



Coimisiún
na Meán

Media Literacy Countering Disinformation Micro Fund 2026 (Strand A)

Guidelines and Application Criteria

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1. Introduction

Coimisiún na Meán (An Coimisiún) is seeking applications for grant funding for media literacy initiatives under its **Media Literacy Countering Disinformation Micro Fund**.

A total of €100,000 is available for organisations that can deliver media literacy activities in line with the [National Counter Disinformation Strategy](#) (NCDS) published on 17 April 2025. This is the second of two calls issued in 2026. This call for submissions consists of Strand A and Strand B.

Strand A will seek to provide micro-grants for community-based media literacy activities, with grants ranging from €500 up to a maximum of €3,000 per application. Strand B will seek to provide grants to collaborative innovation projects up to a maximum of €25,000. If you want to apply for a collaborative innovation project, please make sure to refer to the Strand B Application Form and Guidelines.

Strand A welcomes applications from organisations and bodies embedded within communities (community and voluntary groups, including Broadband Coordinators in Local Authorities, Local Action Groups and community training programmes). Funding received should be used to develop, facilitate, enhance or deliver media literacy activities at a local level. (See the 'Funding available' section below.)

Background information, details of Coimisiún na Meán and its statutory functions, an outline of eligibility requirements and application procedures are detailed below.

The deadline for receipt of application is at 12pm noon on **9 October 2026**. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

2. About Coimisiún na Meán

Coimisiún na Meán is Ireland's agency for developing and regulating a thriving, diverse, creative, safe and trusted media landscape. It was established under the provisions of the Online Safety and Media Regulation Act 2022 on 15 March 2023. Its responsibilities include:

- implementing the regulatory regime for online safety
- regulating broadcasters and video-on-demand providers
- supporting the wider media sector

3. What is media literacy?

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. For more information about media literacy visit [Media Literacy Ireland](#), [Be Media Smart](#), the [Media Literacy Policy](#) and [Coimisiún na Meán](#).



4. Context of the Media Literacy Countering Disinformation Micro Fund

The [National Counter Disinformation Strategy \(NCDS\)](#), published by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport on 17 April 2025, highlights the promotion of media literacy and core critical skills as an important mechanism for countering disinformation. As part of Budget 2026, €1.1 million was allocated to support the implementation of the strategy through initiatives, including research, media literacy and fact-checking. The launch of the Media Literacy Countering Disinformation Micro Fund is part of the implementation of the strategy. The aim of the Media Literacy Countering Disinformation Micro Fund is to support community and voluntary groups to develop, facilitate or enhance in-person media literacy activities at local level.

5. Objectives

Coimisiún na Meán 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 in at least one of these ways:

- 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

6. Eligibility

Submissions will be accepted from organisations such as community and voluntary organisations, schools, libraries, local development offices, civil society organisations, NGOs, social enterprises, religious groups, sport clubs, Local Action Groups and community training programmes that meet the following eligibility criteria:

- are established in Ireland or the EU **and**
- have a proven track record of delivering similar projects or initiatives **and**
- have an established reach within the target community

To be eligible, organisations must also be able to

- hold in-person activities
- commit to deliver project summary including evaluation (e.g. feedback, review)

Individuals are **not eligible** to make a submission.



7. Funding available and examples of activities

This fund aims to provide support to community and voluntary organisations to **deliver in-person media literacy activities** with micro grants ranging from €500 up to a maximum of €3,000 per organisation. In-person activities must take place in Ireland and be free for participants to attend. Applications from all counties across the country are sought.

A total of €100,000 is available to new initiatives as well as to existing projects to increase the frequency of activity. No activities should commence before funding has been secured.

Some potential examples include but are not limited to:

- Awareness-raising events about the impact of mis- and disinformation for your community.
- Drop-in clinics, community cafés and hubs that foster digital literacy skills (e.g. how to spot mis- and disinformation, how to avoid scams).
- Talks or presentations by media literacy, fact-checking or mis- and disinformation experts.
- Development of exhibitions and/or printed resources in community spaces (e.g. raising awareness of the risks of mis- and disinformation).
- Developing and delivering community-based workshops on media literacy and verifying information and promoting critical thinking (e.g. using the [Be Media Smart](#) 'Stop, Think, Check' message and resources).
- Identifying and developing media literacy trainers/facilitators within your community.

Examples of activities that cannot be supported under this call include 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 (e.g. for trainers, speakers and facilitators), printing, catering, tea/coffee for participants, travel expenses and, in specific and limited circumstances, capital costs.

8. What are the application requirements?

- Submission of one application per group or local branch of an organisation.
- Completed application form, each section needs to be filled in.
- Signed Declaration that applicant has read and understood the relevant Media Literacy Micro Fund Scheme Guidelines for Applicants (part of the application form).
- Signed Freedom of Information and Sensitive Information declaration (part of the application form).
- Signed Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest (part of the application form).
- Applications must be submitted via Microsoft Form.
- Applications must be received by the deadline of noon 12pm on **9 October 2026**. **Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.**
- The application should demonstrate how the development of media literacy skills will help to counter mis- and disinformation (See chapter 4 of [NCDS](#)).



- Completion dates for activities will be considered and agreed on a case-by-case basis, but activities must be completed within a maximum of 6 months of contracting.

9. Application process / What happens after I submit my application?

- You submit a completed application within the deadline.
- To ensure that the application is eligible for funding under the programme, it will be checked to confirm that minimum criteria have been met and all required documentation/ information has been submitted. Please see above for more details.
- Coimisiún na Meán will assess the applications. A panel of experts will assess submissions received by the stated deadline that satisfy the submission eligibility criteria instructions as outlined. Please see below for more details.
- Coimisiún na Meán will offer funding to the highest-scoring projects that meet the criteria.
- Coimisiún na Meán will contract with you. Please see below for details. You will need to send a tax certificate at this stage.
- You will deliver the initiative as set out in the letter of agreement.
- You will submit by email a final report of 2 pages max. Please see below for details.

