



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Editorial

Dear friends
and supporters

In shaky times few things are more stabilizing than connections: They are the fabric that democratic societies are built on, they open up new perspectives, they make those connected stronger. Europe needs those connections in the light of challenges that no country can face alone – just as much as we, individual citizens, need them to reach beyond our bubbles and polarized debates.

Weaving those threads, bringing together journalists and media across the continent is at the heart of the n-ost mission. By creating spaces and channels for collaboration and joint research we work towards a more integrated European media sphere. We transcend our national perspectives, share lessons between East and West, explore the tensions between periphery and centre.

In 2024 we continued to pursue that mission: In the face of Russia's ongoing aggression our priority was to reach out to those under attack and those whose democracies are at risk: We enabled editors and freelancers from many countries to conduct on the ground research for their stories in Ukraine and Georgia (REPORTING TOGETHER and REPORTING CHANGE p. 20 & 21). We initiated a long-term project enabling 16 local Ukrainian media outlets to share best practice and learn from each other (FIGHT FOR FACTS p. 11). We provided numerous collaborative research grants to journalists in the South Caucasus, Central Asia and the Balkans (p. 06).

We also continued to explore and develop a genuinely European journalism: Every work day our editors curated media commentaries from across the continent, mapping the full range of political opinions (SOI, 4CA, IN-DEPTH, COMPETING NARRATIVES, HISTORY UNIT . p. 23 & 06 & 14 & 07 & 13). Together with nine European media outlets we produced a weekly multi-perspective newsletter (EURO|TOPICS p. 10). In yet another project, we helped journalists deepen their collaboration and expertise on specific issues such as the climate crisis (EUROPEAN FOCUS p. 08).

Last but not least we created spaces for mutual reflection and learning on shared challenges: In Kyiv and Berlin we continued to host our regular discussions on journalism (kitchen talks, EUD p. 15 & 09). We also facilitated conversations on queer journalism in homophobic environments and prompted an intensive, two day dialogue between journalists from Belarus and Ukraine in Warsaw (HISTORY UNIT p. 13)

A more connected European journalism helps us navigate this shaky world – but it is itself under pressure. In August 2025 n-ost the Russian Ministry of Justice declared n-ost “undesirable”. We also became the target of obscure, Russia-friendly, conspiracy platforms in Germany. As a consequence we now have to worry more than before about the safety of the journalists we work with. These challenges only deepen the commitment to our mission.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Aleksander Palikot (board member)
Hanno Gundert (managing director)

Focus areas

Current and recurrent issues: We cover topics of relevance. n-ost is active in ten focus areas.

1 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 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 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 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 (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 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 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 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 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.



Stronger than Bombs



n-ost media hub



Communicating Climate in Central Asia



Next Station Ukraine



PULSE.
Europe beyond the beat



The Europe-Ukraine Desk



Fight for Facts



Competing Narratives



Reporting Change
(Research Trip to Georgia)



Spheres of Influence
Uncovered



reporting together



n-ost kitchen talks



History Unit



euro|topics



Online journalism,
in-depth
(photo: Vakho Kareli)

Communicating Climate in Central Asia

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Focus Area | Climate Journalism |
| Countries | Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan |
| Duration | 2024–2027 |
| Volume | 1.013.027,61 € |
| Sponsor/Client | Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) |
| Project Manager | Iryna Ponedelnik |

In 2024, we launched Communicating Climate in Central Asia: A Network of Experts and Journalists to Promote Climate Action. The project is dedicated to strengthening climate journalism in Central Asia by addressing critical gaps in resources and training that journalists in the region face. Its goal is to empower climate journalists and communicators with the skills to present scientific information clearly and compellingly to the wider public.

Freelancers from Central Asia are the main target group. Within three months of the publication call in 2024, we supported 32 articles and 7 podcast episodes. A three-day training on Climate Journalism and Communication (12–14 September 2024 in Almaty) brought together 36 journalists and communicators from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. A second workshop is planned for April 2025 for participants from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The project also enabled international exposure: four journalists attended COP29 in Baku, where they spent a week reporting directly from the Blue Zone.

A key element of the project is the development of the communEECCA network, designed to foster collaboration across the region. By the end of 2024, the network included 46 journalists and communicators from across the EECCA region, creating a foundation for stronger, interconnected climate reporting in Central Asia.

Competing Narratives

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

Over the period from June 2023 to March 2024, the „Competing Narratives“ project engaged 17 journalists from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Turkey, and Ukraine to enhance the prominence of editorials and opinion content in their media outlets. The project’s activities in 2024 covered the first three months of the year and continued to build on the previous work and aimed to strengthen the role of opinion pieces in shaping public discourse on international and regional affairs. Implemented in cooperation with the Media Initiatives Center (MIC, Armenia), the project provided targeted support and training to journalists across the participating countries.

17 journalists produced a total of 274 contributions, which were published by more than 20 national and international media outlets, e.g. Open Democracy, IWPR, Deutsche Welle, and BBC. Although some media outlets (CivilNet, Kisadalga, TVR Moldova, EurasiaNet) already had op-ed sections, the success of the project lies in the fact that participating journalists began producing more opinion pieces, having previously focused on political interviews and field reporting. In this regard, the capacity-building measures fully achieved their objective.

