

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

### “Supporting Independent Media in the Baltics Action (SIMBA)”

**Publication Date:** 01 APRIL 2019

#### 1.0 Summary Data

- 1.1 **Funder (Prime Funder):** Internews (DRL)
- 1.2 **Funder Project Name:** Supporting Independent Media in the Baltics Action (SIMBA)
- 1.3 **Announcement Type:** Initial
- 1.4 **RFA Number:** RFA 01-R31844FD
- 1.5 **CFDA Number:** 19.345
- 1.6 **Application Submission Deadline:** 11 APRIL 2019, 18:00, (Local Time)
- 1.7 **Application Language:** Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Russian, English

#### 2.0 Program Overview

##### 2.1 Project Goal:

The goal of Internews’ activities in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania is to support production of in-depth features, multimedia packages, and cross-platform coverage of socially important stories in regional media. Internews’ activities are funded by an award from the US Department of State (DOS).

##### 2.2 Project Description:

Internews is seeking subrecipients to perform activities to support of its project in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia under the pool of the “Good Story Fund”. The successful applicants will demonstrate a spirit of experimentation, seek to cross divides and bring communities together, bring new formats or increased production quality to the market, publish/broadcast in national language, as well as in Russian, and have the potential to inspire other journalists and bloggers to follow their lead. Successful applicants will be able to show the selection committee that they will be able to distribute their product to a wider audience. Proof of this can be provided through support letters from the media that will be distributing their stories, or - if the media of choice are social networks - a concise description of the distribution strategy.

##### 2.3 Scope of Activities:

Applicants may aim to produce media contents covering socially important topics in a way to be more accessible, engaging and relevant. Applicants may use feature story, experiment with new formats of visualization and media platforms, offer high quality of the classic formats, investigative story etc. Applicants are expected to creatively explore the space of formats for good story.

*Construction activities will not be considered for award.*

#### 3.0 Subaward Information

##### 3.1 Subaward Amount:

Under this RFA, Internews anticipates awarding up to six (6) cost-reimbursable subgrants or fixed amount or fellowships for teams of individuals per country, each with a ceiling of \$4,000. Under no circumstances will Internews consider an application for an award exceeding \$4,000.

##### 3.2 Subaward Duration:

Internews anticipates subgrants awarded under this RFA to have a performance period of six (6) months.

### 3.3 Eligibility Information:

Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be considered eligible for a subaward resulting from this RFA:

1. Be a local independent and registered media organization in Estonia, Latvia and Estonia (fellowships may be provided to individuals which apply);
2. Be in good standing in performance and reporting under previous Internews subgrants, if applicable;
3. Not be listed with active exclusions on the UN Security Designation List, Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List, System for Award Management (SAM), or Internews List of Debarred Subrecipients;
4. The selection criteria will give preference to projects that demonstrate a spirit of experimentation, seek to cross divides and bring communities together, bring new formats or increased production quality to the market, publish/broadcast in national language, as well as in Russian, and have the potential to inspire other journalists and bloggers to follow their lead;
5. At least 3 years of experience in journalism within the project country;
6. Have no record of journalism ethics violation in the last 5 years.

### 3.4 Evaluation Criteria:

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a technical committee on a range of selection criteria. Each application will receive a score, with a maximum potential score of 100 points. Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Quality of Program Idea: 50 points
2. Quality of existing portfolio / Institution's Record and Capacity: 30 points
3. Budget reasonability and clarity: 20 points

Subawards shall be made to the respondent whose application is responsive to the RFA and is most advantageous to the project, all factors considered.

### 3.5 Additional Considerations:

#### 3.5.1 Indirect Costs

Selected subrecipients will be eligible for reimbursement of indirect costs if they:

1. Accept a *de minimis* indirect cost rate of 10% applied to Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). MTDC is defined as all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, employee and consultant travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards or subcontracts under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, *participant support costs\** and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000.

*\*Participant support costs* are direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects.

#### 3.5.3 Cost Principles:

Proposal budgets will be reviewed in accordance with, and selected subrecipients' costs will be subject to, the cost principles that apply to them to assure reasonableness, allocability, and allowability:

1. Not for Profit organizations:
  - [2CFR200](#) Subpart E, Cost Principles

2. For Profit organizations:
  - [48CFR31.2 Federal Acquisition Regulations](#) (FAR) and [48CFR731.2 USAID Acquisition Regulations \(AIDAR\)](#) - Cost Principles for Commercial Organizations

#### 3.5.4 Subgrant Administration:

The following regulations and provisions, at minimum, will apply to subawards issued as a result of this RFA.

1. For US organizations:
  - [2CFR200](#) and [2CFR700](#) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards
  - [ADS303maa Standard Provisions for US Non-governmental Organizations](#)
2. For Non-US organizations:
  - [ADS303mab Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-governmental Organizations](#)

#### 3.5.5 Reporting

Subgrants awarded as a result of this RFA will include programmatic and financial reporting requirements. Narrative (one pager) and financial reports will be submitted, per Internews' judgement, on a project quarterly basis.

### 4.0 Application Information

#### 4.1 Application Content Requirements:

Application(s) must meet the following requirements:

1. Include a completed Subgrant Application Template, Attachment 1 hereto.
2. Include a Detailed Budget, using the Subgrants Detailed Budget Template, Attachment 2 hereto.

#### 4.2 Application Submission Requirements:

Applications must be submitted by email to [LT-call@internews.org](mailto:LT-call@internews.org).

Individual messages may not exceed 2.5MB. The subject line must include the words "**CountryName, OrganizationName/Initiative name/Individual name**". The documents constituting the application must be included as attachments. The email must list and describe the documents to be included as parts of the application. If more than one message is required to transmit the application, each message must be identified as part of a multi-part submission. (E.g. "message 1 of 3")

Any portion of the application containing confidential or proprietary information should be clearly marked within the application itself either by highlighting or italics. The email must describe specifically how these sections are identified.

### 5.0 Award Notification and Responses:

All applications submitted will be acknowledged within two (2) days and will note the documents submitted. The respondent is responsible for ensuring and confirming that the emails comprising the application are received by the Internews representatives indicated in the Summary above.

Successful respondent(s) will be notified of selection within thirty (30) days following the deadline for submission of applications.

The successful respondent(s) must confirm the application and acceptance of the selection within five (5) working days of selection notification or the selection will be withdrawn due to non-responsive respondent and offered to the next most qualified respondent.

Once selection is finalized, unsuccessful applicants will be notified that an award has been made.

NOTICE OF SELECTION OF THE APPLICATION IS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS A CONTRACT OR SUBGRANT AWARD. Once the selection is confirmed, a final subgrant agreement will be negotiated and signed with the successful respondent, subject to prime funder approval and successful vetting of eligibility.

**6.0 Inquiries:**

All questions may come in Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Russian or English. Questions should be directed via email to [LT-call@internews.org](mailto:LT-call@internews.org).

**7.0 Attachments:**

1. Detailed Budget Template
2. Application Template

End of RFA