



FOUNDATION
Limelight

**Annual Report
2023**



**Supporting a strong and free
information ecosystem
in the digital age**

1. Introduction

From a devastating escalation in the Israel-Palestinian conflict and Russia's relentless invasion of Ukraine, to mounting fears over climate, artificial intelligence, and digital surveillance – 2023 was a year that brought some of the world's most pressing challenges into sharp focus.

At Limelight Foundation, we have been reflecting on what these threats mean for journalism and civil society organizations across Europe, which are confronted with rampant disinformation, financial difficulty and increasing threats.

Press freedom in Europe – already reeling from the spyware scandals of 2022 – was impaired by major issues, according to a [report](#) by the Council of Europe Safety of Journalists Platform, including threats, intimidation and detention of journalists, restrictive legislation, media capture and attacks on public service media. Meanwhile, fast technological advances – including in the AI space – are allowing political actors and governments to spread disinformation more skillfully. Research from CASE, a coalition pushing back on strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) in Europe and one of our new grantees, also [revealed](#) an increase in SLAPP cases from 570 in 2022 to over 820 in 2023. This in turn means that access to independent, quality information is fundamentally challenged.

With this in mind, we first and foremost want to help the organizations we support achieve the stability they need to respond to these mounting challenges. This is why we provided multi-year core support where possible.

Thanks to the generous funding provided to us from John Caspers and the Hartwig Foundation our budget grew to 6 million euros in 2023. This enabled us to make 23 donations to organizations across Europe. Each committed to producing and distributing independent, fact-based information, providing support to journalists and independent media, and

Alinda Vermeer
Director, Limelight Foundation

creating an enabling environment for independent media. You can learn more about some of these organizations in this annual report.

In 2023 we put particular emphasis on supporting local newsrooms in European countries where press freedom – in addition to the availability of funding – has deteriorated. We hear from newsrooms in Slovenia, Spain and Italy about the unique challenges they face and how they continue to punch above their weight, making fact-based information available to their audiences.

We've also funded organizations that are helping to protect independent media against the increasing legal and fast-evolving digital threats. Amnesty Tech gives us an insight in their work combatting the rise of highly invasive spyware. Given the scale of the threats the sector is faced with, a recurring theme has been to support organizations that recognize the importance of knowledge sharing and capacity building.

Finally, we're encouraged by the work of partners who make the most of the opportunities available in the EU to strengthen the information ecosystem, such as the "Enforce" program of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, which ensures that legislation aimed at holding tech companies to account are enforced.

In the past year, we not only expanded our partnerships, but also continued building and professionalizing our young organization. In March 2023, I succeeded Limelight Foundation's founding director, Merel Borger, on whose expertise and dedication we continue to rely as a member of our board.

As we move into 2024, we will continue strengthening independent journalism across Europe. A decisive year for democracy with more than half of the world's population heading to the polls, working towards a strong and healthy information ecosystem is more important than ever.

“A decisive year for democracy with more than half of the world's population heading to the polls, working towards a strong and healthy information ecosystem is more important than ever.”

Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. About Limelight Foundation	6
> Interview Cecilia Anesi, Investigative Reporting Project Italy	8
3. Who we support	11
Production and distribution of independent, quality information	12
> Interview Anuška Delić, Oštro	14
Infrastructure	18
> Interview Ruairi Nolan, Amnesty Tech	20
Enabling environment	24
> Interview Kris Shrishak and Johnny Ryan, Irish Council for Civil Liberties	26
Other support	30
> Interview Eva Belmonte, Civio	32
4. Who we are: Board & Team	36
5. Financial summary	37
6. Our grantees	38

Cover: © Orbon Alija | Pg. 2: © Hydromet | Below: © Leo Patrizi



2. About Limelight Foundation

Why?

Citizens need independent information to make informed decisions. Unfortunately, the production and distribution of reliable quality information is fundamentally challenged on multiple fronts. Press freedom has been in decline for many years, public trust in media is under pressure, journalism's business model is broken, and digitization can clash with core democratic values.

Limelight Foundation aims to counter these trends by strengthening the information ecosystem. In a healthy information ecosystem, independent accurate information is accessible to all, which empowers citizens to make informed decisions.

What?

Limelight Foundation supports journalism and civil society organizations committed to a strong and free information ecosystem in the digital age.

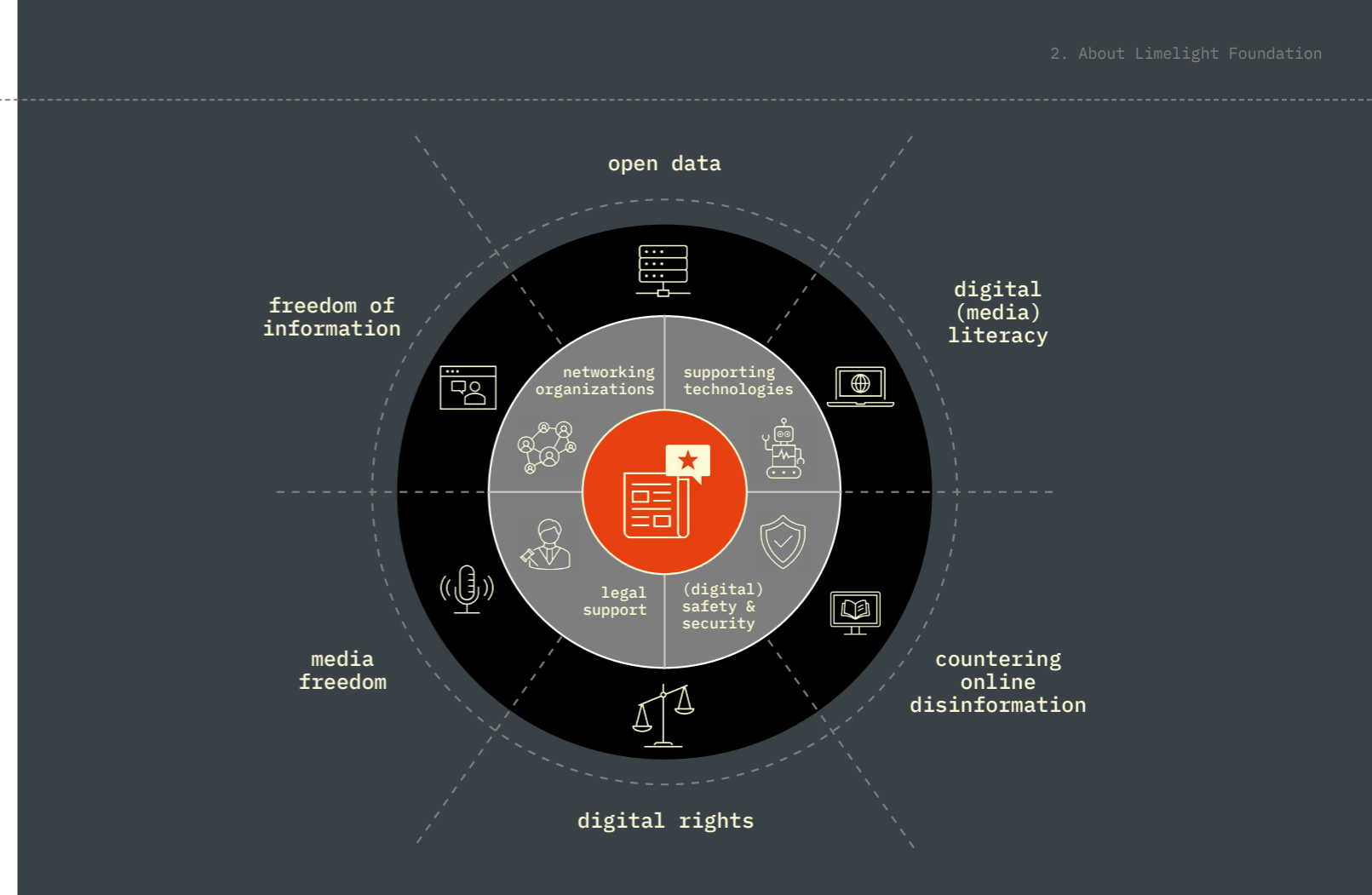
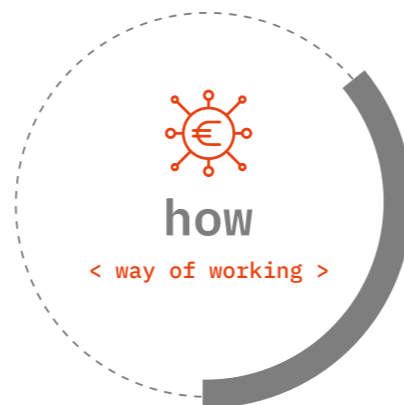
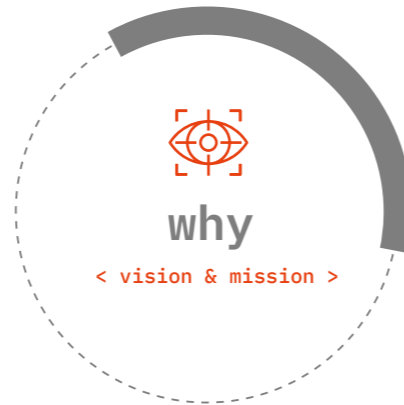
The figure on the right shows the three areas that Limelight Foundation focuses on:

