencial (ESP), hvg (HUN), Libération (FRA), Balkan Insight (BiH), Tagesspiegel (GER) and n-ost.

The journalists met every week to discuss current issues of European relevance. Together they decided on the topic of the week's newsletter and the different angles and formats of the five texts. Responsibility for the editorial process was shared among the consortium partners through a system of rotating editors-in-chief. In addition, the editorial process was supported by Editorial Co-ordinators, a new position in journalism and one that is crucial for collaborative media production.

In total, 63 issues of the European Focus newsletter were published between September 2022 and February 2024. The content was republished in Spanish, Italian, French, German and Estonian with an audience of 10,000 subscribers.

Through this experience, we learned about the challenges and pitfalls that can arise when journalists from such different (cultural and regional) backgrounds come together to work jointly. But we also experienced a stimulating, inspiring and productive collaboration. With the funding provided, we would like to extend and expand this project to create a truly European journalism and to spread awareness of the need for cooperation between newsrooms.

euro topics	
Focus Area	European Public Spheres
Countries	EU, Great Britain, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine
Duration	2021–2027 (started first in 2008)
Volume	6 million.
Sponsor/Client	German Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung bpb)
Project Managers	Judith Fiebelkorn

The euro|topics press review reflects the diversity of opinion in Europe and builds bridges between different media landscapes. We take debates out of their national context and promote discourse across borders, language barriers and filter bubbles.

28 correspondents monitor the media in 32 countries, the in-house editorial team curates and edits the newsletter and a team of social media editors distributes the content on Instagram, X, Whatsapp and Telegram.

The newsletter is published Monday to Friday in English, French, German, Russian and Turkish.

We took part in the b^ofuture festival for constructive journalism in Bonn and the Turkey-Europe Future Forum in Istanbul to promote euro|topics and strengthen the debate in the European public sphere. In Bonn, we organised a panel discussion with our correspondents from Russia, Hungary, Poland and Italy on European media debates in times of war. Festival visitors and Bonn residents also had the opportunity to meet our correspondents and talk to them about their respective countries and media landscapes. At the Turkey Europe Future Forum in Istanbul, an annual conference for young leaders in the EU and Turkey, we discussed with participants the coverage of Turkey in the European media and mutual stereotypes. We also organised sessions at the College of Europe in Bruges and ELTE University in Budapest. These were pilots for a series of collaborations with academic institutions where we meet with audiences and discuss European issues.

In 2023, the number of subscriptions to all language versions of the newsletter exceeded 40,000 for the first time. We also reached 490,000 people per month with our content on social media.

Fight for Facts!



Focus Area	Journalism in Ukraine, (Dis)Information
Countries	Ukraine
Duration	2023-2027
Volume	944,427.79 €
Sponsor/Client	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Managers	Kateryna Kovalenko, Alyona Vyshnytska

Fight for Facts is a joint project of n-ost, [Lviv Media Forum](#) (Lviv) and [Institute of Mass Information](#) (Kyiv), that aims at supporting regional media in Ukraine in their fight against fake news and disinformation.

Since the project launched in November 2023, 16 regional newsrooms from all over Ukraine had been selected to take part in it. Over the next 3 years, the participating media will be attending offline and online professional training, receiving mini-grants and individual mentoring, taking part in week-long media camps, learning English and networking at the annual Lviv Media Forum, the largest media conference in Central and Eastern Europe. The FFF project aims at strengthening the capacity of the regional media in Ukraine and helping them become even more valuable and trustworthy sources of information in their regions.

Online journalism, in-depth



ndepth

Focus Area	Climate journalism, (Dis)Information
Countries	Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine
Duration	2021-2024
Volume	1,074,391.64 €
Sponsor/Client	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Managers	Anneke Hudalla, Iryna Ponedelnik

Strengthening their journalistic profile and their financial viability – this is the goal being pursued by 12 online media from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine in our first multi-year project *Online journalism, in-depth*. The participating media outlets are working together in groups of four on the topics of climate change, health and information society.

In this way, a total of 10 long publications were produced in 2023, which dealt, for example, with the consequences of the Russian war of aggression for energy and health care in Ukraine, but also in neighbouring countries.