In response to the escalation in Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan’s takeover the project team managed to reallocate funds and support production of additional content on security developments and Armenia’s relations with Azerbaijan, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, and other key actors. Four leading Caucasus media outlets – Aravot Daily, CivilNet, Aliq Media, and JamNews – published 48 articles in Armenian, English, and Russian. Articles such as Georgian Perspective on Karabakh, Why the EU and USA Cannot Reconcile Yerevan and Baku, and Azerbaijani IDPs Return to Karabakh reached over 20,000 direct website views, nearly 55,000 on social media, and triggered up to 20,000 interactions. CivilNet articles like 2 Years of War in Ukraine: What Should the South Caucasus Expect Now? received more than 25,000 social media views each.

The project also commissioned the Yerevan Press Club to study the role of opinion pieces in the Armenian media landscape. Results were published on the MIC website in English and Armenian and presented at the project’s final event.

European Focus

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Focus Area | European Public Spheres |
| Countries | Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine |
| Duration | 2022–2024 |
| Volume | 245,000 € |
| Sponsor/Client | Creative Europe Programme of the EU Commission |
| Project Manager | Alexandra Zeitlin, Judith Fiebelkorn |

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. Babel from Ukraine was an associated partner.

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 Coordinators, 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. At the same time we experienced a stimulating, inspiring and productive collaboration.

If funding is provided, we would like to extend and expand this project, creating an even stronger network of newsrooms across Europe. This network would work together to tackle the challenges facing journalism and explore new formats for genuinely European journalism.

The Europe-Ukraine Desk

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Focus Area | Journalism in Ukraine |
| Countries | Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Ukraine |
| Duration | 2023–2025 |
| Volume | 1,197,578 € |
| Sponsor/Client | European Commission |
| Project Manager | Antonina Rybka, Oksana Mamchenkova |

The Europe-Ukraine Desk set out to strengthen media coverage of Ukraine by fostering cross-border collaboration among journalists, deepening their expertise, and encouraging joint reporting. This goal came to life through immersive study visits: ahead of the February anniversary of the full-scale invasion, 19 journalists from EU countries visited Kyiv and explored local perspectives. Later, 12 Ukrainian journalists travelled to Budapest, Sofia, Rome, Madrid, Berlin, and Paris, engaging with the national newsrooms and expanding their professional networks.

Collaboration continued through a grant programme. In 2024, 31 projects received up to €5,000 each for stories about Ukraine published in EU media outlets, amplifying Ukrainian voices across Europe. The Desk also nurtured mutual understanding through the “What about Ukraine” newsletter: 47 editions appeared in 2024, offering press reviews from six EU countries, journalist contacts, and weekly translations of thought-provoking Ukrainian articles.

The Kyiv Media Hub remained a vibrant meeting place for Ukrainian and international reporters, hosting six public discussions on topics such as covering occupied territories, or cooperation between Ukrainian and international media, with special panels on discourses in Hungary, Germany, and France. Two workshops helped Ukrainian journalists learn how to pitch and collaborate with Western outlets.

All these experiences found their voice in the “Covering Ukraine” podcast, which released 13 episodes in 2024, capturing the energy, challenges, and shared commitment of those reporting Ukraine to the world.

euro|topics

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Focus Area | European Public Spheres |
| Countries | EU, Great Britain, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine |
| Duration | 2021–2027 (started first in 2008) |
| Volume | 6,000,000 € |
| Sponsor/Client | German Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (bpb)) |
| Project Manager | Judith Fiebelkorn |

The euro|topics press review showcases a variety of perspectives from across Europe, fostering connections between diverse media landscapes. We remove debates from their national context and encourage discussion across borders, language barriers and filter bubbles.

Correspondents monitor the media in thirty-two countries, the in-house editorial team curates and edits the newsletter, a team of translators creates versions in English, French, Turkish and Russian while social media editors distribute the content via Instagram, Bluesky, X, WhatsApp and Telegram.

The newsletter is published Monday to Friday in English, French, German, Russian and Turkish. There are 42,000 subscribers to all language versions combined.

In 2024, we updated the media database on our website, providing audiences with topical information on around 600 outlets.

We participated in the b³future festival for constructive journalism in Bonn, where we organised a panel discussion with our correspondents from Austria, Poland, and Hungary. They discussed the rise of populism, the dangers of deepening societal divisions in their respective countries, and the role of the media.

On the night of the US elections, correspondents from France, Poland, and Ukraine participated in a hybrid event organised by the bpb in Bonn. They informed the audience about media debates on the elections and election campaigns in their respective countries.

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 Manager | Kateryna Kovalenko, Alyona Vyshnytska |

Fight for Facts is a joint project of n-ost, Lviv Media Forum (Lviv) and the Institute of Mass Information (Kyiv), that aims to support regional media in Ukraine in their fight against fake news and disinformation. Launched at the end of 2023, the project entered its first full year of activities in 2024 and quickly delivered visible results.

To meet the needs and requests of the 16 participating outlets, a baseline study was carried out in the first months of the year. Based on its findings, n-ost together with its partners developed a detailed program of activities designed to benefit the media in the most effective way.

Throughout the year, the outlets took part in offline workshops in Lviv, received individual consultations on fundraising and management, and joined webinars on digital security, AI for media, and best SEO practices. They also benefited from regular mini-grants to support content production.

n-ost played a central role in empowering the participating media beyond their daily routines. We launched English classes for journalists from the 16 outlets, opening new opportunities for international cooperation and access to global resources. In addition, n-ost organized two intensive week-long media camps: one focused on reporting on conflicting topics, while the other provided in-depth training and mentoring on investigating war crimes. Thanks to the mentorship program that followed the camps, participants produced 17 original stories that were published in both regional and national media.