1. the production and distribution of independent quality information;
2. the infrastructure that is necessary for journalists to do their work; and
3. the wider enabling environment within which quality information can flourish.

How?

Limelight Foundation supports organizations that are independent of vested (political, commercial, private) interests. We mainly give multi-year funding that is aimed at strengthening the sustainability of the organizations we support. Occasionally we provide different types of funding or non-monetary assistance as well, depending on what is needed. An Amsterdam-based foundation, Limelight Foundation works in the Netherlands and Europe more broadly. We collaborate with other foundations when joining forces can amplify impact.

Limelight Foundation proactively invites organizations that fit our mission and priority areas to apply for support. We do not accept unsolicited applications.



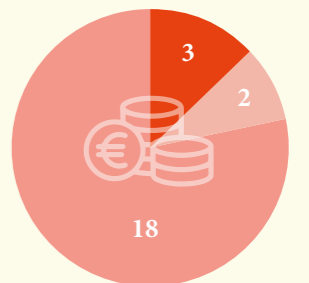
Our work in 2023

Limelight Foundation made 23 donations in 2023. This includes 21 new partnerships and two donations to strengthen the work of existing grantees. At the end of 2023, there were 42 active partnerships.

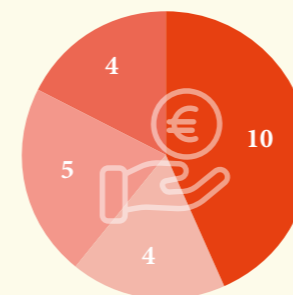
A full overview of grantees that received a donation in 2023 is included on page 38 of this report.

Donation size

- Under 100.000
- Between 100.000 and 300.000
- Over 300.000



Donations per priority area



Active partnerships per priority area



- Production and distribution of independent quality information
- Infrastructure
- Enabling environment
- Other



About IRPI. Based in Italy but regularly reporting from locations across the world, the Investigative Reporting Project Italy (IRPI) is a center for investigative reporting founded in 2012, that runs an independent newsroom, IрпиMedia, focused on producing cross-border investigations. Uniquely positioned as the sole non-profit publisher of investigative journalism in the country, IRPI is known for its work exposing the international reach of Italian organized crime, as well as its role in investigative collaborations with platforms such as the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, OCCRP.

Interview Cecilia Anesi, Investigative Reporting Project Italy

Investigative Reporting Project Italy takes a grassroots approach to global stories

When the Covid-19 pandemic shut down newsrooms across Europe, most in the media industry scrambled to adjust to remote reporting. Not journalists at the Investigative Reporting Project Italy (IRPI), though.

“We have what we call a liquid newsroom. We work from home, a plane, train – wherever,” said Cecilia Anesi, co-founder of IRPI. “We look at the international aspect of the story as well as the local, and we work with smaller collectives in Italy that cover local news from a bottom-up perspective. We provide an angle that mainstream media has failed to.”

Anesi, along with co-founder Giulio Rubino, were both freelance journalists frustrated by the lack of opportunities and funding for investigations in Italian mainstream media when they met with other Italian freelancers at a Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Kyiv, Ukraine more than a decade ago. The pair were among a small group of Italian participants, all of whom were young freelancers struggling to get by, Anesi said.

“None of the mainstream media in Italy, not even the ones known for producing investigations, actually sent their staff reporters,” Anesi said. “We felt then that there was a need, a void – to create a center for investigative reporting in our country.”

The group launched IRPI in 2012, and the collective quickly became an important part of the Italian media landscape as one of the few independent platforms holding power to account. Since the launch, they have covered a diverse range of topics, from stories about [drug trafficking links](#) between the Italian Mafia group ‘Ndrangheta and South America, to investigations into the [dire consequences of bluefin tuna fishing](#) in the Mediterranean. The collective was also the Italian partner on OpenLux, an investigation by Le Monde exposing Luxembourg’s status as a tax



© Naoki Tomasini / IRPI

haven. Their work is now funded entirely through donations and grants from foundations in Europe.

“Back then, there was little interest among media outlets to invest in investigations because they were lengthy, expensive, too complicated and came with high legal risks. And still, up to today, this space is shrinking,” Anesi said.

Journalism under pressure

In Italy, journalists remain vulnerable to strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs), which have become [widespread](#) in recent years, according to press freedom group Article 19. These pressures are keenly felt by IRPI journalists, who are increasingly being forced to take time out of reporting in order to grapple with such lawsuits, which can result in massive damages and financial losses for the newsroom should they lose. As defamation is a crime in Italy, they also face prosecution. Every week, their team receives between 2-4 emails requesting for content to be removed, Anesi said.

“We’re facing more and more pressure. The climate we’re operating in isn’t friendly, not just from a

political perspective, but also a criminal perspective,” Anesi said. “We see more and more criminals, grey zone brokers and intermediaries starting lawsuits against us...it’s very demanding in terms of our time.”

The deteriorating environment for press freedom has had an adverse effect on the quality of journalism being produced by Italian newsrooms, which has led to a decrease in public trust towards media institutions.

“Now, the majority of readers have lost trust in media. Unless media outlets can provide investigations and in-depth reporting, people aren’t going to be interested anymore,” Anesi said.

To meet these challenges, IRPI has not only prioritized in-depth investigations and global collaborations, but also taken a multi-platform approach in their reporting in recent years. For instance, in 2020 the team co-produced “[Verified](#)”, a Stitcher-produced English-language true crime podcast that covered the story of an Italian police officer who drugged and sexually assaulted women using the online platform CouchSurfing. The series won the “Best Audio” award at [DIG](#), a cultural association supporting journalism. That

“Now, the majority of readers have lost trust in media. Unless media outlets can provide investigations and in-depth reporting, people aren’t going to be interested anymore,”



© Marco Pavan / IRPI

same year, the collective also launched its own online news outlet “IрпиMedia,” thematically structured in a way to better guide readers through complex topics and lengthy investigations.

