



Coimisiún  
na Meán

# Media Literacy / Countering Disinformation Call for Submissions for Funding 2026

## Guidelines and Submission Criteria

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Deadline for response:  
13 April 2026



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## Introduction

Coimisiún na Meán (An Coimisiún) is seeking submissions for grant funding for media literacy initiatives under its Media Literacy/Countering Disinformation Call for Submissions for Funding 2026.

A total of €200,000 is available to fund organisations that can deliver media literacy activities in line with the [National Counter Disinformation Strategy \(NCDS\)](#) published on 17 April 2025. This is the first of two calls that will issue in 2026. The second call for submissions will seek to provide micro-grants for community-based media literacy activities.

Background information, details of An Coimisiún and its statutory functions, an outline of eligibility requirements and submission procedures are detailed below.

The deadline for receipt of submissions is noon on **13 April 2026**.

### 1. Background

Coimisiún na Meán (An Coimisiún) is a body established by the Broadcasting Act 2009, as amended by the Online Safety and Media Regulations Act 2022. Coimisiún na Meán, as Ireland's independent online safety and media regulator is responsible for Ireland's Online Safety Framework. The Online Safety Framework includes the Online Safety and Media Regulation (OSMR) Act, the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Terrorist Content Online Regulation (TCOR). Under the OSMR, Coimisiún na Meán has a duty to research and promote educational and training initiatives and activities relating to media literacy.

### 2. Context of the call for submissions

Media literacy describes a critical set of skills and knowledge that people need to navigate a complex information environment. At the heart of media literacy is the ability to understand and critically evaluate media content - whatever the source - in order to make an informed decision about the use of media. These critical thinking skills are also at the heart of maintaining information integrity and media literacy is increasingly being recognised as a tool for helping to counter disinformation.

International best practice indicates that a cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder approach that embeds media literacy learning across a person's lifetime is essential. It is also important to recognise that media literacy is both multi-dimensional and dynamic. It is multi-dimensional because it encompasses a wide range of knowledge and skills about, for example, advertising, news, AI, and content creation. It is dynamic because the nature of media literacy necessarily evolves in response to changes in technology, social norms, and politics. Media literacy needs vary across the population and across the life course. Thus, media literacy must be viewed as a life-long learning process involving a range of stakeholders providing support to people of all ages, on their individual learning journeys.

The challenge of disinformation is complex. Although disinformation has existed in some form throughout history, it is a growing phenomenon, both in Ireland and internationally. The rise of digital media has revolutionised how content is created, distributed and consumed. While increased availability of diverse quality information has the potential to make democratic processes more participatory and inclusive, manipulative behaviour used to spread disinformation online can make it increasingly difficult for individuals to judge what is and is not accurate and reliable, and who to trust.

In this context, the development of a National Counter Disinformation Strategy was a key recommendation of the Future of Media Commission (FoMC), which called for a more coordinated and strategic approach to combat the damaging impact of disinformation on Irish society and democracy. The National Counter Disinformation Strategy (NCDS) was developed by a working group comprised of a diverse mix of representatives from industry, academia, civil society and government departments and launched in April 2025. The NCDS highlights the importance of promoting media literacy and core critical skills under Principle B: Counter disinformation by building resilience and trust at individual and societal levels. The need to adopt a lifelong approach to empowering all citizens with media literacy is recognised in the NCDS, with training, awareness and public library and literacy strategies identified as actions. This Media Literacy Countering Disinformation call for submissions is part of the implementation of the NCDS.

### 3. Objectives

Coimisiún na Meán (An Coimisiún) will distribute funding to support media literacy activities in line with the NCDS, under Commitment 4 'adopt a lifelong approach to empowering all citizens with media literacy'. The activities should contribute to countering disinformation:

- By building resilience and trust at individual and societal levels and/or
- Through increased cooperation, collaboration and coordination and/or
- Through evidence-based countermeasures and interventions

Funding of €200,000 is available to eligible organisations that can deliver on at least one of the following objectives:

- Advancing empirical knowledge of effective media literacy strategies to counter disinformation as well as insights into the needs and capacities of different sectors delivering media literacy across the life course.
- Implementing Ireland's national public library strategy for 2023-2027 'The Library is the Place'.
- Collaborating with key partners and established networks on developing educational content that empowers Irish people with the skills and knowledge to make informed choices about the media content and services that they consume, create and disseminate.
- Evaluating impact and capturing best practice for future delivery.