Belarus-Ukraine Media Round Table

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Focus Area | Networking Journalism |
| Countries | Belarus, Ukraine |
| Duration | 2024 |
| Volume | - |
| Sponsor/Client | Friedrich Naumann Foundation |
| Project Manager | Antonina Rybka, Nasta Reznikava |

The round table for Ukrainian and Belarusian media, organised with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, was the first attempt to bring together journalists from both countries for a professional exchange. Designed with care amid the political tension and mutual distrust between Ukrainian and Belarusian media communities, it aimed not to repeat the “dialogue formats” widely criticised since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, but to offer a setting for an open and honest discussion.

Recognizing the complexity of Ukrainian–Belarusian relations, n-ost took a deliberate risk by creating space for those ready for an open conversation. Held on 28-29 November 2024 in Warsaw, the meeting brought together Ukrainian journalists from Ukraine and Belarusian journalists working in exile in Poland.

Because of security concerns and possible misinterpretations, participants chose to remain confidential. Over two days, they discussed Ukrainian views of Belarus, the persecution of Belarusian journalists, and the realities of working in exile. The program also included a visit to Gazeta Wyborcza and discussions on the broader political landscape, including the 2024 U.S. presidential election.

By the end, participants identified challenges and opportunities for cross-border collaboration and brainstormed joint projects. Despite initial skepticism, many noted the value of taking gradual steps toward improving professional relations between both sides.

History Unit: Reframing Queer Narratives in Media

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|-----------------|--|
| Focus Area | Feminism & LGBTIQ+ |
| Countries | Belarus, Germany, Poland, Ukraine |
| Duration | 2024-2025 |
| Volume | 563,617 € |
| Sponsor/Client | Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ), Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) |
| Project Manager | Vika Biran, Martha Wildenauer |

History Unit connects journalists and activists from Belarus, Germany, Poland, and Ukraine to explore the historical persecution of queer people during the Nazi era and examine contemporary queerphobia through media work. Against the backdrop of Russia's war against Ukraine and increasing anti-LGBTIQ+ sentiment in the region, the project provides tools and knowledge to counteract discrimination through informed reporting.

In 2024, History Unit:

- Conducted two multi-day workshops in Oświęcim/Kraków (June) and Weimar/Berlin (October), bringing together 37 participants. Programs included guided visits to Auschwitz-Birkenau and Buchenwald memorial sites, archival research, and expert sessions with historians and educators covering both historical persecution and contemporary queer issues.
- Supported the creation of 19 publications through 14 collaborative projects in the first funding round (the second round was started and continued into 2025). Output ranged from feature articles and longreads to podcasts, a radio piece, film essays, and social media content, published across a diverse variety of outlets including mainstream ones (taz, Deutschlandfunk, oko press, Hromadske) and specialized media (Missy Magazine, L-Mag, Radio Corax).
- Facilitated lasting professional networks beyond project funding, with participants organizing joint coverage of events such as the QueerMuzeum Warsaw opening and maintaining collaboration through the project's Telegram channel.
- Expanded international reach by translating all materials into English and hosting them on the History Unit platform, making resources accessible for journalists and educators, and promoting them via an Instagram page and a newsletter.

The project successfully connected historical research with contemporary journalism, enabling participants to produce informed content about queer experiences across the region. While reaching Ukrainian applicants remained challenging during wartime, the strong response and continued participant engagement demonstrate the project's relevance in strengthening media coverage of queer histories and current realities.

Online journalism, in-depth

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 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 Manager | Anneke Hudalla, Iryna Ponedelnik |

In 2024, our first multi-year project Online journalism, in-depth came to an end. Over four years, 12 online media outlets from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, and Ukraine collaborated on climate change, health, and the information society. The project produced 108 publications, reaching around 1.7 million views. Assessing its impact on political agendas is complex, as public priorities in the region shifted drastically due to security developments since 2022.

From 27–29 August, 2024 we convened 46 climate journalists from across Eastern Europe and the Caucasus for the project's final conference in Tbilisi, organized by n-ost, Publika, and the Institute of Mass Communication. Its aim was to strengthen journalistic networks on climate, health, and information society.

The program included workshops on climate and war in the Black Sea, climate narratives, local-to-global storytelling, open-source investigations, climate's health impacts, challenges of reporting under repression, and strategies to make climate coverage relevant in newsrooms.

The Charter of the Climate Journalism & Communication Network CAN EECCA, developed in the project, signed by several media outlets, and presented at the conference, has the potential to make climate reporting a hallmark of the participating media in the future.

n-ost kitchen talks

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Focus Area | Networking Journalism |
| Countries | Germany |
| Duration | 2024-2026 |
| Volume | 100,000 € (2024-2026) |
| Sponsor/Client | Deutsche Postcode Lotterie |
| Project Manager | Lara Rindt, Natálie Zehnalová, Marc Bräutigam |

The tradition of kitchen talks arose when at the n-ost conferences, local journalists would invite their international colleagues to continue the discussion in an informal setting of their kitchen or their favourite local establishment. The format has since been adapted to various settings online and offline, maintaining the focus on metajournalistic topics and signature casual atmosphere with refreshments.

