

EU DisinfoLab Fundraising Policy and Procedures 11 February 2021

Introduction

The Mission of the EU DisinfoLab (EUDL) to expose disinformation campaigns, raise awareness around disinformation issues and gather and support civil society resilience to disinformation to foster a stronger information ecosystem. Fulfilling this mission requires resources that allow the EUDL to maintain its independence and provide objective and truthful assessments of the many different threats of misinformation that disrupt civil and rational political discourse.

Financial support is needed to fund our research, preparing reports, and responding to attacks from the perpetrators we expose in our efforts to provide this badly needed public service. Tackling disinformation is an expensive task and comes with a large diversity of risks both for the organisation, its board members, and its staff. We not only need funding, but we need funding sources that share our mission to maintain independence and not become just another mouthpiece for a particular or partisan political agenda.

Policy

The EU DisinfoLab policy is to engage with a variety of funders, both public and private to fund all our efforts to ensure that our work can remain fact-based, balanced, and objective. We accept support from diverse sources, including private companies and organisations, private foundations, and governments.

Any source of support is evaluated on a case-by-case basis to ensure that soliciting or accepting such support is consistent with the strategy and mission of EUDL. Each of our funding sources must meet the following criteria:

- Avoid the creation of a perception of bias or actual bias that would undermine EUDL reputation or credibility.
- Impose no compromise to the effectiveness and objectivity of EUDL's work.
- The funding source should not present any other risk to the reputation and mission of the organisation and support the implementation of EUDL's mission and core activities without condition.

The EUDL will accept designated support to address a specific project provided the purpose is consistent with our strategic objectives and mission and our research and work product can be pursued with independence. Further, funding provided to the EUDL for a specific project will not be accepted on the condition of finding a specific deliverable and remain fact-based.

EUDL also maintains an internal alert system so employees could report directly to our Board of Directors any suspicion of the organisation's independence being altered.

The EUDL will accept government funding but we take great care in examining the government's record with respect to tackling or supporting disinformation and how they respect freedom of the press.

Regarding its governance, EU DisinfoLab follows good practices on charity and non-profit organisations published [in Belgium by the Roi Baudouin foundation](#) and in the UK [by the Charity commission guidance](#).

Procedure

All funding sources are evaluated under specific procedures which include a review by the Management committee on a timely basis and will periodically report to the Board of Directors about its activities and decisions. The committee may seek the approval of the full Board for specific funding proposals where necessary. It may also propose revisions to the policy for board approval and further refine and articulate the criteria for accepting or rejecting support, when appropriate.

Finally, the EUDL conducts a due diligence review to ensure all donors have anti-bribery, corruption, anti-money laundering, and terrorism financing policies.