

CALL FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON COMBATING MISINFORMATION THROUGH MEDIA LITERACY

The Department of Communication and Internet Studies at the Cyprus University of Technology, in partnership with the Horizon 2020 Co-Inform project, the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth and the Embassy of the United States of America in Cyprus, are pleased to announce a call for "Combating Misinformation through Media Literacy" grants. The call asks for synergies between at least two sectors, to promote a multilateral approach in addressing the problem of misinformation. A small number of projects will be selected, with available funding up to 25,000 euros each. Please review the eligibility, selection criteria, and guidelines below before submitting an application.

The application deadline is Monday, February 3, 2020 at 23:59 Eastern European Time.

Eligibility:

- a) The application is open to all Cypriot residents and their collaborators.
- b) Applications from attendees of the "Combating Misinformation Through Media Literacy" conference, will be prioritized.
- c) Each application must include a collaboration of, at least, two from the following categories: journalists; teachers; policymakers; civil society. Other partners can be invited to each project team by the coordinators of the team.
- d) Projects' main focus should be on efforts to counter misinformation in the following fields: society, education, technology, media.
- e) Funding requests should be up to EUR 25000.
- f) While not a requirement for eligibility, applicants are encouraged to seek partnership and supplemental funding from other sources to ensure long-term sustainability of their projects.

Selection criteria:

- The main evaluation criteria will be the quality and innovativeness of the application in countering misinformation.
- Submitted projects should primarily aim to benefit Cypriot society, but the project can have broader outreach goals.
- Long-term project sustainability and scalability will be taken into account.

- Projects should allow for ways to measure effectiveness and impact during and after the award period.

This is an opportunity for applicants to move ideas and initiatives into action, by creating synergies between at least two societal sectors to address the complex problem of misinformation.

Guidelines:

The call is aimed at supporting the development of long-term projects and programs to strengthen resilience to misinformation in Cyprus and elsewhere through media and information literacy.

We invite applicants to think creatively and critically in proposing ideas that may have long-term impact on addressing misinformation in Cyprus.

The Awards Committee, which will include representatives from the collaborating partners, reserves the right to offer partial or full funding based on the quality and number of applications received and requirements of each proposal. Applicants should prepare proposals carefully and submit a budget request that is commensurate with their project objectives and the size of their project team.

Applicants are encouraged to seek partnership and supplemental funding from other organizations. Be sure to make note of any cost-sharing in your budget proposal.

Project duration cannot exceed nine (9) months. The anticipated award date for selected projects is February 2020. Funded projects will also be requested to participate at the European Media Literacy Week and other events organized in Cyprus in Spring 2020 and 2021 (dates to be announced).

A strong application should demonstrate the following. Each section should be between 150-250 words.

❖ **Need:** A clearly-defined project idea relevant to the theme of the “Combating Misinformation through Media Literacy” Conference (<http://medialiteracy.cut.ac.cy/>), that identifies a specific audience and addresses a clear need.

❖ **Plan:** A work plan that includes specific, measurable objectives and a clearly formulated timeline and description of activities. Clear identification of an organization or network through which the project will be implemented is expected.

❖ **Collaboration between two groups of stakeholders**, at a minimum: A clear description of how at least two groups of stakeholders (i.e. journalists; teachers; policymakers; the civil society) will collaborate to achieve the goals of the project.

❖ **Impact**: A clear description of the project's expected impact, including projected results and measurements of a successful outcome.

❖ **Sustainability**: An indication of how your work will be sustained over the longer term. Reference to existing programs, organizations or initiatives, or other efforts that will help institutionalize the project will be helpful. Projects that have the potential to be scaled up or replicated elsewhere in your country and region for maximum impact are of particular interest.

❖ **Budget**: A detailed budget and narrative justification that follow the guidelines outlined in the attached "Budget Guidelines and Template" file (download below) and are proportional to the proposed activities and projected results. Review the budget file (see all two tabs in the Excel spreadsheet) and the project guidelines above, prior to beginning your application and follow all instructions very carefully.

This competition will NOT support core administrative funding for applicants or their respective organizations, nor provide continued funding for existing initiatives. Projects involving partisan political activity, construction projects, commercial projects, and fundraising campaigns are NOT eligible for funding.

How to Apply:

The application deadline is Monday, February 3, 2020 at 23:59 Eastern European Time. To apply, please follow these steps:

- Download the ["Budget Guidelines and Template" file](#). Review the budget file (see the two tabs in the Excel spreadsheet) and the project guidelines above prior to beginning your application and follow all instructions very carefully.
- Fill out the [application form](#) and submit it along with the project budget ("Budget Guidelines and Template document").

Review & Selection Process:

The Cyprus University of Technology will be responsible for compiling all submissions. A technical review panel including representatives from the Cyprus University of Technology, the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth, and the Embassy of the United States of America in Cyprus, will evaluate each application and make funding determinations.

Successful applicants will be notified of the funding decision via email by the end of February 2020. The technical review panel reserves the right to impose conditions and propose recommendations to enhance the proposed project. The applicant must address the panel's suggestion before the agreement is signed. Suggestions could include requests to modify costs, clarify, and/or justify expenses, and project activities to ensure effective use of funds.

If selected for funding:

The Cyprus University of Technology will be responsible for disbursing the funds and managing each grant awarded for the duration of the award period. Grant fund disbursement will begin in March 2020. Be aware that any costs incurred before the official grant period begins cannot be reimbursed, and projects should conclude within nine (9) months of the contract commencement date. Detailed information on grant administration procedures and reporting requirements will be outlined in the award documents provided to selected applicants.

Contact:

Please direct questions about this call for proposals to Dr. Eleni Kyza at media.literacy@cut.ac.cy.