In their more recent iteration, the n-ost kitchen talks take place monthly in the n-ost media hub, inviting Berliners to join the conversation on the role, relevance, and responsibility of journalism in a rapidly changing world. We kicked off the event series in November 2024, having returned from the research trip to Georgia where in October contested parliamentary elections took place which sent a former democracy into a steep authoritarian backslide. Together with some of the research trip participants and organisers of the Georgian civil society in diaspora, we discussed possible political developments, the challenges existing and potential new challenges to journalists in the country, as well as the role of Western media in such processes. In 2025, the n-ost kitchen talks branched out in terms of topics, formats, and even locations.

Apart from expert conversations, we presented a newly published book and screened two films, one of which entailed an excursion to Kino Krokodil, an arthouse cinema with focus on Europe's East. The series will continue throughout 2026 to connect journalists with one another and with their audiences.

n-ost media hub

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Focus Area | Networking Journalism |
| Countries | Germany |
| Duration | 2024-2026 |
| Volume | 100,000 € (2024-2026) |
| Sponsor/Client | Deutsche Postcode Lotterie |
| Project Manager | Lara Rindt, Natálie Zehnalová, Markus Niedobitek, Marc Bräutigam |

Established with funding from the JX Fund in 2023, the n-ost media hub continued working throughout 2024 as a place for journalists in Berlin to co-work, network with fellow media professionals, and share their expertise with the broader public at various events. Since autumn 2024 the n-ost media hub is funded by Deutsche Postcode Lotterie.

The n-ost media hub offers work desks, a soundproof phone booth, a meeting room and a production facility with audio and video equipment for individual journalists to use free of charge. We regularly host workshops and network meetings and welcome groups of journalists on research trips to Berlin to meet up with experts and the n-ost team. The podcasting studio continued to be used by the multilingual podcast X3 which shapes the (post)migrant discourse(s) from Europe's East and the wider postsocialist region in Germany.

Since November 2024, the n-ost media hub has hosted monthly public events. The kitchen talk series invites journalists and their audiences to tackle together challenging questions about the role of journalism in the informal setting of our open kitchen. In 2024, we looked at the contested parliamentary elections in Georgia and Moldova between presidential and parliamentary elections.

Next Station Ukraine (Leipzig)

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Focus Area | Documentary Photography |
| Countries | Ukraine |
| Duration | 01.04.2024-01.06.2024 |
| Volume | 15,000 € |
| Sponsor/Client | Zeitstiftung Bucerius |
| Project Manager | Stefan Günther, Anastasia Anisimova |

From 22 May to 28 May 2024, the most exhibition series “Next Station Ukraine” showed pictures from metro stations in Ukrainian cities in three of the underground S-Bahn stations of the City Tunnel in Leipzig. Since the Russian attack began in February 2022, metro stations in Kyiv and Kharkiv have become shelters from missiles and drones.

Following exhibitions in underground stations in Hamburg, Berlin, Prague, Cologne and Düsseldorf in 2023, for one week, the photographs connected everyday life in Germany with the reality in Ukraine.

12 motifs by 4 Ukrainian photographers were displayed on billboards in the public spaces of the S-Bahn stations Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz, Leipzig Central Station, and Bayerischer Bahnhof station. They depicted people who stayed in the subway almost continuously during the first months of the war because it was never clear when the next attacks would come, children playing there and unaware of how dangerous the situation really is, and people waiting together for the attacks to be over.

The exhibition in Leipzig’s public spaces tells the story of the consequences of Russia’s war of aggression for the Ukrainian civilian population in a restrained manner and through contextualization. It reaches a broad and diverse audience in public transport stations, who, in the best case scenario, gain direct access and a new perspective on the events in Ukraine. In addition, brief captions provided information about the situations depicted.

Echoes of the Blitz: Underground shelters in Ukraine and London

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Focus Area | Documentary Photography |
| Countries | Ukraine, UK |
| Duration | March 2024 - April 2025 |
| Volume | - |
| Sponsor/Client | Partnership with London Transport Museum |
| Project Manager | Stefan Günther, Anastasia Anisimova |

Almost exactly two years after the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, n-ost and the London Transport Museum collaborated to open a photographic exhibition about the effects of war on the civilian population.

“Echos of the Blitz” combined current photographic work from Ukraine with historical images from the London Transport Museum’s archives. Photos of Ukrainians sheltering in Metro stations are shown side by side with photos of underground shelters in 1940s London during German bombing raids. In the display, visitors to the London Transport Museum saw recent photography of ordinary Ukrainian citizens in extraordinary circumstances. They are shown sleeping, waiting, cooking, caring for their pets, and creating temporary make-shift homes in Metro stations across Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital, and Kharkiv, its second largest city. These scenes are ‘echoed’ in the black and white archive images of Londoners taking refuge in Tube stations during the Second World War. Both depict harsh conditions, but also show the resistance of the population in not allowing the raids to break them.

The combination of over 70 images in the exhibition puts the historical events in London into a new, contemporary context and gives visitors a new, connected perspective on the current events in Ukraine.

The following photographers provided the images from Ukraine:

Pavlo Dorohoi (UA)
Viacheslav Ratynskyi (UA)
Serhii Korovayny (UA)
Maxim Dondyuk (UA)
Mykhaylo Palinchak (UA)
Emile Ducke (DE)

PULSE. Europe beyond the beat

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Focus Area | European Public Spheres |
| Countries | Lithuania, Czechia, Austria, Greece, Spain, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Italy, Bulgaria |
| Duration | 2024-2026 |
| Volume | 168,647.79 € |
| Sponsor/Client | European Commission (DG-CONNECT) - Multimedia Actions |
| Project Manager | Alexandra Zeitlin |

PULSE is a cross-border journalism initiative that takes a collaborative approach to editorial production to foster a vibrant European public sphere. The project was kicked-off with a meeting in Brussels in March 2024, including all the project partners.