In four webinars, participants had the opportunity to discuss with experts the future of nuclear power in Europe and the challenges that climate change poses for agriculture, urban planning and healthcare. Finally two three-day offline workshops, to which we were able to invite a total of 25 journalists to Tbilisi (May) and Vienna (November), revealed how climate change can be told and explained in true-to-life stories: While the population of the Georgian capital is suffering from the fact that the city administration has sold a green area close to the city that is important for the supply of cold air to construction investors, a guided tour of Vienna's Seestadt Aspern offered an impression of what climate-friendly housing, living and working could look like in the future. A project evaluation we had carried out by external evaluators in summer 2023 provided us with fundamental and valuable insights how to constantly improve when designing multi-year projects. We received a lot of praise by the participants, especially for the opportunities the project offers in terms of networking and cross-border cooperation: 'It's like a big editorial process, it's really good, new energy, new feelings,' said one participant in an interview with the evaluators. 'When we plan our next article, we help each other to find a topic and angles, how we need to report, and sources, and everything.' And another added: 'The contact with other journalists is my biggest asset in this project. I've found great colleagues, I've learnt a lot and they have amazing experiences in their countries.'

Research Prize for Eastern Europe



Focus Area	Foreign Reporting
Countries	post-communist European countries
Duration	ongoing, annual award
Volume	7,000 €
Sponsor/Client	Renovabis & Hoffnung für Osteuropa (Diakonie Württemberg)
Project Managers	Anneke Hudalla

Germany has close political, economic and social ties with Eastern Europe. However, press reporting does not reflect this close connection: if the media can afford permanent correspondents at all, they are usually responsible for large areas covering several countries. The Research Prize for Eastern Europe (Recherchepreis Osteuropa) aims to remedy this situation.

Every year, a jury of renowned journalists and the donor organisations awards a research grant of 7,000 euros for one or more publication projects. Funding is awarded to articles that provide a deep insight into the social realities of life in Central and Eastern Europe beyond common stereotypes.

In 2023, the jury chose two projects with very different regional and thematic focuses: In his reportage 'Wenn Adler flügge werden', Kolja Haaf accompanied the Estonian *Kaitseliit*, a volunteer association of the Estonian military, in which men and women are trained for defence, which has become very popular since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In their report 'Kleine Schritte in Armenien', Irina Peter and Arthur Bauer show how the situation of women with disabilities is improving. Just a few years ago, Armenian women were advised to place a child with a disability in an institution immediately after birth. However, many civil society projects are now enabling a life beyond stigmatisation and discrimination.

The award ceremony took place on 29 September 2023 as part of a festive event to mark the 30th anniversary of *Hoffnung für Osteuropa* in Stuttgart.

Spheres of Influence Uncovered



Focus Area	Investigative Journalism
Countries	Georgia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan,
Duration	2022–2025
Volume	1,077,426.55 €
Sponsor/Client	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Managers	Jacob Mardell, Lara Rindt, Mila Corlăteanu, Markus Niedobitek

Spheres of Influence Uncovered is a three-year cross-border media initiative that unites talented journalists from seven countries across Eurasia. Our focus is on exploring the intersection of economic cooperation and geopolitical competition. We examine foreign investment, trade, infrastructure projects, and their broader international implications, highlighting stories that connect local impacts with global significance.

The project is driven by the understanding that Eurasia has entered a period of intensified geopolitical competition. In this environment, economic cooperation is a key tool used by competing powers to enhance their international influence. However, discussions on these topics are often limited in the seven countries where our project operates. To address this gap and foster public discourse, we aim to strengthen local journalism by building the capacity of journalists, promoting quality coverage, and creating a cross-regional network of media professionals through both offline events and collaborative cross-border storytelling.

Spheres of Influence Uncovered prioritises data journalism and cross-border collaboration. A central goal of the project is to build economic literacy among journalists and encourage the creation of data-driven stories that make complex economic topics accessible to a broader audience. We believe that issues like Chinese foreign direct investment are best understood through cross-border collaboration, and bringing together journalists from diverse regions is key.

Our project focuses on data journalism and collaborative journalism. A key aim of the project is to build economic literacy among participant journalists and encourage data-driven stories that make complex economic phenomena more accessible to audiences. We believe that topics like Chinese foreign direct investment are best understood through cross-border collaboration and so a key focus of this project is also to bring journalists from different regions together.

In 2023, we organised three successful offline events:

- **February 2023 in Tbilisi, Georgia:** Our team met for the first time, with 17 journalists receiving training in data visualisation, digital security, and storytelling. A final workshop mapped synergies between participants' regions and interests. Most importantly, the event provided an invaluable opportunity for participants from different regions to forge lifelong professional connections.
- **May 2023 in Batumi, Georgia:** Originally planned for Central Asia, we relocated the event to Georgia due to insurmountable visa challenges. Journalists participated in workshops focused on brainstorming cross-border stories and developing pitches. Despite initial difficulties forming cross-border teams, the event led to the publication of several successful collaborative stories.
- **September 2023 in Budva, Montenegro:** This final workshop brought participants together for training in open-source intelligence techniques, led by award-winning data journalist Carolyn Thompson. The location was chosen to accommodate visa-free travel for Central Asian participants, marking their first visit to the Western Balkans. By the end of the project, including a scheduled event for 2024 in Uzbekistan, all participants will have been able to visit each other's respective regions.