“We want to have our own voice, have a connection to our audience and build our independent space. We also want readers not to feel lost,” Anesi said. “It’s investigative journalism with ‘entertainment’ at the same time. I think this is quite a unique (approach) in the European media landscape.”

Impact-driven storytelling

Now, much of their stories are impact-driven, which means that the collective aims to frame their stories in a way that reaches not only the widest audience possible, but also the decision-makers best placed to tackle the issues raised in their reporting. An example of this approach is highlighted in a recent joint investigation into the exploitation of Indian migrant workers in Italy’s kiwi-production industry, which among others led to the kiwi manufacturer Zespri and supermarket chain Lidl promising to look into contracts with the exploitative companies. Furthermore, they also trained 15 young people with migratory backgrounds who are interested in pursuing stories about the exploitation of foreign laborers in Italy.



© Stefania Prandi

It’s just one example of how the collective is invested in training, engaging, and collaborating with local communities on the ground. Recently, IRPI was awarded funding by Journalismfund Europe to coordinate “Senza Segnale (No Signal)”, a [project](#) amplifying the voices of marginalized communities. Through the initiative, local newsrooms, grassroots activists and NGOs in among others Rome, Milan, Sardinia and Campania have produced four investigations that will be published by IрпиMedia. The project has developed into a book and in immersive exhibitions.

“We want to show that you can produce quality reporting by coordinating a network of local outlets and communities. The journalists aren’t coming from above – the stories are produced with the local communities,” Anesi said. “We see that it has an incredible amount of impact.”

“We want to show that you can produce quality reporting by coordinating a network of local outlets and communities. This has an incredible amount of impact.”

Looking ahead, the collective aims to secure enough funding to maintain and expand its existing operations. “Without core funding from trusts and foundations such as Limelight Foundation, none of this could happen,” Anesi said. “What we’ve built – we want to make sure it persists and grows.”

3. Who we support

The production and distribution of independent quality information

Public interest journalism is critical in a strong and free information ecosystem. In 2023, we started supporting seven newsrooms in countries in Europe where press freedom is under pressure and/or where there is little or no funding available for independent journalism. In addition, we made donations to support cross-border (investigative) journalism in Europe.



OKO.press

Polish investigative journalism platform

In a stunning victory last year, opposition parties in Poland secured enough seats to oust the country's Law and Justice party (PiS) from power, ushering in a new chapter for change. One outlet providing critical election coverage was OKO.press, a non-profit investigative journalism site founded in 2016 promoting democracy, transparency, and human rights. The site covers diverse topics from rule of law to climate change and takes a special interest in amplifying the voices of activists and those from marginalized communities. It also publishes fact-checking articles, investigative stories, and analytical features. Publishing only exclusive and ad-free content, OKO.press is funded by grants and individual donations. With a cross-generational and gender equalised team, OKO.press has been the recipient of several awards in recent years, including the Index on Censorship's Freedom of Expression Award in 2020.

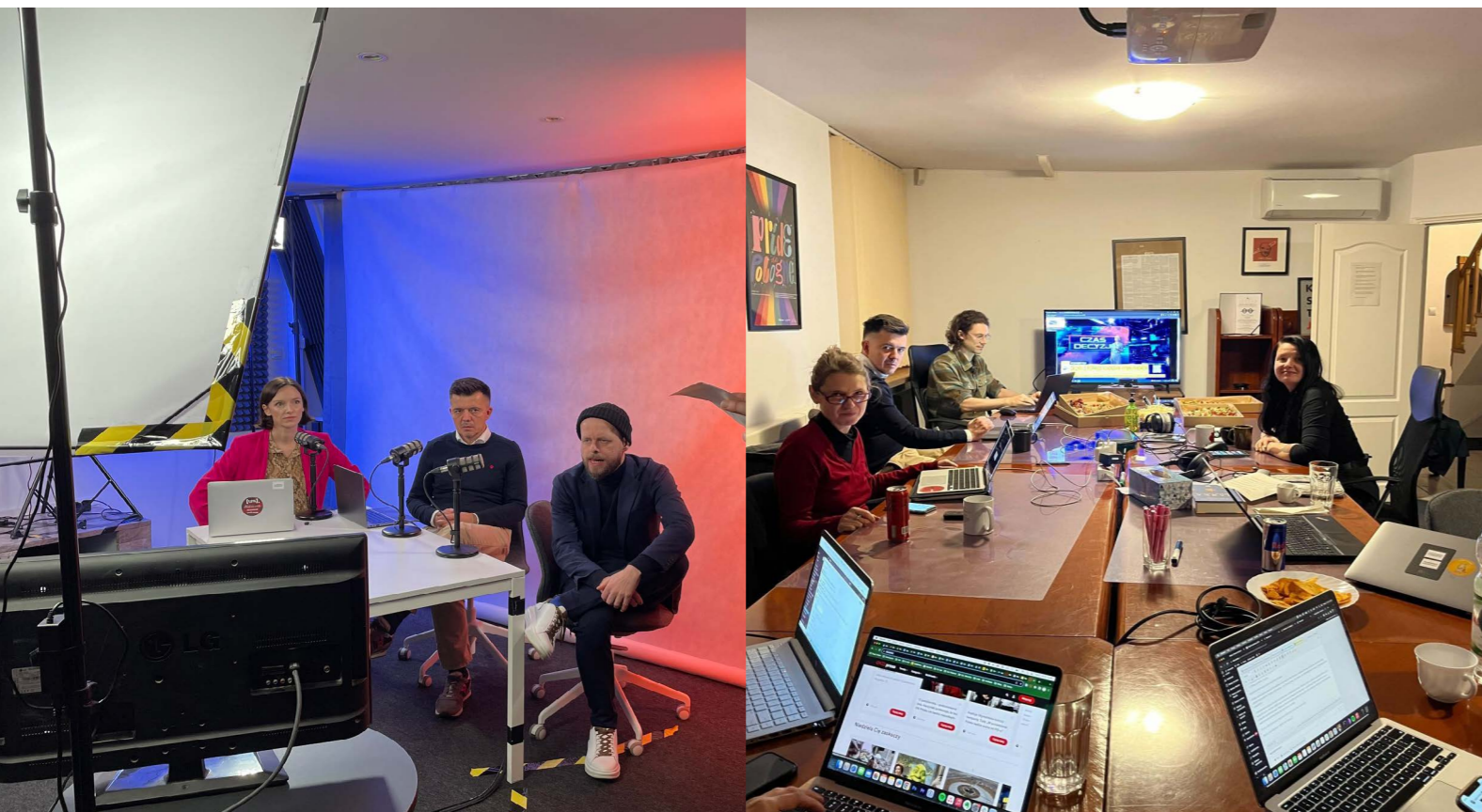
“In the lead up to elections, it is critical that citizens have access to independent fact-based information. OKO.press did an excellent job covering the elections experimenting with new formats and ways of working and managed to reach important new audiences.”

– Floor Milar, Program Manager
at Limelight Foundation

<https://oko.press/>

Behind the scenes at OKO.press during election night, 15 October 2023.

© Mikolaj Maluchnik / OKO.press



Reporters United and supporters leaving the courthouse on 25 January 2024.