### 4. Eligibility

Submissions will be accepted from organisation that meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Organisations that are established in Ireland or the EU **and**
- Have a proven track record of delivering similar projects or initiatives with an established reach across multiple stakeholder groups **and**
- Have either:
  - A specific remit in enabling and supporting lifelong learning for Irish people across all communities, with a clear focus on literacy, including media and information literacy, community building and connection, and individual critical thinking **or**
  - A specific remit in researching and evaluating media and information literacy approaches, aiming to understand and find responses to the phenomena of mis and disinformation.
- Individuals are not eligible to make a submission.

**Examples of activities that can be funded under this call** include collaborative media literacy research, public library and literacy strategies (including media literacy strategies), such as training, and awareness raising initiatives underpinning the commitments and principles of the NCDS.

**Examples of activities that cannot be supported under this call:** Media literacy initiatives that do not have a focus on countering disinformation, the production of films, television or radio programmes, or the recording of podcasts, and/or sponsoring of activities. For opportunities in the latter areas our [other funding programmes](#) may be of interest.

Eligible costs may include personnel costs and, in limited circumstances, capital costs.

## 5. Procedure

- Submissions must provide a project proposal, including all elements as listed in Section 7 below. The submission must show how the project/work will underpin the commitments and principles of the NCDS.
- Submissions must include all relevant documentation as outlined in Section 10 CHECKLIST.
- Submissions must be submitted in PDF format by e-mail to [usereducation@cnam.ie](mailto:usereducation@cnam.ie).
- Submissions must be received by the deadline of noon on 13 April 2026. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Coimisiún na Meán will not be responsible for any costs incurred in the preparation of a submission.

## 6. Assessment

- An Assessment Panel, comprising at a minimum of two members of Coimisiún na Meán, one representative from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and two independent assessors with relevant expertise, shall be appointed to assess submissions.
- The Panel will assess submissions received by the stated deadline which satisfy the submission instructions as outlined.
- Submissions will be assessed according to the assessment criteria which are detailed in Appendix 1.

## 7. Format for submissions

### What to submit:

- The submission should not exceed 10 pages (excluding CVs), and should include
  - A project proposal including the following:
    - A project description (maximum 200 words)
    - Project objectives and how the objectives align to the NCDS
    - An approach to implementation including timelines and project management
    - A budget in tabular format
    - An outline of the quality control and risk assessment processes that will be in place
    - An outline of the staffing and resources required
    - An outline of the evaluation methods that will be used to measure outcomes
    - An outline of the organisation's suitability, expertise and track record in the field with reference to relevant projects, established reach across multiple stakeholder groups and proof of good governance

Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the key personnel involved in the project, highlighting their name, title, role, organisation, role in the proposed project and relevant experience (maximum of 5 personnel, 2-page maximum per CV)

Other documentation to be provided:

- Letter of commitment (community group/organisation you are planning to collaborate with), if relevant
  - Signed 'Freedom of information and sensitive information disclaimer', see Appendix 2
  - Signed 'Disclosure of conflict of interest', see Appendix 2
  - Details of any supplementary or co-funding available for the initiative, if relevant
  - Short statement about the nature, purpose and status of the applicant
- One copy of the completed submission, in PDF format, and all required documentation, should be sent by email to [usereducation@cnam.ie](mailto:usereducation@cnam.ie). To ensure correct identification, please include 'Submission Counter Disinformation Fund' and your organisation's name in the subject line of your email. If this subject line is not present, your submission may not be processed.
  - Please ensure that the submission includes all attachments and signed declarations requested.

## 8. State Aid Funding

An Coimisiún operates this Programme having regard to EU State Aid Rules, and uses the [De Minimis Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2831](#). Under this regulation, aid granted to one 'undertaking' cannot exceed €300,000 in a rolling 3-year period. It should be noted that De Minimis payments to one undertaking under a number of measures or schemes have to cumulatively observe the €300,000 limit.

De Minimis Aid Under De Minimis, the current ceiling for all De Minimis aid, regardless of the source of such De Minimis aid, awarded to any single undertaking by any State agency or public body over a three-year period is €300,000. De Minimis aid of up to €300,000 per undertaking over any period of three years is allowed by the European Commission under the De Minimis Regulation as this is considered to be at a level which will not have a substantive effect on trade between Member States nor distort or threaten to distort competition and therefore can be awarded without notification to or clearance by the European Commission.

Applicants must declare to An Coimisiún any De Minimis aid received by them from any public body in the three years before funding is received from An Coimisiún (and any "in progress" applications for state funding). All projects will be checked for De Minimis applicability as part of the initial application and on submission of claims, and this may result in applications being ineligible for grant aid under this Programme.