Throughout 2023, we not only provided valuable capacity-building and networking opportunities but also supported the publication of 25 stories. These included six cross-border collaborations and 13 data-driven pieces, surpassing the goals outlined in our project plan.

Unit



Focus Area	Feminism & LGBTQ+
Countries	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Ukraine
Duration	2023
Volume	141,000 €
Sponsor/Client	German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt)
Project Managers	Vika Biran, Saltanat Shoshanova

Unit supports quality journalism on LGBTQ+ topics in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and South Caucasus. The year 2023 was marked by significant political changes, armed conflicts, and growing pressure on media freedom in many countries of the region. Against this backdrop, Unit focused on connecting journalists across borders and helping to share diverse queer perspectives.

In 2023, Unit:

1. supported the creation of 36 original stories, with help of its media partners, in various formats, including long-reads, short documentaries and podcasts, within three tematical issues: Decolonisation, The Personal is Political, and Art and Culture.
2. published the articles digitally and as a print collection called "Queer Stories for Central Asia, Eastern Europe and South Caucasus," featuring a range of voices from the region.
3. organized a get-together in Krakow, Poland, where 28 people came together to learn, share ideas, and plan future collaborations.
4. hosted online Kitchen Talks for informal discussions about the published works, participated at offline public events to present the printed collection and the documentaries supported within the project.

We faced some hurdles along the way, like increased state control and limits on content about LGBTQ+ people in several countries. Despite this, Unit managed to connect journalists, facilitate expertise sharing, and provide support for their work – for heightened visibility and support of the queer community and ultimately for a more inclusive and informed societal discourse. We translated the resulting articles into English to bring these stories to a global audience.

Despite the project ending in 2023, journalists continue using the networking resources like Unit's Telegram group for collaboration, sharing their work and looking for expertise.

European Images



**EUROPEAN
IMAGES**

Focus Area	Documentary Photography
Countries	Germany, Poland, Romania
Duration	2021–2023
Volume	€49,770
Sponsor/Client	Allianz Foundation
Project Managers	Stefan Günther, Matthias Jochmann

In the face of complex realities, documentary photography, like text-based journalism, increasingly demands a dialogic, collaborative, and transnational way of working. European Images brings together photographers and publishers from all over Europe. The result of this collaboration is a bi-weekly European photographic newsletter publication. The documentary images of the photographers involved are at the core of it. Moreover we organized meetings of photographers and open events on documentary photography. For instance, shortly after the beginning of the war in Ukraine **European Images** invited three photographers with different backgrounds and approaches for an online event. They shared their very personal views and approaches in very emotional statements and they showed images and explained the background.

The project was implemented mostly in 2022 but three follow up newsletters, including [Family](#), [Body](#) and [Future](#) were published in 2023.

Next Station Ukraine



Focus Area	Documentary Photography
Countries	Ukraine, Germany, Czech Republic
Duration	2022-ongoing
Volume	80,000 €
Sponsor/Client	German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt), ZEIT-Stiftung, Center for Civic Education Berlin (Berliner Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung)
Project Managers	Anastasiia Anisimova, Stefan Günther

Images from the Ukrainian subways, used as shelters during Russian attacks, were on display in the subway stations of European cities. Public space exhibitions, raising awareness about the war in Ukraine, took place in Germany, Czech Republic and the UK.

On commercial billboards people saw images of ordinary Ukrainians hiding in Kyiv and Kharkiv underground from Russian rockets while trying to maintain their everyday life there. It is not a campaign, but rather our attempt to find another medium for documentary photography. We work with Ukrainian and international photographers who contributed their images to the exhibitions: Maxim Dondyuk (Ukraine), Pavel Dorogoy (Ukraine), Serhii Korovayny (Ukraine), Viacheslav Ratynski (Ukraine), Jędrzej Nowicki (Poland) and Emile Duce (Germany).