© Reporters United

Reporters United

Independent investigative journalism network in Greece

As Greece consistently ranks among the lowest of all EU countries in Reporters Without Borders' press freedom index, the work of local organizations such as Reporters United – an investigative journalism network supporting cross-border investigations with international reporters and media outlets – is crucial. Aiming to publish stories that struggle to see the light of day in Greek press, the network runs its own news platform and collaborated in multiple cross-border investigations. In addition to their journalism and whistleblowing platform, Reporters United also provides services and tools for reporters such as digital security workshops.

Soon after being founded in 2019, Reporters United was instrumental in revealing the “Greek Watergate” affair, a spyware scandal which shook Greece in 2022-2023. In August 2022, an investigation by Reporters United led to the resignation of the Prime Minister's chief of staff - and his nephew - who subsequently has filed two defamation lawsuits

against journalists from Reporters United for more than €3.5 million. Nine leading international press freedom organizations branded both lawsuits as “groundless” and “a vexatious effort to muzzle investigative reporting”.

“Considering that politics, media, and public life in Greece are intertwined, it's crucial to support independent newsrooms such as Reporters United. The quality of their work, combined with the fact that their work strengthens the sector as a whole, made the decision to fund them a logical one.”

– Willem Lenders, Program Manager
at Limelight Foundation

www.reportersunited.gr/en/

oštro

About Oštro. Established in 2018, Oštro is a center for investigative journalism in Slovenia that covers stories of public interest in the Adriatic region and beyond. The non-profit was created in response to the steady decline of quality journalism, which has caused public trust in media outlets to plummet. Operating with the aim of being a model for journalistic excellence, Oštro is committed to strengthening regional journalistic standards and training future generations of local reporters.

Interview Anuška Delić, Oštro

In a media environment warped by political pressure, Slovenian outlet Oštro pushes back

The hostile climate for independent reporting in Slovenia has thawed slightly since the ousting of former prime minister Janez Janša in 2022, leading to the nation moving up four spots on the press freedom ranking. Yet the country's journalists continue to face immense political and commercial pressures that threaten to undermine the young democracy's media ecosystem.

In addition to grappling with financial difficulties and plummeting public trust in recent years, newsrooms have been hit with a barrage of defamation lawsuits and journalists have been subjected to online harassment and smear campaigns. According to the press freedom index, Slovenia's current ranking is still 14 spots lower than before Janša's government.

In an interview that has been edited and condensed for clarity, we spoke to Anuška Delić, Oštro's founder and editor-in-chief, about the organization's place in the media landscape and her vision for the future.

Following a successful career as an investigative reporter working for TV Slovenia and national daily newspaper Delo – what pushed you to launch Oštro in 2018?

Delić: I knew from the start that Oštro would focus on investigative and data journalism, freedom of

information, and fighting mis/disinformation in Slovenia and the Adriatic region. It was clear that it would also focus on Croatia, which was fast becoming a placeholder for opaque foreign investments.

The focus for Oštro was not chosen randomly. I started my first investigation in 2006 as a journalist at Delo, into the spread of asbestos on public trains and the rail infrastructure. That year, I began sending my first freedom of information requests, and was sucked into data journalism too. Later on, I started noticing that my paper and other media would benefit



© Oliver Abraham

from working with fact-checkers, which I came into contact with through my collaboration with OCCRP, a global investigative reporting platform.

What do you see as the biggest challenges for press freedom at present?

Delić: Media freedom in Slovenia often depends on who is in government. Janša's last government attacked most of the non-right-wing media. The public media was also directly attacked because the government could do so. But the quality of journalism has been in decline for years, even before Janša's last government took power. What happens in small countries like mine is that these political pressures are felt more acutely, more pronounced.

A lot of the time the press is captured by various interest groups and the journalism that is produced is almost an extension of whatever these interest groups are fighting over.

There has also been a decline in professional standards, and often when you're reading the news

"We believe that journalism needs to go back to its founding principles, and that the public needs to be more involved in what we do."

you're not sure what you're reading, whether its independent journalism or pre-prepared information handed out to journalists to "report" on by one of these groups. Journalists in mainstream media here are pushed to produce several stories a week or even in just a day. They have quotas of how many lines they need to write, and this can't produce in-depth journalism. This trend is bad for the public debate.

Your newsroom has produced some impactful projects, for instance your "Asset Detector" investigation, which is an open-access database publishing information on the assets of Slovenia's political officials. What sets Oštro apart from other local newsrooms?

Delić: One of our main principles is continuous learning – not only to develop future reporters but also ourselves.

Aside from inspiring staff members to join workshops and seminars, or bring them to conferences, we also make a point of learning from each other in the newsroom.



Anuška attending one of Oštro's public editorial meetings

© Oliver Abraham

We believe that journalism needs to go back to its founding principles, and that the public needs to be more involved in what we do.

We also try to be innovative because that's also the character of Oštro: to look at things from different perspectives than others do and try to showcase tools and use methods that other media outlets are not using.

My ambition is for Oštro to be both a societal and professional corrective.

We're looking to appeal to readers that appreciate journalism of the first order and serve our audience. A lot of our investigations are cross-border and global, but we always focus on the public interest of Slovenians. We get on a lot of people's nerves – from all ends of the political spectrum – so I think we're doing something good!

Apart from reporting on stories, your team also publishes a regular fact-checking project. Can you talk about this project in the context of growing disinformation in Slovenia's media environment, why this operation matters, and how it has shaped your newsroom?

Delić: Since we started our fact-checking operation about 5 years ago, we've been fact-checking statements, media articles, speeches by politicians and more. We've also been using it to train our reporters. It's an incubator for future investigative journalists that forces them to face their own biases, develop critical thinking abilities and learn how to discern facts – all very useful skills journalists should know before they start independent research. Once they demonstrate they can follow professional standards and adhere to Oštro's code of conduct, we gradually include them in investigations. This functionality of our fact-checking operation is important because unfortunately, the standards in our general mainstream media are often very far from professional, and that's what young reporters see as proper journalism.

“My ambition is for Oštro to be both a societal and professional corrective.”

Our student reporters try hard to produce water-tight, fact-checked stories, and then they're attacked viciously online and on disinformation portals. I've seen students decide to leave the profession after just a few years. We're living in an era of disinformation, and let's be honest that journalists are part of the problem because when it was time to act against information manipulation, nobody acted.

What is your focus moving forward and what do you hope to achieve?

Delić: First, we need to survive and develop our operational side: administration, communication, etc. Until just a few months ago, we didn't have staff for that. Our journalists have been doing everything from posting on social media to calling the caretaker of our building where we rent our offices because our heaters are not working properly. We need to release journalists from these non-reporting tasks.

We also want to do a lot more national investigations focusing on topics like corruption, crime, human rights, and environmental issues. There's currently a huge shortage of core funding opportunities for countries in the European Union, and it's not easy to get funding for a big national project as a country with a population of only two million. We're coming into our own and I really hope that in the next five years, with the support from Limelight Foundation and others, we can pursue the stories that are most important to us and our audience.



Infrastructure

Limelight Foundation supports organizations that facilitate and support the work of journalists, for instance by strengthening their digital safety, providing legal support, or conducting digital forensic research. As threats against independent media are ever increasing and evolving, we expanded our partnerships with organizations that focus on capacity building, knowledge sharing and coordination of support.