10. Qualitative assessment

Each application will be assessed on its own merits in the context of the assessment criteria below.

Assessment Criteria	Points to consider	Marks available %	Minimum score required %
Proposed activity with the target group: The potential for the project to support the development of media literacy skills with a view to countering disinformation as set out in the NCDS.	• Is the project clearly described and is it realistic? • Is the target group clearly defined? • Is the activity made accessible and inclusive, with support for people facing barriers to participate? • Does the project support the development of media literacy skills with a view to countering disinformation as set out in the NCDS?	40	24
Timeframe and project management:	• Is the timeframe for the proposed activity realistic? • Is the project management process realistic?	10	6



	Has the proposed project manager sufficient skill and/or experience?		
Budget breakdown:	- Has the applicant submitted a clear budget that is realistic and achievable? - Does the application make a convincing case for value for money?	20	12
Personnel: The relevant experience and track record of the people involved in developing and delivering the proposed activity.	Are the qualifications and experience of the personnel appropriate to the proposed project?	20	12
Project evaluation: Commitment to delivering project summary including evaluation/feedback.	Does the project include an approach to reviewing the activity with a commitment to delivering a project summary, including evaluation/feedback?	10	6
Total		100	60

11. Strategic assessment

In instances where there are more qualifying applications than funds available, there will be a second evaluation phase.

Criteria for strategic assessment may include geographical balance across the Local Authorities, target audience, reach of the initiative, sustainability and scalability.



12. Requirements for successful applications

Contract/Agreement: All offers of Media Literacy Countering Disinformation Micro Funding are subject to applicants formally accepting the offer and executing an agreement with Coimisiún na Meán within timeframes specified by An Coimisiún and no later than the date the sponsored event or activity is due to be held.

Upon execution of an agreement, an initial tranche of the media literacy funding allocated will be made. In order to drawdown remaining funds, applicants are required to comply fully with the terms of the agreement. Requirements include submission of all the required deliverables set out in the agreement to a satisfactory standard.

Funding offers may be withdrawn should a successful applicant not engage with An Coimisiún to finalise an agreement in advance of the proposed event/activity and in accordance with agreed timelines.

In addition, please note the following:

Funding drawdown: Generally, Media Literacy Countering Disinformation Micro Funding will be paid in two tranches and the percentage of funding in each tranche is agreed during contract/agreement negotiations between the successful applicant and Coimisiún na Meán. By way of guidance, indicatively the first tranche of funding will range from 80% to 90%.

Bank account: Funding may only be issued to a separate bank account for the activity. The name on the bank account must match the successful applicant, and a No Set Off letter from the relevant bank is required.

Final cost statement: Successful applicants must submit a detailed final cost statement with a copy of invoices and receipts as proof of spend. This must be signed off by the applicant. The cost statement will be reviewed against the approved budget.

Tax clearance: Successful applicants must submit tax access and tax reference numbers to Coimisiún na Meán to demonstrate tax compliance before any Media Literacy Micro Funding may be issued.

VAT: Successful applicants who are VAT-registered must issue valid VAT invoices to Coimisiún na Meán in order to receive Media Literacy Countering Disinformation Micro 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/agreement 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.

Minors: If the activity involves minors, Coimisiún na Meán will seek assurances and evidence that appropriate safeguarding measures will be in place should the initiative be awarded funding.



13. The Final Report

The Final Report is a key element of the Media Literacy Countering Disinformation Micro Fund. The purpose of the Final Report is to give an account of what activity and evaluation took place. It should reflect what was in your agreement with An Coimisiún and should give an overall picture of the activity and its impact on the target group. The report should be 2 pages max, though may include appendices (e.g. survey templates, tables, photos).

At a minimum, it should provide the following information:

- Who was the target audience?
- What did you do? Provide details on the activities, including number of participants and number of events.
- Who benefitted and how? What were the results?
- Who else was involved in the activity? Did you work in collaboration with anyone or any other organisation?
- What did you spend the grant on?
- What worked well? Would you do it again and, if you did, what would you do differently?

Alongside the Final Report, a detailed final cost statement with a copy of invoices and receipts as proof of spend will need to be provided.

Please remember that:

- A Final Report Form must be submitted to Coimisiún na Meán by the stated deadline.
- Submitting final documentation on the project is a condition of funding,
- If you do not submit your Final Report by the deadline, you risk forfeiting your final payment.



14. Tips and hints

- Be familiar with the [National Counter Disinformation Strategy \(NCDS\)](#) (page 27).
- Be familiar with the [Media Literacy Policy](#).
- Be clear and precise, bullet points are welcome, less is more.
- Clearly outline all tasks and associated costs.
- Be clear about what you want to achieve and your target group.
- Check that all sections of the Application Form are completed before submission.
- Consider making contact with [Media Literacy Ireland \(MLI\)](#) in advance of making an application. MLI may help in terms of identifying reputable resources or signposting to other organisations doing similar or complementary work.
- Consider visiting the [Media Literacy Ireland](#) and [Be Media Smart](#) websites for resources that support the development of media literacy skills and examples of activities that might be helpful for your project.
- We are looking for clear commitment to evaluation, rather than evaluation results. Evaluation could include interviews before and after the activity, surveys, etc.
- Consider visiting the [Coimisiún na Meán](#) website.
- Ask for assistance if required. Coimisiún na Meán's Media Literacy and User Education staff are available to answer any questions on this Fund. To get in touch, please email usereducation@cnam.ie.
- A webinar will be held on **16 September 2026** to discuss the application process and answer any general queries.