In 2023, we organized exhibitions in Prague, Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne and Dusseldorf. We had also been working on the exhibition in London that opened in the beginning of 2024. We had media coverage in nearly 50 German and further European media and reached 200,000 people in almost every city we did exhibitions.

n-ost hub for border-crossing journalism



Focus Area	Networking Journalism
Countries	Germany
Duration	June–December 2023
Volume	50,000 €
Sponsor/Client	JX Fund
Project Managers	Lara Rindt

The **n-ost hub for border-crossing journalism** was created to provide a collaborative environment for media professionals, especially exiled journalists from Eastern Europe, to strengthen independent journalism. Throughout 2023, we organized and hosted over 12 events, including kitchen talks, panel discussions, film screenings, and podcasting workshops. The events encouraged both formal and informal exchanges, offering participants a chance to discuss critical issues such as decolonizing journalism and cross-border media collaboration.

In addition to these networking opportunities, the hub provided workspace and a production facility, allowing journalists to produce content, share expertise, and strengthen their networks. The hub's coworking space and technical infrastructure were used by media professionals from different countries, many of whom had to flee into exile from their home countries. Over 10 episodes of the X3 Podcast, which promotes critical dialogue with diverse migrant communities and fosters active participation in the post-migrant discourse, were produced in the n-ost Hub.

Starting in November 2024, the hub will begin hosting regular monthly events, providing ongoing opportunities for collaboration. This time, it will be open not only to media professionals, but also to a wider Berlin audience, inviting the public to engage with journalists and participate in important discussions. The space will continue to serve as a hub for both media production and networking, ensuring that the international journalism community in Berlin remains vibrant and connected.

Going Environmental



Focus Area

Climate Journalism

Countries

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia

Duration

2022–2023

Volume

190,945.26 €

Sponsor/Client

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Project Managers

Elizaveta Kucherova, Markus Niedobitek

The 'Going Environmental' project aimed to strengthen independent local and regional media in the Western Balkans by training journalists in climate journalism. It was carried out in close cooperation with the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN). One of the main objectives was to enrich the public debate on environmental and climate issues in the region through informed and independent reporting. Participants were able to test their skills in cross-border collaboration and produce valuable journalistic material that provides a regional perspective on the region's environmental problems.

As part of the project, several teams were formed to tackle pressing environmental issues such as river pollution, the impact of industry and waste management. Through an intensive mentoring programme and regular meetings, including two workshops in Ohrid (North Macedonia) and Kolašin (Montenegro), the participants were able to refine their story ideas and develop high-quality reports together.

There were several collaborations with actors working on climate issues, including local NGOs such as *SOS Ohrid* and *MANS*. This cooperation was seen as inspiring by the participants as they had the opportunity to exchange views on local and global environmental issues. The final event in Sarajevo promoted networking with representatives of state institutions, NGOs and international organisations such as *WWF Adria* and *Clean Energy Wire*.

The project resulted in numerous publications that attracted both local and international attention. It not only promoted the exchange of knowledge and experience among the journalists, but also their networking at a European level. This strengthened the base for long-term cooperation that ensures sustainable and high-quality reporting on climate issues in the region.

Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative (ifa-Stipendium)

Focus Area	Exile & Decolonisation
Countries	Germany
Duration	2022–2023
Volume	34,589.28 €
Sponsor/Client	Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa)
Project Managers	Elizaveta Kucherova, Hannah Guhlmann, Markus Niedobitek

The initiative is named after the politician and lawyer Dr. Elisabeth Selbert (1896-1986). As one of four women to contribute to the German constitution, called the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany, she is also known as one of 'the Mothers of the Basic Law'.