Applicants seeking support under the De Minimis Regulation will be required to submit a declaration to An Coimisiún declaring all De Minimis aid received over the past three years, in accordance with EU State Aid Rules. It should be noted that a false declaration resulting in the threshold of €300,000 being exceeded could later give rise to the aid being recovered by An Coimisiún with interest.

### Monitoring & Reporting Requirements

An Coimisiún will retain records with information and supporting documents to establish that all the conditions laid down in De Minimis are fulfilled for 10 years from the date of the last award of aid under the Programme.

## 9. Conditions of funding

**Contract:** Enter into a written contract by Coimisiún na Meán setting out the terms under which the funding will be made available including a timeline on regular progress updates and details of ongoing project management.

**Recoupment of Funds:** Coimisiún na Meán reserves the right to withhold further payment of funding, and/or to recoup monies already paid, if the recipient fails to discharge its contractual obligations to Coimisiún na Meán. You will need a separate bank account/budget code for this funding.

**Freedom of Information:** Coimisiún na Meán is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 2014. Under this Act, Coimisiún na Meán may make information you supply in your submission or during the course of your contract available upon request. However, Coimisiún na Meán undertakes to hold confidential any information provided by you once you identify it as commercially sensitive, subject to Coimisiún na Meán's obligations under the law, including the Freedom of Information Act.

**Data Protection:** Coimisiún na Meán shall comply with their obligations under the Data Protection Bill 2018 and any other applicable data privacy laws and regulations.

**Project Management and Progress Updating:** Coimisiún na Meán will require regular updates on progress of the project to ensure that the objectives are achieved on time and within the budget. Coimisiún na Meán will require a mid-point and final written report at the very minimum. Specific progress reporting will be stated in the contract, depending on the initiative.

**Deliverables:** Funds will be released on a phased basis to be determined as part of contract negotiations with successful applicants. Coimisiún na Meán retains the right to withhold payment where the applicant has failed to meet contractual obligations in relation to the delivery of the project to an acceptable level of quality.

## 10. Checklist

Please ensure that the submission includes all attachments and signed declarations as requested. A checklist is provided here:

- Completed project proposal (as outlined in Section 7 above). Please ensure your project proposal is no longer than 10 pages, excluding CVs of relevant personnel
- Signed 'Freedom of information' and sensitive information disclaimer', see Appendix 2
- Signed 'Disclosure of conflict of interest', see Appendix 2
- Letter of commitment (community group/organisation you are planning to collaborate with), if relevant
- Details of any supplementary or co-funding available for the initiative, if relevant
- Short statement about the nature, purpose and status of the applicant



## Appendix 1

**Preliminary evaluation:** To ensure that an applicant is eligible for funding under the call for submission. The focus here is to ensure that minimum criteria have been met and all required documentation/ information has been submitted.

**Qualitative assessment:** Each application is assessed on its own merits in the context of the assessment criteria below.

Assessment criteria	Marks available %	Minimum score required
1. Personnel	20	12
2. Proposed activity	25	15
3. Methodology	25	15
4. Timeframe and project management	15	9
5. Budget breakdown	15	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

### Assessment criteria questions and considerations:

#### 1. Personnel

- Qualifications and experience of personnel – are these appropriate to the proposed project?
- Has the proposed project manager sufficient skill and/or experience?
- Are adequate staffing resources and time being allocated to the project?
- Has the team demonstrated prior experience relevant to the project?

#### 2. Proposed activity

- Is the project clearly described and is it realistic?
- How relevant is the proposed activity to the NDCS agenda and/or media literacy strategic objectives or competencies as set out in the [Media Literacy Policy](#)?

#### 3. Methodology

- Has a clear and appropriate proposal been outlined in the submission?
- Is it clear that the proposed activity underpins the commitments and principles of the NCDS around media literacy and that it will maximise knowledge, awareness or outputs?

#### 4. Timeframe and project management

- Is the timeframe for the proposed activity realistic?
- Are quality controls and risk management processes evident?
- Is the description of the project management approach clear, realistic and deliverable?
- Are sufficient supports in place to minimise risks associated with the project (e.g. administrative support, team of people where appropriate, etc.)?

#### 5. Budget breakdown

- Has the applicant submitted a clear budget?
- Is the budget realistic and achievable?

## Appendix 2

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Identify any information in the submission that you deem sensitive.

*I understand that information in this submission may be released in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Coimisiún na Meán is obliged under this Act to consult with the applicant prior to any decision to release such information.*

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**On behalf of:** \_\_\_\_\_

### DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Sign A or B

**A. There is no conflict of interest in relation to this submission.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**On behalf of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**B. The following interest(s) is declared in relation to this submission.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**On behalf of:** \_\_\_\_\_