

Call for Fellowship Program

Name of the Program: Media Standards Fellowship

Overall context

Maharat Foundation, in collaboration with Legal Agenda and Media Journalism Research Center, is implementing a programme called “Support to Media Reform in Lebanon to enhance freedom of expression” with the support of the European Union from 2023 to 2024. The aim of the programme is to provide openings at policy level to media reform in Lebanon to enhance freedom of expression; to enable local actors, including MPs, relevant ministries, judges, lawyers, scholars and media makers to create these openings. The specific objectives of the programme are:

1. ‘Media Law Reform in Lebanon has become a priority on the national agenda and a consensus is created among stakeholders on standards for media related legal framework & regulations that support media freedom’
2. ‘Enhance and inform a debate on media & communication governance during elections among elections ‘multi-stakeholders’ and agree upon guiding principles that would improve the role of media during the elections, in line with EU Election Observation Mission’s (EOM) relevant recommendations.

In this context, [Maharat Foundation](#) is launching a call for fellowship applications. The call ‘Media Standards Fellowship’ consists of an ongoing exchange and engagement with a core team of 10 selected journalists, who can influence the public discourse once provided with the necessary knowledge on media standards and relevant updates on the media reform process. The engagement with the 10 fellows extends from June until December 2023. The 10 fellows will be the ‘champions’ of the action, amplifying the messages needed throughout the process through the production of at least 2 media products and through the organization of other kind of dissemination activities. They will be invited to take part in the seminars and will receive all the papers produced through the action.

Each fellow journalist will receive an amount of maximum 2,000 Euros.

This call text describes the process for application, evaluation, selection of fellows applying for this opportunity under this call.

Objectives

The overall objective of the fellowship is to support media makers to understand media standards and to cover the media reform process in Lebanon, to create a public opinion case.

The main expected results are to have Increased expertise of journalists on media standards through the fellowship program and increased media attention on the media reform process in Lebanon.

Type of support

10 individual journalists, producers, correspondents, reporters, segments hosts, presenters will be selected.

In addition to financial support, the selected fellows will benefit from support in mentorship and technical assistance.

Eligibility

Eligible **activities** to receive the fellowship support:

Production of media content for dissemination purposes including news articles, video reportages, multimedia stories, infographics, audio formats, interviews, news or programs segment.

More specifically:

- Writing 600 to 1500 words articles
- Production of a 2 to 3 minutes video reportage
- Development of multimedia stories (video, audio and infographics) related to the topics of the action
- Production of podcasts (min. 15 minutes)
- Interview with a local, regional or European Expert
- Activities related to awareness raising on media standards

Topics to be covered should be related to one of the 6 subthemes as follows:

I - Freedom of expression & criminalisation

II- Associations of journalists

III- Regulation and co-regulation: supervisory authority, independent press council, public broadcast...

IV- Protection of journalists and journalistic sources

V- Incentives for media startups

VI- Innovation: How to modernize media laws to cope with digital change

Eligible types of grant recipients:

- individual journalists,
- producers,
- correspondents,
- reporters,
- segments hosts,
- Presenters

Duration

The fellowship program will take place between June and December 2023

Deadline for submitting: May 15, 2023

Deadline for selection: May 26, 2023

Geographical scope

All regions across Lebanon

Evaluation procedure

Applications including CVs to be uploaded in the below google form link in English or Arabic:

<https://forms.gle/24VGjF33HLUYuBmL8>

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be selected according the following criteria:

- Current full-time employment for the news or editorial departments or programs of TV, radio, newspapers, magazines; or online publications of general public interest and based in Lebanon; or
- Freelance journalist that has a current CV or online portfolio and a history of working with renowned news organizations in Lebanon.
- At least five years of full-time professional experience in the journalism field.
- Signed up to a press syndicate or part of a press association or club or a journalistic community.

Visibility of EU funded projects

Since this programme is funded by the European Union, the fellows are required to include an explicit reference to the EU support, unless it was agreed to limit visibility in specific cases to be determined on a case by case basis.