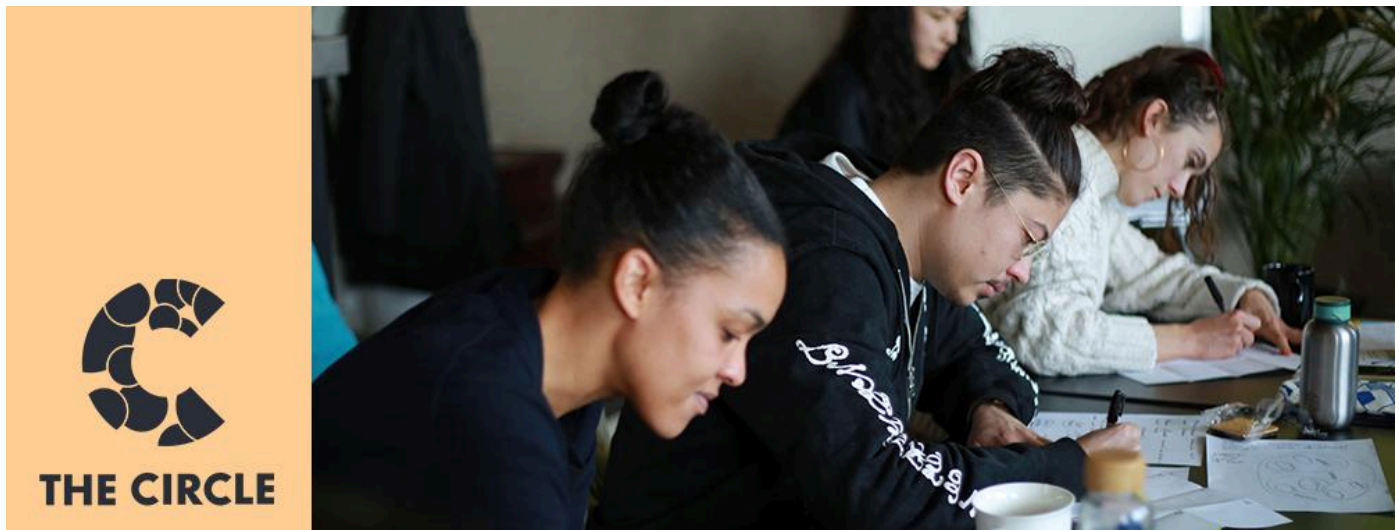
Designed as a 'temporary protection stay', the ifa-Stipendium supported a vulnerable human rights defender, a journalist from Central Asia who is to remain anonymous due to the special risk situation, by providing him with a monthly stipend during his stay in Germany. During the six-month funding period, the journalist was able to develop his professional skills, build valuable personal and professional networks and, most importantly, work in a safe environment free from threats. Despite the initial temporary nature of the protection stay in Germany, he was eventually offered the opportunity to extend his stay and obtain a longer-term residence permit as a freelance journalist.

Taking part in English language courses enabled him to significantly improve his English language skills, which helped him greatly in his professional activities, such as attending workshops and travelling, as well as in his general integration in Germany. He also took a German course at his own request to help him cope with everyday life in Germany.

Another focus of the project was vocational training and a practical workshop on the use of social media in a journalistic context was organised. This helped him to develop his skills in an area that is becoming increasingly important for his work. He also took part in two networking trips with leading journalists, human rights organisations and decision-makers in Prague and Brussels. These trips enabled him to make valuable contacts that opened up new perspectives.

Ultimately, the project went beyond the original temporary nature of the Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative and paved the way for him to stay in Germany. This outcome highlights the potential for such initiatives to provide lasting support, but also the need to critically assess the limitations of a temporary stay for at-risk human right defenders.

The Circle



Focus Area	Networking Journalism
Countries	Georgia, Portugal, France, Lithuania, Sweden, Romania, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Duration	2022–2024
Volume	142,283.25 €
Sponsor/Client	Creative Europe
Project Manager	Lara Rindt

The Circle was a European media collaboration project designed to foster cross-border relationships among media makers. It sought to address the unique challenges faced by small, independent media makers and outlets and to explore innovative approaches to media production and dissemination.

Are We Europe in partnership with *n-ost*, *Hostwriter*, and *Arty Farty* organised *Design Sprints* in eight different European cities. Over a two-week period, participants in each city worked together with the Circle Consortium to design solutions to the needs and challenges of the local media landscape. Each Design Sprint was followed by a 3-month mentoring period with one of the Circle partners. *n-ost* was the mentoring organisation for the Tbilisi and Vilnius Hubs and partner organisation in Lyon and Gothenburg.

In all eight cities the teams of media makers continue working together and six of them founded NGOs.

- **Marea Media** (Naples) seeks to improve the reporting and the situation of local journalists in the Mediterranean area
- **Collectif Estafette** (Lyon) empower underrepresented communities to share their stories by making tools and resources available to them
- **Gothenburg Media Hub** is a network of media professionals who want to connect and learn from each other and work together to improve the working conditions of journalists
- **Publika** (Belgrade) addresses distrust and dissatisfaction with the media through immersive storytelling experiences and direct interaction between journalists and their audiences
- **Co-media** (Cluj) is a network of journalists who believe that joining forces in collaboration is a way to improve their work and their working conditions
- **Vilnius Circle** connects local media professionals and grassroots initiatives and run a community-driven online catalogue of local culture platforms

- **Press Allies Society** (Tbilisi) seeks to facilitate exchange between Georgian and European journalists to improve the quality of local media and of international reporting on Georgia
- **A Sementeira** (Porto) is a slow journalism platform publishing in-depth dossiers on local issues

The Eurasian Climate Brief



Focus Area	Climate Journalism
Countries	Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Caucasus
Duration	2022-2023, 2024
Volume	20,000 €
Sponsor/Client	European Climate Foundation
Project Managers	Angelina Davydova, Boris Schneider, Anneke Hudalla

The Eurasian Climate Brief is a podcast focussing on climate news in the region stretching from Eastern Europe and Russia down to the Caucasus and Central Asia. It aims to give a voice to the best experts and journalists, enabling them to make sense of a part of the world where environmental news is seriously underreported. The podcast was launched in late October 2021. This podcast is supported by n-ost and The European Climate Foundation.