Lead by OBCT, together with n-ost and Voxeurop, the project brings together 10 prominent national media outlets (Delfi: Lithuania, Deník Referendum: Czechia, Der Standard: Austria, EFSYN: Greece, El Confidencial: Spain, Gazeta Wyborcza: Poland, Hotnews: Romania, HVG: Hungary, Il Sole 24 Ore: Italy, Mediapool: Bulgaria) in a collaborative hub. Here they produce and distribute 2.000+ journalistic pieces, covering European affairs on a daily basis. The stories present new and diverse perspectives and are translated into 12 different European languages. Special attention is paid to under-reported countries, regions and social groups, including rural areas and small and medium-sized EU countries.

As part of the project, n-ost coordinates 4 Thematic Networks, namely Green Transition, Europe and Global Power Dynamics, EU Enlargement and Media&Information Society. They are open to all journalists and provide platforms to collaboratively produce journalistic work that covers key European issues. They offer the opportunity to exchange ideas and tips, share insightful resources or questions, gain access to interesting materials for new pieces, and find co-authors or partners in other countries.

Reporting Change (Research Trip to Georgia)

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Focus Area | Networking Journalism |
| Countries | Georgia |
| Duration | 2024 |
| Volume | 10,000 € |
| Sponsor/Client | Erste Stiftung |
| Project Manager | Lara Rindt, Natálie Zehnalová |

In October 2024, shortly before Georgia's contested parliamentary elections, n-ost brought together ten journalists from nine European countries for the research trip Reporting Change. The initiative aimed to provide first-hand insights into Georgia's shifting political and social landscape, strengthen ties with local media, and enable nuanced reporting at a critical moment for the country's democracy.

Over four days, participants met with journalists, civil society actors, watchdog organizations, and cultural figures. They explored how Georgia balances between European aspirations and growing authoritarian pressure. The timing proved crucial: allegations of electoral fraud and mass protests soon followed, underlining the relevance of the stories produced.

The trip resulted in 20 publications in 9 languages, appearing in leading outlets such as Stern, FAZ, HVG, and Radio Free Europe. Several journalists have since returned for follow-up reporting, and cross-border collaborations initiated during the trip are ongoing.

Despite the challenge of limited access to ruling party voices, participants emphasized the value of diverse perspectives and strong networking opportunities. The project demonstrated how timely, collaborative journalism can amplify local voices and bring complex developments in transitional regions to wider European audiences.

Reporting Together: German-Ukrainian Journalist Exchange

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Focus Area | Networking Journalism |
| Countries | Georgia |
| Duration | 2024 |
| Volume | 10,000 € |
| Sponsor/Client | Erste Stiftung |
| Project Manager | Lara Rindt, Natálie Zehnalová |

In October 2024, shortly before Georgia's contested parliamentary elections, n-ost brought together ten journalists from nine European countries for the research trip Reporting Change. The initiative aimed to provide first-hand insights into Georgia's shifting political and social landscape, strengthen ties with local media, and enable nuanced reporting at a critical moment for the country's democracy.

Over four days, participants met with journalists, civil society actors, watchdog organizations, and cultural figures. They explored how Georgia balances between European aspirations and growing authoritarian pressure. The timing proved crucial: allegations of electoral fraud and mass protests soon followed, underlining the relevance of the stories produced.

The trip resulted in 20 publications in 9 languages, appearing in leading outlets such as Stern, FAZ, HVG, and Radio Free Europe. Several journalists have since returned for follow-up reporting, and cross-border collaborations initiated during the trip are ongoing.

Despite the challenge of limited access to ruling party voices, participants emphasized the value of diverse perspectives and strong networking opportunities. The project demonstrated how timely, collaborative journalism can amplify local voices and bring complex developments in transitional regions to wider European audiences.

Research Award Eastern Europe

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Focus Area | Foreign Reporting |
| Countries | Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe |
| Duration | ongoing |
| Volume | 7,000 € annual award |
| Sponsor/Client | Hoffnung für Osteuropa (Diakonie Württemberg) & Renovabis |
| Project Manager | Anneke Hudalla |

Intensifying reporting on Eastern Europe in German media – this is the goal of the Research Award Eastern Europe. For 10 years, the Eastern Europe offices of the two major German churches have been supporting journalists who want to report on insufficiently covered aspects of life in Eastern Europe with a research grant of 7,000 euros each year. In 2024, two particularly ambitious projects were recognized.

A childcare facility for children with disabilities in western Ukraine is the focus of a publication project by Emilia Sulek and Danil Usmanov. Most of the residents of the children's home come from Roma families who, due to their difficult social situation, are unable to care for their children at home. However, the home's management is confronted not only with the families' expectations. Moreover, the Ukrainian government demands to replace the patronizing „custody“ of children inherited from Soviet times with a modern concept of self-determination and support – a mammoth task made even more difficult by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

Human rights are also the topic of the second contribution, funded in 2024: Anna Alboth and Nadine Wojcik offer a multimedia close-up of what has been happening in the forest on Poland's eastern border since 2021, ever since Belarusian dictator Lukashenko began deliberately abusing people from the Middle East to fuel the internal EU dispute over immigration policy. At the border, which is strictly secured by Poland, people are frequently injured, some freeze to death in the forest, and women give birth alone in the open air. Anna Alboth and Nadine Wojcik not only recount these fates but also describe how Polish civil society on the ground is trying to help the migrants.