ACOS Alliance

Creating a culture of safety for journalism

ACOS (A Culture of Safety) Alliance is a global coalition of more than 150 news organizations, press freedom NGOs and journalist associations working collectively to advocate for safe and responsible journalism practices. Created in response to the kidnapping and killing of freelance journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff in Syria in 2014, ACOS is committed to advancing best practice and innovation surrounding the safety of journalists through collaboration, dialogue, and the sharing of resources and expertise.

because they play an essential role within newsgathering and are the most vulnerable in a profession that is increasingly at risk of violence, threats and harassment.”

– ACOS Alliance

In the past three years, the alliance has spearheaded 62 safety initiatives providing training courses, clinics and workshops that have benefited more than 1,400 journalists and editors globally. Their online resources, including insurance and the Freelance Journalist Safety Principles, have been accessed more than 34,000 times.

<https://www.acosalliance.org/>

“We believe that safety is a prerequisite for a strong, independent media - the backbone of democracy. We focus on the safety of freelance and local journalists

ACOS Alliance annual safety coordination meeting

© Gabriela Bhaskar



Qurium Media Foundation

Leading human rights watchdog in the digital space

Qurium Media Foundation is a security solutions hosting provider that has successfully helped independent media and investigative journalists operating in hostile environments to remain online and reachable to their audience for more than a decade. Qurium’s services include secure hosting (Virtualroad.org) of media and human rights websites with DDoS protection, currently hosting at-risk websites from 70 countries, emergency support to journalists and activists under digital attacks, anti-blocking services for internet blocked websites (Bifrost) and digital security mentoring.

modified or hid the work of hundreds of journalists, bloggers and newsrooms globally between 2015 and 2021.

“Qurium’s services are the answer to the urgent need of media under threat to protect themselves against digital attacks and to continue their work. Qurium is a professional, well-connected and highly effective organization with an outstanding track record. The importance of its work can’t be overstated.”

– Floor Milar, Program Manager at Limelight Foundation

A leading human rights watchdog in the digital space, the foundation also investigates attacks and exposes perpetrators in order to push for accountability. Qurium was part of an investigation published last year that revealed how Eliminalia – a Spanish reputation management company – deleted,

<https://www.qurium.org/>

© alexsl





About Amnesty Tech. Amnesty Tech is a program of Amnesty International. It is a global collective of advocates, technologists, hackers and researchers working to strengthen social movements through addressing and responding to the threats posed by digital technologies. By investigating, supporting and campaigning on behalf of rights defenders and civil society organizations suffering from digital repression, the collective works to protect human rights online. Amnesty Tech's Security Lab leads cutting-edge technical investigations into cyber-attacks against activists and journalists. The Lab builds tools and services to help protect activists from attacks, as well as collaborating with the wider digital activist community to help them identify and respond to digital threats.

Interview Ruairi Nolan, Amnesty Tech

The rise of highly invasive spyware is a 'critical threat' to human rights, warns Amnesty International

Imagine a spyware so virulent that once it has infected your phone, it becomes an invisible, round-the-clock surveillance bug. Able to invade devices remotely, it can access every conversation on your encrypted messaging apps, copy your photos, and even use your microphone and camera to secretly record you – all without you ever even noticing.

These are the overwhelming capabilities of “Pegasus,” a hacking software sold to governments worldwide by Israeli company NSO Group that has been used to systemically target journalists, human rights defenders, politicians, businesspeople, and other influential figures for years.

The serious extent of the spyware's misuse was revealed in a 2021 investigation called the “Pegasus Project” where journalists from over a dozen media organizations worked with technologists from Amnesty International's Security Lab to parse through a leak of more than 50,000 phone numbers selected for surveillance. Technical research by

Amnesty's Security Lab established that Pegasus was used to target family members of the slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi before and after his murder in Istanbul in 2018.

“With that project, we helped unveil the global scale of the spyware crisis,” said Ruairi Nolan, manager in the Security Lab at Amnesty Tech – part of Amnesty International – that provided technical support for the investigation. “The project shows that time and time again civil society, journalists, human rights



© Eric Brinkhorst

defenders are consistently targeted by governments when these tools are made available.”

In recent years, the rise of invasive spyware and other forms of digital repression has enabled governments to more effectively crack down on civilians across the globe, sparking a chilling effect on civil society. In March 2023, United States President Joe Biden signed an [executive order](#) restricting the US government's use of commercial spyware that poses a risk to national security.

The Security Lab helps to prevent and respond to this growing threat through conducting technical investigations into cyber attacks, building defensive tools, providing support for victims and campaigning for more robust anti-spyware legislation.

“New technologies are allowing governments to (conduct surveillance on citizens) in a way that is

Highly invasive spyware grants (governments) almost complete access on their subjects: not only where they go and what they say, but every aspect of their lives.

beyond what had been imagined. Highly invasive spyware grants them almost complete access on their subjects: not only where they go and what they say, but every aspect of their lives,” Nolan said.

Amnesty International is advocating for a total ban on “highly invasive spyware,” which Nolan defines as software like Pegasus that gives unlimited and total access to all the information in a device. Such spyware also functions invisibly and is therefore impossible to independently audit – a factor that makes it challenging for victims to receive redress for their targeting, he added.

“For the highly invasive forms of spyware...we think it's impossible to create a human rights framework that could properly regulate its use. A ban is the only option because of the level of data you can access without limits.”



© Amnesty International

The Predator Files

Such spyware is not only becoming increasingly sophisticated, but also more pervasive and widespread than previously recognized. In a recent investigation known as the [“Predator Files.”](#) technologists from Amnesty International working in collaboration with the European Investigative Collaborations (EIC) media network found that European companies have been selling and funding surveillance software to countries around the world [for over a decade without meaningful regulation of the exports.](#)

The year-long investigation [revealed](#) how “Predator” produced by the Intellexa alliance, a group of companies based in the European Union were sold and found in at least 25 countries. “For us, what was shocking in that story was how much of it was based in the European Union,” Nolan said. “We see it as a form of ‘Euro-washing’: The implication is that they are subjected to strict regulations whereas in practice, this industry is being allowed to operate with no real constraints.”

Journalists as key targets

One of the key targets of spyware is journalists. Amnesty Tech has documented cases in at least 18 countries where digital forensics testing has confirmed that journalists have been targeted with spyware, though according to Nolan the real number is likely to be much higher.

“When we talk about the threat to civil society, journalists are very vulnerable to spyware. It affects their ability to protect their sources, and it affects the ability of people to speak to journalists because they don’t know if their information is going to be intercepted,” Nolan said.

“With the Predator Files, a case we highlighted in our report was a Vietnamese journalist based in Berlin who was targeted with Predator. Khoa Lê Trung told us that he has received death threats and intimidation, just for exercising his right to freedom of expression”

Democratizing access to digital forensics expertise

In addition to exposing the impact of spyware and campaigning for more robust regulations, the Security Lab plays a crucial role in providing resources and training to organizations seeking to prevent and respond to digital attacks. In 2022, the Security Lab launched a [“Digital Forensic Fellowship”](#) to assist organizations with technologists on their teams with developing their capabilities.

The program, which supported five fellows in its pilot, provides an opportunity for those working at the intersection of technology and human rights to work with Security Lab technologists and expand their knowledge of digital forensics. Through the program, the Security Lab hopes to create a network of partners that can work together to address surveillance threats in the future. The Security Lab has also released the [“Mobile Verification Toolkit”](#) that allows any technologist with the skills to test devices for indicators of compromise.

“We want to democratize access to digital forensics expertise,” Nolan said “We don’t want that to just sit with a few organizations in the global north – we think it’s really important that we’re working with a broad range of partners and that more groups have that capacity. We have a lot to learn from those partners as well.”