In 2022-2023 our podcast contributed to bringing several country-specific topics that are nonetheless highly important beyond the national border to a – mostly – Western audience: renewables in Albania, air pollution in Serbia, climate migration in several Central Asian countries and carbon market fraud in Bulgaria. In addition to that, we dedicated our efforts to a systematic documentation of the environmental effects of the Russian full-scale invasion on Ukraine across several episodes and brought the relevance of COP 27 for our show's region to the limelight.

The most popular episodes of our project were clearly the ones focusing on the environmental toll of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and those on COP27. Naturally, well-established guests, such as Robert Muggah (or in an episode outside of the funding period, Thane Gustafson) helped us put the podcast on the map and attract greater audiences.

In 2023, six episodes of the podcast were released:

- 2022's top Eurasian climate stories in review
- One year of full-scale war in Ukraine
- Not a breath of fresh air: Pollution in Serbia
- After the ban: which way forward for Russia's climate activists?
- Displaced: climate migration in Central Asia and beyond
- How one Bulgarian tycoon could get away with gaming the EU's carbon market

Since mid-2023 the podcast has been on a pause, due to be relaunched in November 2024.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

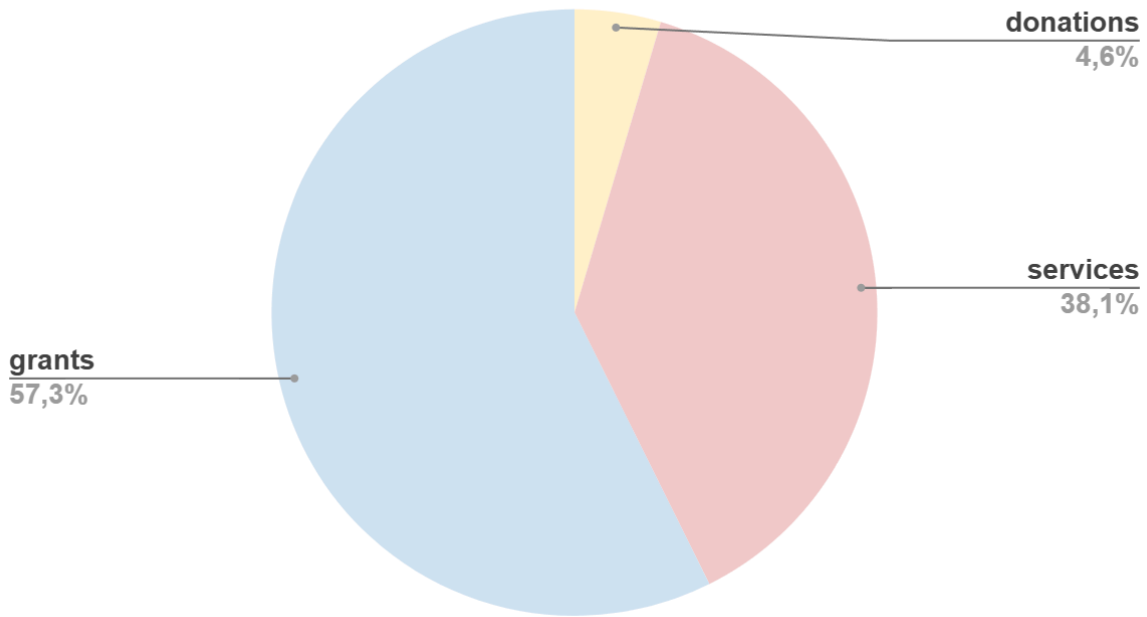
Reserves & Turnover

	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Income	€1.718.724	€1.890.393	€3.092.521	€3.242.945
Donations	€76.936	€60.305	€351.977	€149.302
Services	€1.036.861	€1.105.990	€1.151.366	€1.233.945
- Ministry for the Interior (BMI)	€967.290	€1.060.479	€1.107.158	€1.189.712
- other orders	€69.571	€45.511	€44.208	€44.233
Grants	€587.775	€724.098	€1.589.177	€1.859.698
- Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	€232.199	€502.351	€681.325	€952.348
- European Commission (EU)	€0	€0	€203.436	€600.816
- German Foreign Office (AA)	€334.703	€207.277	€369.133	€202.969
- other sources (e.g. IX Fund, Allianz Kulturstiftung, Foundation for German-Polish Cooperation, et al)	€20.873	€14.470	€335.283	€103.564