The award ceremony took place on 24 October 2024 at the Catholic Academy Berlin.

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 Manager | Jacob Mardell, Lara Rindt, Mila Corlăteanu, Markus Niedobitek |

Spheres of Influence Uncovered is a three-year cross-border media initiative uniting journalists from seven Eurasian countries. The project explores how economic cooperation intersects with geopolitical competition, looking at trade, foreign investment, and infrastructure projects – and how these dynamics shape local realities with global significance.

At the heart of the initiative is capacity-building: strengthening economic literacy, advancing data journalism skills, and fostering collaborative, cross-border storytelling. By working together, participants are able to uncover patterns of influence that no single journalist could document alone.

In 2024, a major highlight was the international data journalism conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The event brought together participants from across the region, sparking exchange and collaboration. Several cross-border research groups were formed on topics such as Chinese investment, regional trade corridors, and energy infrastructure. These groups continue to work on joint investigations, combining local expertise with cross-regional perspectives.

The project not only generates impactful publications but also builds a durable network of media professionals who are able to challenge official narratives and enrich public discourse on Eurasia's shifting geopolitical landscape.

Stronger than Bombs

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Focus Area | Documentary Photography |
| Countries | Ukraine |
| Duration | 2024 |
| Volume | - |
| Sponsor/Client | Partnership with Stiftung Frauenkirche Dresden |
| Project Manager | Stefan Günther |

With the ongoing war in Ukraine, it remains essential to keep up the public awareness and debate about Russia's persisting aggression and the destruction that comes with it. Stiftung Frauenkirche Dresden made its church available as a public space in which these conversations can continue to take place.

From 12 Sept to 20 Nov 2024 the exhibition "Stronger than Bombs" was on display in Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) and Neumarkt square in Dresden. 20 images told the stories of threat, destruction and protection of the Ukrainian national cultural heritage in times of Russian aggression and therefore drew parallels with the church's own history as it suffered near-destruction from bombings in World War II. The images depict Ukrainian artists, citizens and volunteers stabilizing, re-building and protecting art and culture in Ukraine.

The following photographers contributed to the exhibition:
Lisa Bukreyeva (Ukraine), Roman Pilipey (Ukraine), Diego Ibarra Sanchez (Spain), Paula Bronstein (USA), Lucas Barioulet (France), Mykhaylo Palinchak (Ukraine), Emile Ducke (Germany), Maxim Dondyuk (Ukraine), Alexander Vasukovich (Ukraine), Laetitia Vancon (France), Tyler Hicks (USA), Serhii Mykhalchuk (Ukraine), Jae C. Hong (USA), Katya Moskalyuk (Ukraine).

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 the partner organisation in Lyon and Gothenburg.

The participants from all hubs came together in Paris in March 2024 to present their projects, take part in workshops and connect with fellow journalists as part of a media fair organised by Arty Farty. In all eight cities the teams of media makers continue working together and six of them founded NGOs.

Marea Media in Naples seeks to improve the reporting and the situation of local journalists in the Mediterranean area. Collectif Estafette in Lyon empowers 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 in Belgrade addresses distrust and dissatisfaction with the media through immersive storytelling experiences and direct interaction between journalists and their audiences. o-media in 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 runs a community-driven online catalogue of local culture platforms. Press Allies Society in 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 in Porto is a slow journalism platform publishing in-depth dossiers on local issues.