Despite the many challenges, one positive trend is that public awareness on topics like invasive spyware, digital surveillance and cyber repression is clearly growing, according to Nolan. With investigations like the Pegasus Project and Predator Files, more and more organizations are beginning to understand the digital threats they’re facing and the steps they can take to protect themselves. “Now, the biggest challenge is converting awareness into actual action, and accountability for victims,” Nolan said. “We see this as a long-term battle.”

“We want to democratize access to digital forensics expertise”

“Journalists are very vulnerable to spyware. It affects their ability to protect their sources, and it affects the ability of people to speak to journalists because they don’t know if their information is going to be intercepted.”

Enabling environment

Limelight Foundation supports organizations that help shape a (legal) environment in which journalists can thrive and information reaches its intended audiences, such as organizations focused on strengthening digital rights, press freedom and freedom of information. In 2023, we supported organizations that work on a wide range of issues that are relevant to a healthy information ecosystem, ranging from algorithms to abusive lawsuits.



Vice-President of the European Commission Věra Jourová addresses the European Anti-SLAPP Conference in Strasbourg, October 2022.

© Andreas Lamm, ECPMF

Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe (CASE) Civil society united in the fight against abusive litigation

CASE is a coalition of 116 NGOs from across Europe united in recognition of the threat posed by strategic lawsuits against public participation or SLAPPs. These abusive lawsuits, often filed with the purpose of silencing critical speech, are time-consuming as well as mentally and financially draining for reporters and newsrooms to fight. In the past decade, Europe has seen more than 820 SLAPPs, which have had a chilling effect on investigative journalism.

Through exposing legal harassment, protecting the rights of those who speak out and advocating for reform, the coalition pushes back on the use of these abusive lawsuits, which are used to silence journalists, activists, rights defenders, and other public watchdogs. CASE takes a variety of approaches to preserve critical speech in the region, including pushing for law reform.

“SLAPPs pose such a dangerous threat to media and freedom of expression that civil society came together to collectively fight it. Together the CASE members have the relevant knowledge, network and expertise to successfully advocate for law reform at the EU level and the national level to stop SLAPPs at an early stage.”

– Floor Milar, Program Manager
at Limelight Foundation

<https://www.the-case.eu/>

AI Forensics Shining light on hidden algorithmic injustices

Among the many risks related to the unprecedented growth in artificial intelligence is the risk of systematic violations of users’ interests and digital rights, particularly for minority groups and communities that are often overlooked in the design of technology.

AI Forensics is a European non-profit that investigates influential and opaque algorithms. They hold major technology platforms accountable by conducting independent and high-profile technical investigations to uncover and expose the harms caused by their algorithms. A leader in investigating Big Tech, AI Forensics have been developing their own auditing tools since 2016. By providing policymakers, researchers, journalists, and other stakeholders with crucial evidence of violations of people’s digital rights, AI Forensics has helped shape the regulation of technology and contributed to various strategic litigation efforts.

“The type of specialized technological expertise that AI Forensics has is necessary to understand how the algorithms of Big Tech function and to define how they should be regulated. Unfortunately, this type of expertise is difficult to embed in every organization that pushes for regulation of Big Tech. An organization such as AI Forensics, which shares its knowledge with journalists, advocates, and legislators, is therefore crucial.”

– Willem Lenders, Program Manager
at Limelight Foundation

<https://aiforensics.org/>



AI Forensics regularly shares its expertise, including at conferences.

© Thor Brodreskift

Enforce

About ICCL. Founded in 1976, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) is Ireland's leading independent human rights watchdog that monitors, educates, and advocates for rights. The "Enforce" team works closely with legislators to shape digital law, often with global ramifications. In addition to providing strong expertise and understanding of the technology sector, Enforce conducts investigations and advocacy campaigns with the aim of protecting human rights in digital spaces.

Interview Kris Shrishak and Johnny Ryan, Irish Council for Civil Liberties

Irish watchdog "Enforce" keeps an eye on the digital rights sector

From dismantling toxic algorithms and plugging legislative loopholes to taking on Big Tech – with its "Enforce" unit, ICCL has become one of the leading organizations fighting to regulate the use of harmful technologies in Europe.

In an interview that has been edited and condensed for clarity, Limelight Foundation spoke to ICCL Senior Fellows Kris Shrishak and Johnny Ryan about Enforce's work and their perspectives on today's digital landscape. Shrishak, a computer scientist and privacy tech expert, serves as the lead on artificial intelligence at Enforce. Ryan, who has a background in media, industry, and technology, is the Enforce team's director.

Tell us about Enforce and the position you operate within at the intersection of technology and human rights.

Shrishak: We've driven our work using both technical insights and perspectives from human rights – an approach that doesn't usually exist. What happens usually is that legislators will get insights from a human rights group, and then go to companies for a technical insight. But some companies end up providing only part of the technical information. They don't necessarily lie, but they don't give you the full picture of what the technical issues are and what

to do about it, what's possible. And if you're a human rights organization with no technical expertise, you wouldn't know that. So, that results in bad policies.

What are your thoughts on the European Union's new AI Act and how have your team contributed to the discussions surrounding how to regulate this space?

Shrishak: The AI Act, at a high level, categorizes the uses of AI systems into high risk, low risk, and uses which should be prohibited. The crux of the regulation is about what we treat as "high risk" AI systems, for instance the use of AI systems for employment-related things and migration. For those,



© Irish Council for Civil Liberties



© Irish Council for Civil Liberties

there are certain obligations that developers of these systems would have, and in my mind they're essentially basic things they should be doing. They include things like: making sure you know what the data sets are, that you have a process through which you understand how the data is being used in the training and development of your model, that you log how these systems are being used, that there's a human in the loop and taking care that the outputs are accurate. You also have cyber security measures. The burden is actually not heavy.

One example of key things we've worked on in partnership with others is helping clarify the definition of what an AI system is. Imagine a scenario where the definition is wrong. It wouldn't matter what you think should be prohibited or categorized as high risk, because if something isn't even considered an AI system then it's not regulated, right? So, that's one thing that we've been very successful at changing.

We also advocated for the inclusion of general-purpose AI systems in this definition (long before the ChatGPT hype). While initially the European Commission (EC) didn't pick this up, other legislators understood the risks of these systems and

have included specific (and primarily transparency) requirements for these systems. These changes are crucial to the enforcement of the AI act.

We have also pushed for strengthening the enforcement powers of AI regulators, emphasizing the kinds of powers and technical tools regulators would require to actually enforce regulations.

That's why we're called Enforce: because it's important that regulations should be enforceable in the first place.

The EU introduced the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in 2018, a privacy law that was hailed as the new global standard for data protection. But since then, GDPR has been plagued by weak enforcement. Tell us more about this issue and how Enforce has moved forward the enforcement of GDPR in Ireland, where many Big Tech companies are based.

Ryan: Dublin is a bottleneck because the Irish enforcer is responsible for processing cases against Google, Meta, Tik Tok – everyone who matters except for Amazon, which is based in Luxembourg. It's now been five years since we've had the GDPR and even though it is a good law, it wasn't policed or enforced. On these challenges, we've made progress in two ways worth highlighting. One is that we finally forced the Irish government to reform the enforcer and recruit two additional commissioners at the Irish

Data Protection Commission. That presents an opportunity for radical reform and may unblock the enforcement of GDPR.