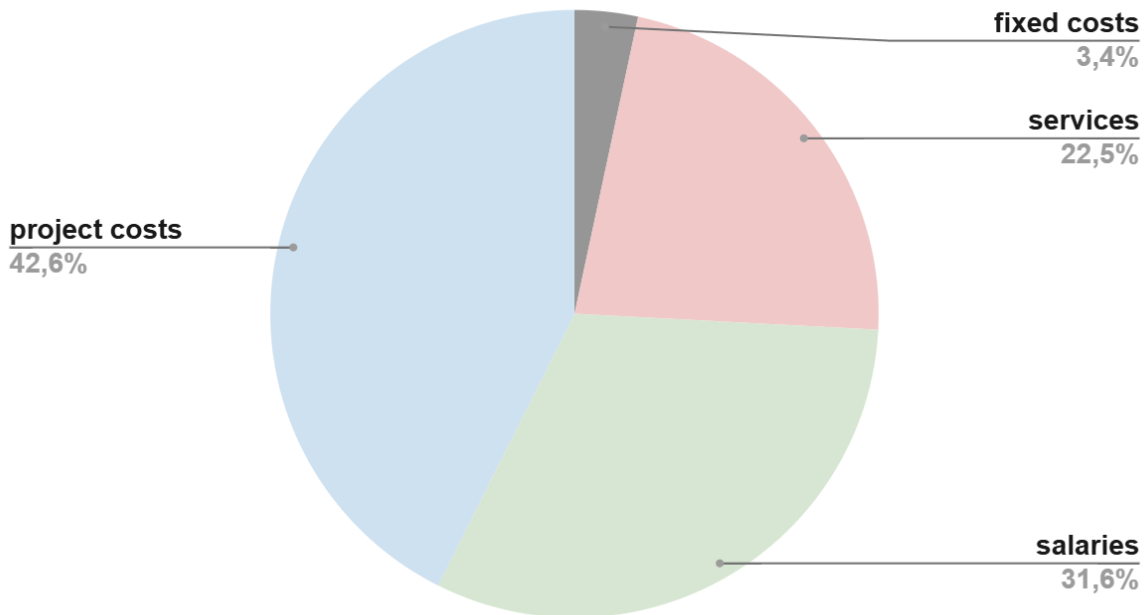
Expenditures	€1.835.348	€1.920.615	€2.769.277	€3.064.393
Labor costs	€714.285	€779.949	€689.517	€966.940
Office rent and other fixed costs	€87.398	€115.196	€90.489	€102.925
Services (without labor & fixed costs)	€757.681	€561.949	€706.924	€688.831
Project costs (without labor & fixed costs)	€276.984	€463.521	€1.282.347	€1.305.697

TOTAL	-€116.624	-€30.221	€323.244	€178.552
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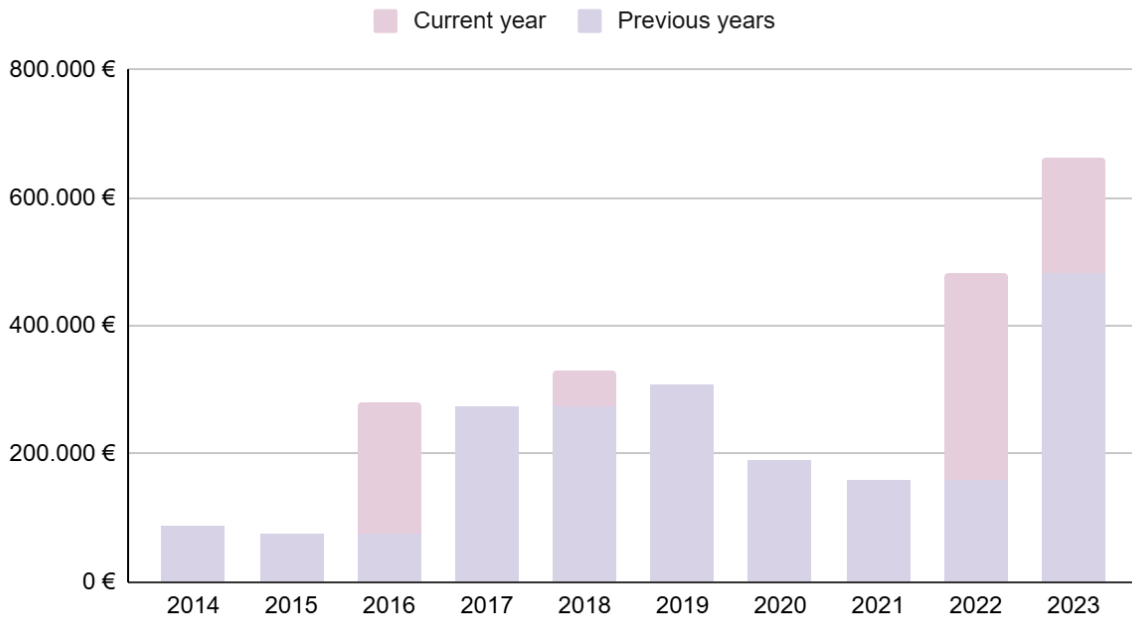
Income 2023