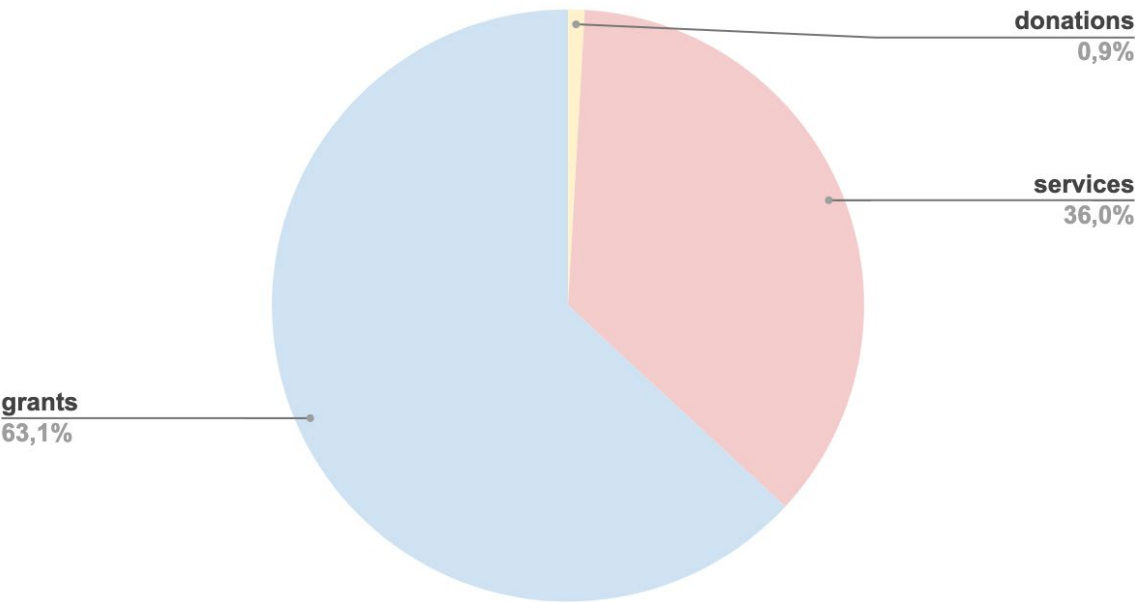
Finances

Reserves & Turnover

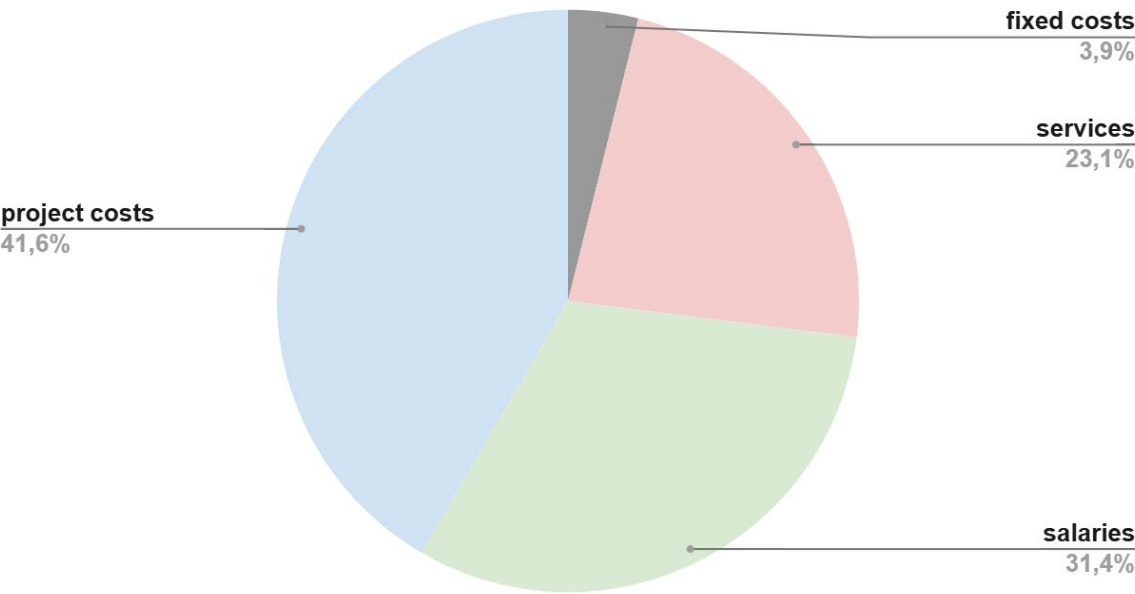
| Financial Report 2024 | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Income | €1,718,724 | €1,890,393 | €3,092,521 | €3,246,111 | €3,431,928 |
| Donations | €76,936 | €60,305 | €351,977 | €149,302 | €31,155 |
| Services | €1,036,861 | €1,105,990 | €1,151,366 | €1,237,112 | €1,234,576 |
| Grants | €587,775 | €724,098 | €1,589,177 | €1,859,698 | €2,108,074 |
| - Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) | €232,199 | €502,351 | €681,325 | €952,348 | €945,618 |
| - European Commission (EU) | €0 | €0 | €203,436 | €600,816 | €833,713 |
| - German Foreign Office (AA) | €334,703 | €207,277 | €369,133 | €202,969 | €0 |
| - other sources (e.g. EVZ, PCSC, ESTE Stiftung, DPL, Zeit Stiftung) | €20,873 | €14,470 | €335,283 | €103,564 | €328,743 |
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Expenditures | €1,835,348 | €1,920,615 | €2,769,277 | €3,086,811 | €3,197,043 |
| Labor costs | €714,285 | €779,949 | €689,517 | €957,778 | €1,003,824 |
| Office rent and other fixed costs | €87,398 | €115,196 | €90,489 | €105,434 | €124,372 |
| Services (without labor & fixed costs) | €757,681 | €561,949 | €706,924 | €688,831 | €738,865 |
| Project costs (without labor & fixed costs) | €276,984 | €463,521 | €1,282,347 | 1,334,768 € | €1,329,981 |
| | | | | | |
| TOTAL | -€116,624 | -€30,221 | €323,244 | €159,300 | €176,762 |

