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“Diversifying voices in journalism” 2024 Journalism Hub Fellowship Guidelines for applicants

Why this call

Kosovo 2.0 (K2.0) is a media outlet based in Prishtina committed to explanatory, contextual and narrative journalism, where storytelling is not just about documenting the world around us, but also contributing to its reimagining.

Established in 2010 as Kosovo’s very first blogging platform, K2.0 expanded and established itself as a critical and credible journalistic voice in the country and beyond. Over the years, K2.0 has produced a number of theme-based print magazines before transitioning to an online magazine model. Throughout, we have always organized a diverse range of public events and non-formal education initiatives that we see as fundamental to our broader journalistic mission.

In January 2023, we started implementing “[Diversifying voices in journalism](#),” a project funded by the European Union that seeks to promote media pluralism in Kosovo, counter [disinformation](#) and build the capacity of media outlets, the youth and young journalists to produce journalistic content that adheres to the highest professional standards.

In today’s media landscape, where editorial quality, independence and pluralism often take a backseat, we understand the struggles faced by journalists, especially those who are young and aspiring. Many lack the necessary skills, space or opportunity to create high-quality content. Our Journalism Hub Fellowship Program is designed to tackle this issue head-on, by **providing a platform for fresh voices to contribute innovative, engaging and meaningful journalism.**

About the program

Launched in 2018, our Journalism Hub Fellowship program aims to empower young journalists to advocate for the interests of the silent, the marginalized, the divided and the excluded. We achieve this goal by providing **training, mentoring and financial support to early-career or aspiring journalists and media professionals.** Participants are offered the opportunity to produce large, [award-winning](#) stories with a human rights perspective, under the supervision of experienced editors, to be published in the K2.0 magazine.

Running from May to December 2024, selected fellows will receive:

1. A **comprehensive training program**, consisting of **eight days of intensive workshops** spread over two months. These workshops will cover both **technical skills and theoretical concepts**, focusing specifically on journalistic ethics and the tools required to produce independent and original content. The objective is to support productions that are based on facts, thought provoking, and critically analyze topics that are often



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misrepresented or overlooked. This includes providing the theoretical knowledge necessary for quality reporting on subjects such as gender and sexual minorities, ethnic minorities, environmental issues, and dealing with the past, as well as technical skills related to various multimedia journalism formats. These skills encompass research and interview techniques, writing, editing, video production and photography. The training provided to selected participants will be customized to meet their specific needs and journalistic projects.

2. A **eight-month mentorship program**, providing participants with the opportunity to develop their stories under the guidance of K2.0 editors. K2.0's journalistic approach places a strong emphasis on editing and fostering collaboration between writers and editors to enhance the depth and insight of stories. Throughout the program, participants will benefit from continuous support and supervision, guiding them from the initial stages of story development to its completion. This approach ensures a thorough and ongoing transfer of skills in producing high-quality journalistic content. As part of their mentorship, participants will be required to submit progress reports and a final report detailing their work.
3. A total of **1,500 EUR** gross to produce a story as part of the program, intended for publication in K2.0 magazine. This gross amount is subject to deductions as per applicable legislation, including tax on personal income and pension contributions. It covers all expenses incurred by the participant in producing their story.

While each participant will author one journalistic piece as part of the program, they will also be encouraged to support the productions of their fellow participants. This **collaborative approach** encourages learning across various formats and themes.

Selected participants are expected to fully engage in all components of the program and fulfill their deliverables promptly and comprehensively, as specified in this document. **Failure to successfully complete all tasks and responsibilities outlined within the 2024 Journalism Hub Fellowship will lead to termination of the contract and forfeiture of all program privileges, including financial benefits.**

What we are looking for

Through our program, we aim to support the creation of **impactful stories that address pressing human rights-related issues**. These issues include, but are not limited to, gender equality, LGBTIQ+ rights, minority rights, youth rights, environmental rights, workers' rights and civil rights. We are especially interested in stories that are often **overlooked or misrepresented** in the media.

Your selection hinges on the submission of a compelling story idea that you intend to develop. Therefore, in your application, you should clearly identify a specific issue or topic within your chosen area.



At K2.0, we value diversity in storytelling. As such, each participant will be expected to produce one in-depth story in one of the following formats of their choosing:

1. **Longform** written format (up to 4,000 words),
2. **Mini documentary** (10 to 20 minutes),
3. **Photo-essay** (15 to 20 pictures accompanied by text), or
4. **Multimedia story** (integrating written text with photo, video and/or audio content).

Your application must convincingly demonstrate the relevance of the story you wish to produce and why the selected format is suitable for effectively conveying the narrative. This involves showcasing an original approach to research, reporting, and production aspects of the topic while emphasizing the relevance and innovation in both format and content. Story proposals can address cultural, artistic or inherently political issues, but they must maintain a clear human rights-sensitive approach and perspective.