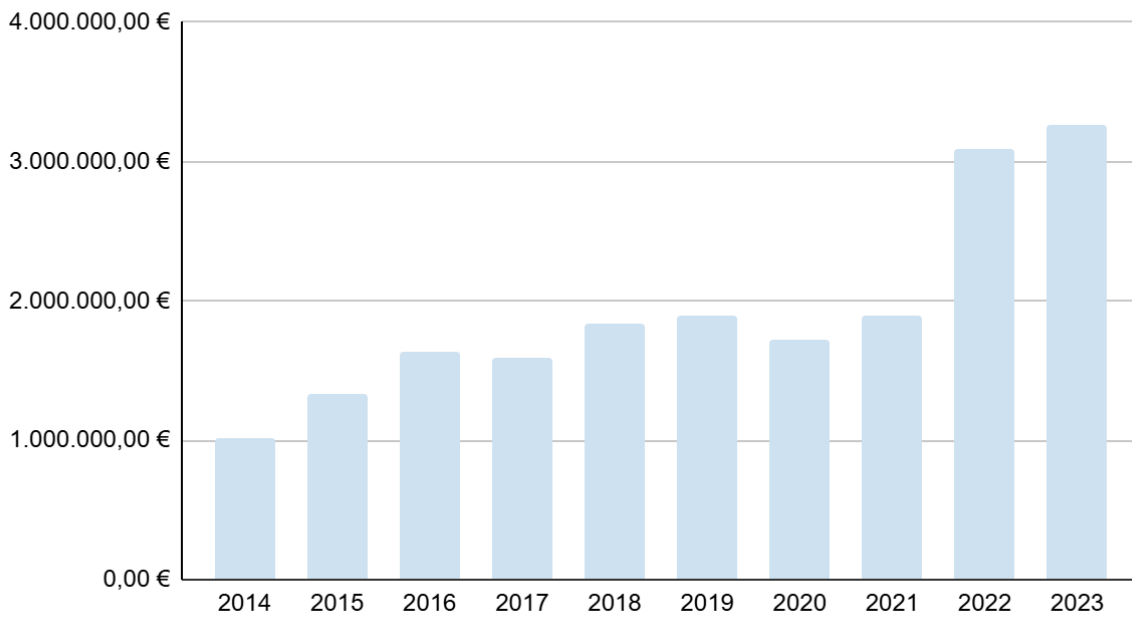
Expenditure 2023



Reserves



Turnover



Financial Situation and Outlook

n-ost's growth over the past years reflects the quality and dedication of our work and underscores the impact we have in our endeavour to strengthen journalists and media across Europe.

n-ost relies mainly on European and German state funding which is both a chance and a challenge.

To maintain **financial stability** and reduce risks we invest in the further diversification of our financial sources by fostering relationships with non-state donors and focusing on both small and large private donations.

To safeguard our **editorial independence** we

- are on a path to further strengthening the diversity of our finances (s. above)
- ensure transparency about funding sources
- follow strict guidelines to secure complete editorial independence

These efforts align with our vision of a multi-perspective, border-crossing journalism that bridges, divides and enriches European discourse.

FACTS & FIGURES

- **founding year and place**
n-ost has been registered as a non profit association in Berlin in January 2006
- **registered address**
n-ost e.V., Alexandrinenstr. 2-3/C, 10969 Berlin, Germany
- **latest note from the Berlin tax office confirming n-ost's tax privileged non-profit status**
9.8.2024
- **elected board members**
Maxim Edwards, Tamina Kutscher, Oleksandr Palikot, Anastasia Rodi, Zoltan Sipos
- **elected cash auditor**
Annett Müller
- **managing director**
Hanno Gundert
- **staff members (full-time and part time) in 2023**
29
- **students' work contracts in 2023**
2
- **We do not have any legal organizational involvements with third parties, no for-profit activities and no legal ties to any other partner organizations**



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