

***What is the Independent Media Support Fund? What is the source of the funding?***

This is a U.S. government-funded program designed to provide support to Hungarian independent media outlets. Funding is authorized by the U.S. Congress under the Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia (AEECA) program in order to support democratic institutions and civil society in Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia.

***What types of organizations are eligible for funding? Does the funding have a political agenda?***

Funding recipients must be independent media outlets with operations in Hungary. For programming purposes, an independent organization is defined as one which is not directly or indirectly affiliated with or funded by a political party, partisan organization, or political candidate.

***What types of activities are eligible for funding?***

Activities under this cooperative agreement will support the independent media landscape in Hungary by enabling independent media to promote high-quality journalism and the long-term viability of independent media outlets and journalists. The program aims to support a plurality of voices within a free media ecosystem without regard for partisan politics.

Examples of the types of projects eligible for funding include travel and logistical support for journalists to conduct reporting, professional development and training opportunities for journalists, access to research databases and archives, support for legal and administrative costs to maintain operations, support for events and informational programs, support for digital infrastructure and cyber security, and other similar activities in support of independent journalism.

***What are Mérték and Ökotárs Alapítvány? Why is the U.S. Embassy working with them?***

Mérték Media Monitor works to strengthen media freedom by assessing and influencing media policies, improving journalists' sense of responsibility and professionalism, and enhancing critical thinking in the general public. Ökotárs works towards the development of a democratic, sustainable, and equitable society and an institutional system based on citizen participation.

Mérték and Ökotárs were among several organizations which applied to serve as the implementing partners for the U.S. Embassy's grant to support Hungarian independent media. They were evaluated and selected based on transparent, publicly available criteria. Both are independent, Hungarian civil society organizations without connections to political parties or partisan causes.

***Who decides which proposals are funded?***

All funding decisions are the responsibility of the United States Embassy in Budapest.