Another is that we successfully pushed the EC to institute a new monitoring process, after a year-long fight at the European Ombudsman. A big problem was that the national authorities weren't progressing cases and there was no data on this – no performance measurements at all. This meant that the EC was not in a position where it could sanction member states for failing to apply European law. Now, with this new process, the EC will monitor every single large scale GDPR case across all of the EU every two months.

"That's why we're called Enforce: because it's important that regulations should be enforceable in the first place."

But these may be partial measures, though. We have to wait and see if they move the dial. Separately, we've taken the Data Protection Authority to the High Court in Dublin.

Going forward, what do you see as the biggest threats facing us today in the digital rights sector?

Ryan: We see six threats. The first threat is the collapse of journalism and the rise of disinformation. This has several factors. "Real-time bidding" or RTB (an advertising technology that broadcasts sensitive information on people as they use the internet) is a cancer at the heart of journalism's business. It monetizes clickbait and disinformation. We are litigating in Ireland, Germany, and at the European Court of Justice to fix this.

Separately, social media's toxic algorithms push a personalized diet of hate and hysteria into people's feeds. We are also working with regulators across Africa, and in a key EU Member State, to change the defaults: we want to see these algorithms switched off by default.

The second threat is to voting and elections. Every voter is profiled by unknown numbers of non-state entities based in Europe or elsewhere. To push tech

©Irish Council for Civil Liberties



Report from ICCL to the European Commission on ending artificial amplification of hate and hysteria.

back toward democratic value we have to think about market failure, too.

The third threat is antitrust and competition. The big players are allowed to keep acquiring more companies and kill interesting competitors that could have brought alternatives to the market. We are working behind the scenes with the competition community, which needs help to understand digital markets. Competition enforcers are potentially powerful allies in the contest for a fair and just digital future.

The fourth threat is security. We recently released a report about a massive data breach at the heart of the online advertising system, which leaks information about military personnel and political leaders all over the EU. This information can be used to blackmail, hack or otherwise target or influence key decision-makers. We've also been working on a project investigating Hikvision cameras, which are cameras connected to the internet and are sold by a semi state-controlled company from China.

Shrishak: To illustrate – these cameras are being used by the Irish government in parliament and they're everywhere. Many of them have facial recognition technologies, audio, and microphones. So, imagine you're a parliamentarian walking through the corridors of parliament and you're discussing an important file, and you have cameras picking this up and sending it out to other countries. In Italy, they found that some of these cameras were sending out information outside the EU at 11,000 times per minute, which opens up a security problem.

Ryan: Definitely. And then the fifth threat is that an increasing part of the work force may be working at the command of opaque AI systems that cannot be understood or negotiated with. This is potentially grave. Lastly, the sixth threat is climate change as each of these threatening issues involve computers whose processing create large quantities of carbon. We are working to put these six issues on the agenda for the next EC, which takes up its five-year mandate in October.



Other support

Limelight Foundation has a flexible budget available to respond to emerging developments in the field or make use of opportunities that strengthen the information ecosystem but fall outside of the scope of the priority areas above. In 2023 we helped strengthen the availability of independent quality information in relation to the war in Ukraine, created training and networking opportunities for investigative journalists from Europe and helped combat media capture.

Detector Media

Championing media freedom and quality journalism in Ukraine

Detector Media is a media watchdog and news outlet in Ukraine championing media freedom and quality journalism. For the past two decades, the organization has fought against disinformation and propaganda by facilitating research, conducting outreach activities and facilitating discussions on issues concerning the Ukrainian media landscape. The organization's work – which includes monitoring media, advocating for compliance with professional standards, fact-checking, promoting media literacy and debunking disinformation – has been crucial for building the industry's resilience and journalistic capacities, particularly in light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Recently, prominent Ukrainian journalists have been [subjected to attacks and smear campaigns](#)

that have even escalated into physical harassment, prompting Mediarukh – an association of media watchdogs and organizations – to call on the president to “resolutely condemn” and investigate the perpetrators.

“ We equip citizens with tools to protect themselves from propaganda and disinformation.”

– Detector Media

<https://en.detector.media/>

President Zelensky during an end-of-year press conference.

© Shutterstock / Review News



© Jozef Jakubco

Pluralis

Investments in media pluralism

Empowering independent media with an innovative approach, Pluralis is a Dutch-registered company that invests in independent and high-quality media outlets in European countries where plural media is at risk. Established with a mission to bolster the plurality of news across the continent, the fund provides capital to organizations with the aim of strengthening their management, business prospects and editorial independence. By supporting and focusing on organizations whose ownership is being targeted by governments or interest groups pursuing political agendas, Pluralis helps protect European democracy, particularly in places like Central and Eastern Europe where a plural media landscape is significantly at risk. The company not only shares expertise and actively works with staff members as well as shareholders in the organizations it supports, but also adopts a non-partisan framework for investing, in an effort to foster diversity in the media ecosystem.

“ Editorial independence is fundamental to the reputation of quality journalism outlets and to the commercial success of businesses which own them. Pluralis invests in companies to secure editorial independence rather than undermine it.”

– Pluralis

<https://www.pluralis.media/>



About Civio. Advocating for government transparency and creating watchdog journalism for the public interest since 2012, Civio is an independent media outlet and non-profit foundation in Spain. The non-profit specializes in data-driven investigations and reports on public affairs. Since its inception, the newsroom has uniquely positioned itself at the intersection of technology and journalism.

Interview Eva Belmonte, Civio

Meet Civio, a Spanish media non-profit using technology to fight for transparency

In Spring of 2023, social security offices across Spain suddenly started receiving dozens of requests for appointments, coming in three times a day like clockwork for about two weeks.

But the requests weren't being made by humans. They were from robots.

In an investigation [published](#) in March 2023, a team of journalists and web developers from Civio created a bot to try and book an appointment at local social security offices across the country. Since the pandemic, those who seek to access such [services](#) – which include the processing of pensions, benefits, minimal vital income and more – must do so through appointments that can only be made online or by phone.

Yet Civio found that 43 out of 414 open offices were unable to provide appointments for the processing of pensions, with the figure rising to 63 out of 394 for appointments regarding minimal vital income requests. When an appointment was offered, journalists found that about 50 per cent of the time there was a delay of two weeks. The investigation placed pressure on the government, which ended up reforming the system by hiring more staff members and changing its policy to allow walk-ins for accessing services.

“It began with an idea: people were complaining about how difficult it was to get an appointment,” said Eva Belmonte, co-director of Civio. “Our main developer and co-director said: ‘Ok, I can make a robot to check every hour to see if there’s an appointment or not, and see what happens.’ He did it, and we realized the problem was bigger than what we saw in the beginning.”

The project is just one of many data-driven investigations published by this hybrid newsroom consisting of journalists and developers since Civio launched in 2012. With a mission to foster transparency in public affairs, it uses technology, journalism, and advocacy to both inform the public



© Civio



© Civio

and act as a government watchdog. With only 10 people on its team, Civio has produced reports that drove 3.5 million readers to its website in 2020, and built a following of about 1,700 supporters.

For Belmonte, a veteran journalist who has worked for El Mundo, one of Spain’s largest daily newspapers, Civio’s emphasis on independent reporting is what sets it apart from traditional media outlets. Their independence allows them to report on instances of government abuse, she says, for example the state’s disproportionate use of emergency decree laws circumventing parliament.

Press freedom under threat

In the meantime, the media landscape in Spain is deteriorating. Media ownership is heavily concentrated and there’s a lack of transparency surrounding their advertising expenditures and their owners’ influence over officials and politicians. Public trust in Spanish media has been deteriorating since 2017, with the latest research by Reuters reporting that there are more news sceptics than those who trust the news, with people citing political and media polarization among the key factors for the trend. Furthermore, Spain saw the [second highest](#) number of SLAPP cases in Europe.

