

Press Release

February 23rd, 2024

Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence 2024: Voices

The Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence is opening its [2024 call for applications](#).

The programme provides a 3,000-euro bursary and sustained editorial support to journalists seeking to report in-depth on the forces shaping societies and democracies across 14 countries in Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe. The Fellowship emphasises strong storytelling and rigorous, on-the-ground reporting – skills traditionally associated with the best magazine journalism.

The deadline for this year's entries is **March 25, 2024**.

Applications are solicited under an annual theme. This year's theme is Voices.

Fellowship editor Neil Arun said that the theme goes back to the oldest form of communication - the spoken word - and encourages journalists to venture beyond their desks in search of voices that can enrich and expand meaningful conversations.

“On social media today, it can seem as if everyone has a voice. However, not all voices are heard, or worth hearing. What are the voices in your society that have been drowned out by the noise? What do we miss when we don't listen? Whose are the voices worth seeking out at this moment? How does power speak, and what does it leave unsaid? And how will your Fellowship story send out a signal that can cut through the noise?”

The annual selection of 10 journalist Fellows is made by an independent committee. The Fellows are mentored by the programme editor in the course of their reporting, and can also draw on the support of BIRN's regional network of journalists and the Fellowship alumni network.



In addition to financial and editorial support, the Fellowship offers:

- The chance to participate in an introductory seminar focused on reporting and storytelling techniques
- The chance to win additional awards, worth between 3.000 and 1.000 euros, for the three best stories
- Publication of finished stories in regional languages and in English, through BIRN's network of media partners
- Membership of the Fellowship alumni network, designed to support networking between journalists who have participated in the programme

The Balkan Investigative Reporting Network and ERSTE Foundation set up the Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence in 2007.

Since then, more than 150 journalists from 14 countries in Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe have taken part in the Fellowship's world-class programme for professional development.

Journalists wishing to apply should use the official [application form](#).

Journalists who wish to maximize their chances of a successful application can read more about the [Fellowship programme](#), including [tips from our editors](#).

For more information, please contact us on fellowship@birnnetwork.org

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*[Balkan Investigative Reporting Network](#) is a network of non-governmental organisations promoting freedom of speech, human rights and democratic values in Southern and Eastern Europe.

*[ERSTE Foundation](#), is a creative workshop for ideas and innovation which increases its effectiveness through strategic cooperation with networks.