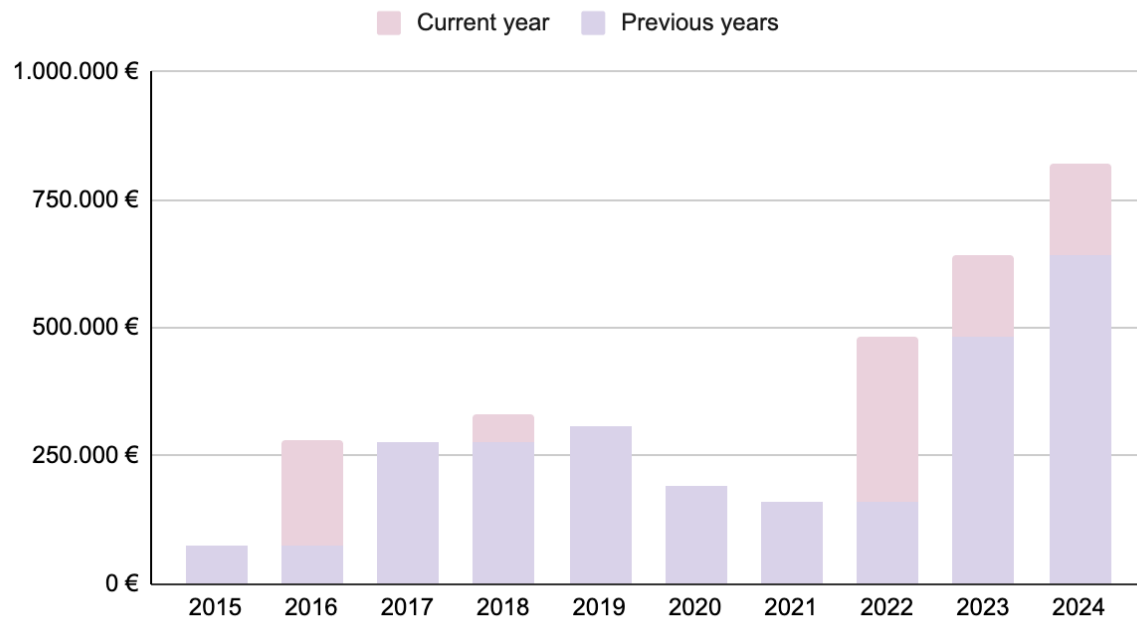
Income 2024



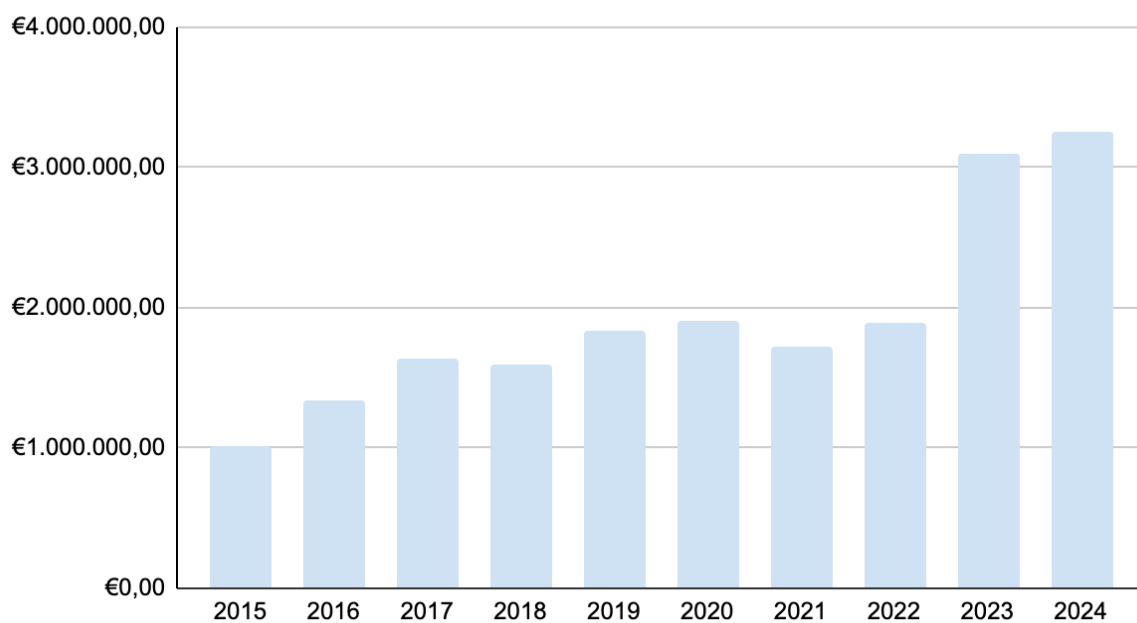
Expenditure 2024



Reserves



Turnover



Financial Situation and Outlook

n-ost's stability and growth over the past years reflects the quality and dedication of our work. It underscores the impact we have on strengthening journalists and media in Europe.

However, the graphs and figures suggest a stability that doesn't match reality: Across our network, media outlets and journalists are struggling with shifting priorities towards defence budgets and growing economical hardships. The closure of USAID's global media programmes has created a gap forcing more media actors to compete for shrinking funding opportunities. With some of our most impactful projects unexpectedly losing support n-ost too is feeling the effects of this funding crisis. Further diversification of our financial base therefore remains a key strategic goal. We work on it not only to safeguard our financial stability in uncertain times, but also to protect – and demonstrate – our independence and editorial autonomy. Our efforts focus on expanding both small and large private donations and on building partnerships with a broader range of non-state donors. Throughout this process, transparency in our finances remains essential.

Support n-ost

Bank transfer: n-ost - Network for Border Crossing Journalism e.V.
IBAN: DE31 4306 0967 1119 1009 00 BIC: GENODEM1GLS

Facts & Figures

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.

founding year and place

n-ost has been registered as a non-profit association in Berlin in January 2006

registered address

n-ost – Network for Border Crossing Journalism e.V.,
Erkelenzdam 59-61, 10999 Berlin, Germany

latest note from Berlin tax office confirming n-ost's tax privileged non-profit status

09.08.2024

elected board members

Dorá Diseri, Maxim Edwards, Tamina Kutscher, Oleksandr Palikot, Anastasia Rodi

elected cash auditor

Annett Müller

managing director

Hanno Gundert

staff members (full-time & part-time) in 2024

26

students' work contracts in 2024

1

We do not have any legal organizational involvements with third parties, no for-profit activities and no legal ties to any other partner organizations.