Furthermore, proposals should address a contextual issue within Kosovo, with priority given to issues focusing on the local level.

All proposals must adhere to a duration of four months for story production. Submitting proposals with shorter or longer durations may result in exclusion from consideration.

By the end of the program, the stories produced will be translated or subtitled into Albanian, English and B/C/S and published in Kosovo 2.0 magazine.

To explore the stories published by our past fellows, please click the buttons below.

2018

2019

2020

2023

How to apply

Through this call, our aim is to assemble a diverse group of young or aspiring journalists and media professionals who are passionate about human rights-focused and people-centered reporting. We highly encourage women and members of sexual and ethnic minorities to apply.

To be eligible, applicants must:

1. Be Kosovar nationals, currently residing in Kosovo.
2. Be aged between 18 and 35.
3. Possess at least one year of professional experience and/or have completed two years of formal higher education in relevant fields, such as journalism, communication, photography, design, film or multimedia.



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Past recipients of K2.0 Fellowships are ineligible to apply.

The deadline for applications is **April 7, 2024**. Completed applications should be submitted as electronic files (in Word or PDF format) to: <info@ktwopointzero.com> with the subject line "Journalism Hub Fellowship Application."

To ensure fairness, **we cannot accept applications submitted after the deadline, nor can we allow the addition or substitution of missing or incorrect documents after the deadline has passed.**

To be considered, your application must include:

1. Duly filled-in **application form**.
2. **CV**, proving one year of professional experience and/or two years of completed education.
3. **Scanned copy of ID**.
4. **Portfolio of previous work**. Your portfolio should include a list of at least two previously published journalistic works, accompanied by links. At least one of the examples should be in the same story format as the one chosen in your application. If you wish to provide examples of print publications that are not available online, please provide a scanned copy of your print work.
5. For employed applicants only, a **letter of support from your employer**. Employed applicants must be able to dedicate time to the program, including training sessions and meetings with editors. Therefore, a letter of support from your employer, explicitly endorsing their full participation in the Fellowship program, must be included in the application package.

Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring that their submitted documents, including any embedded links, are easily readable and accessible. Additionally, they must ensure that all sections of their application form are thoroughly filled out, the application package is complete, and the information provided is clear, accurate and in compliance with guidelines. Failure to meet these requirements may result in exclusion from consideration.

Each applicant can submit only one proposal. Applications may be submitted in Albanian, Serbian or English.

Any questions regarding details of the Fellowship or preparing the documents for application can be sent to: <info@ktwopointzero.com>, by **March 27, 2024**, at the latest, with the subject line "Journalism Hub Fellowship Questions".

For reasons of fairness and transparency, please understand that **we cannot provide feedback on the content of your proposal prior to your submission.**



How we will evaluate your application

Your proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience of the applicant (maximum 30 points)
2. Relevance of the story proposal (maximum 30 points)
3. Originality of the story proposal (maximum 30 points)
4. Feasibility of the story proposal (maximum 10 points)

A jury consisting of three K2.0 staff members will assess your proposal.

While the quality of your proposal remains the fundamental metric of evaluation, the jury will also consider the geographic and thematic diversity of the proposed stories. Principles of equal opportunities and inclusivity will be promoted throughout the selection process.

Please be aware that if your story is chosen, we may ask for adjustments to your proposal. This could involve enhancing cost-effectiveness, refining editorial approach or increasing the impact of your production.

Whether your application is selected or not, **you will hear from us on the final decision regarding your application.** If you wish to, you can request clarifications on the jury’s decision up to 5 working days after it has been communicated to you.

Unless there is a clear and objective mistake in the jury’s evaluation that significantly affects the proposal assessment and can be solely attributed to the jury (such as mistakenly discarding a complete application deemed incomplete), their decisions are not open to appeal. In such instances, it is the applicant’s responsibility to demonstrate the mistake with tangible and incontrovertible evidence.

The 2024 Journalism Hub Fellowship awards are only valid for the year 2024 and cannot be deferred to subsequent years or rounds of the Journalism Hub Fellowship program.

Timeline

March 12, 2024	Opening of the call
March 27, 2024	Deadline for submitting inquiries to K2.0
April 7, 2024	Deadline for submitting applications
April, 2024	Information to applicants on the evaluation of their applications



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April, 2024	Fellowship awards
May - July, 2024	Training to selected Fellows
May - August, 2024	Story production
August 31, 2024	Submission of story drafts
September - October 2024	Editing
November 2024	Translation and design
December 2024	Publication

These guidelines are available in English, Albanian and Serbian languages. In the event of any discrepancies, the English version shall take precedence.