Having enough independence, feeling like you’re not alone makes you stronger, enough to say: ‘if you want to sue me, sue me.’ It’s kind of our spirit to say we’re not going to stop there,”

“Having enough independence, feeling like you’re not alone makes you stronger, enough to say: ‘if you want to sue me, sue me.’ It’s kind of our spirit to say

we’re not going to stop there,”

Belmonte said reflecting on this, adding that Civio’s focus on data-driven stories rather than opinion pieces has made it difficult for them to compete for eyeballs in this increasingly divided media environment.

“It’s one of our main challenges, trying to find a place in the audience in the middle of all of this,” she said. “We don’t have the solution, but we’re always thinking of how to arrive to people in the middle.”

Telling complex stories in the simplest way

To prioritize their resources, Civio tends to focus on stories that provide practical information for readers as well as investigations. During the pandemic, while others prioritized fact-checking statements, Civio decided to publish other types of reports instead,

Belmonte said. These included stories explaining new laws, how government policies would affect people and offering advice, for instance how readers can apply for subsidies.

In order to tell complex stories in the simplest ways possible, journalists and developers

at Civio work closely together at every stage of building an investigation using innovative tools. “The journalists here are quite techy,” Belmonte said, adding that Civio started out as an open-data organization that unlocked governmental data

sets. “We work together from the beginning. That’s the main difference (compared with) other news outlets. Everyone can bring proposals, not just journalists.”

The newsroom has also partnered with other big media outlets and organizations to publish stories, in addition to working on cross-border investigations. Following publication, Civio will also share their data and information in order to increase transparency. “If we think the data is useful, we’ll share it with these organizations that we interviewed and they can use it for lobbying or their reports,” Belmonte said. “It’s always after publication (because) we need to protect the independence of our journalists”

Making information available to everyone

While Spain has a transparency law, it rarely works in practice and it can take years for information requests to come to fruition, according to Belmonte. As such, Civio will often litigate in order to access data and information, as well as lobby for reform, she added. In 2017, the majority of recommendations made by Civio to Spain’s [procurement law](#) were implemented by the congress.

We combine our (journalism) with our litigation expertise.”



© Civio

Moving forward, Belmonte hopes that Civio can grow and eventually become part of Spain’s mainstream media landscape. Their team aspires to reach a broader audience and continue to carry out its mission of breaking down complex topics for the average reader, not just society’s intellectual elites.

“We are well known among journalists, public workers, those in the technology sector and people who are more informed. But we want to include people who traditionally have been excluded from the media, especially now that a lot of media organizations have paywalls,” Belmonte said. “Everyone is very motivated and thinking about how to do better.”



© Civio

“Some people say you can’t be journalists and lobby. We believe you can. We are fighting for tools for journalists, to get more information for everyone.”

4. Who we are

Limelight Foundation was founded in 2021 by John Caspers. John is an internet entrepreneur and co-founder of payment platform Adyen. Since 2022, Limelight Foundation also receives funding from the Hartwig Foundation. Limelight Foundation has been designated as a public benefit organization (ANBI) by the Dutch tax authority. Limelight Foundation is a member of Ariadne, a European peer-to-peer network of funders for social change and human rights, and participates in the Journalism Funders Forum.

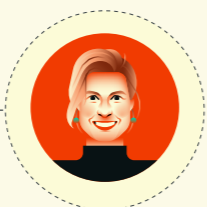
Board



John Caspers
Chair of the board



Merel Borger
Secretary



Hannah de Jong
Treasurer

Team



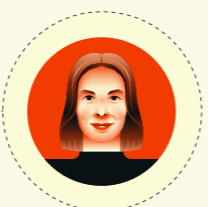
Alinda Vermeer
Director



Floor Milar
Program Manager



Willem Lenders
Program Manager



Andrea Simonca
Program Officer

Advisory Board

Algirdas Lipstas
Media development consultant

Maïke Olij
Independent advisor & creative consultant

Claes de Vreese
Professor of artificial intelligence and society at University of Amsterdam

Wouter van der Pauw
Founder & creative at Signal. Stream

Mieke van Heesewijk
Deputy director at SIDN Fonds

© Illustrations: Julian Burford

5. Financial summary 2023

In 2023, Limelight Foundation had an income of €6 million.

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Receivables and accrued assets		Reserves	
Other receivables	19.112	Continuity reserves	598.557
Accrued assets	520.000	Designated reserves	200.000
	539.112		798.557
Current assets		Long-term liabilities	
Cash and cash equivalents	4.298.298	Accrued liabilities	1.480.000
	4.298.298		1.480.000
		Short-term liabilities	
		Accounts payable	15.852
		Accrued liabilities	2.543.000
			2.558.852
Total assets	4.837.409	Total liabilities	4.837.409

Limelight Foundation maintains reserves at a level necessary for the continuity of its activities. The reserves equal approximately 12 months operating costs at the time of approval of the annual accounts. In addition, Limelight Foundation maintains a reserve designated to extending support to one of its grantees in 2024.

Income and Expenditure Statement for 2023

	2023
	(in €)
Income	
Donations received	6.000.000
Total income	6.000.000
Expenditure	
Grant making	4.938.000
Staff costs	356.762
Operating costs	164.599
Financial expenses	-14.399
Total expenditure	5.444.962
Net result	555.038

6. Our grantees

- AccessNow
- ACOS Alliance
- Arena for Journalism in Europe
- Artificial Intelligence Forensics (AI Forensics)
- Amnesty Tech
- Átlátszó
- Bellingcat
- Bits of Freedom
- CiviCERT
- Coda Media
- Fundación Ciudadana Civio
- Civitates
- Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe (CASE)
- De Balie
- Detector Media
- Digital Freedom Fund
- Drawing the Times
- European AI & Society Fund
- European Digital Rights Initiative (EDRI)
- Follow the Money
- Forbidden Stories
- Free Press Unlimited
- Fumaça
- Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN)
- International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)
- Investico
- Investigate Europe
- Investigative Reporting Project Italy (IRPI)
- Irish Council for Civil Liberties
- Journalismfund Europe
- La Quadrature du Net
- Lighthouse Reports
- Media Defence
- Fundacja Osrodek Kontroli Obywatelskiej OKO (OKO.press)
- Oštro, Center za preiskovalno novinarstvo v jadranski regiji
- Pluralis
- Qurium Media Foundation
- Reporters United
- Stichting 1877
- The Other Room
- Unbias the News

Please note that for security reasons not all grantees have been included.

© Steve Christensen

Credits

This is a publication of Stichting Limelight Foundation. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to this annual report.

Text Jessie Lau and Limelight Foundation
Design Blick – Visuele Communicatie

Contact details Stichting Limelight Foundation
Prins Hendrikkade 21-E
1012 TL Amsterdam
Netherlands
www.limelight.foundation
enquiries@limelight.foundation

Date of publication April 2024

Disclaimer Parts of this annual report may be distributed or cited, provided that Limelight Foundation and this annual report are cited as sources. No rights can be derived from the information provided in this annual report, and Limelight Foundation accepts no liability whatsoever from damages of any kind that may result from the use of or reliance on the information provided.

© Stichting Limelight Foundation 2024.
All rights reserved.

© Eric Brinkhorst



FOUNDATION
Limelight

Supporting a strong
and free information
ecosystem in the
digital age

