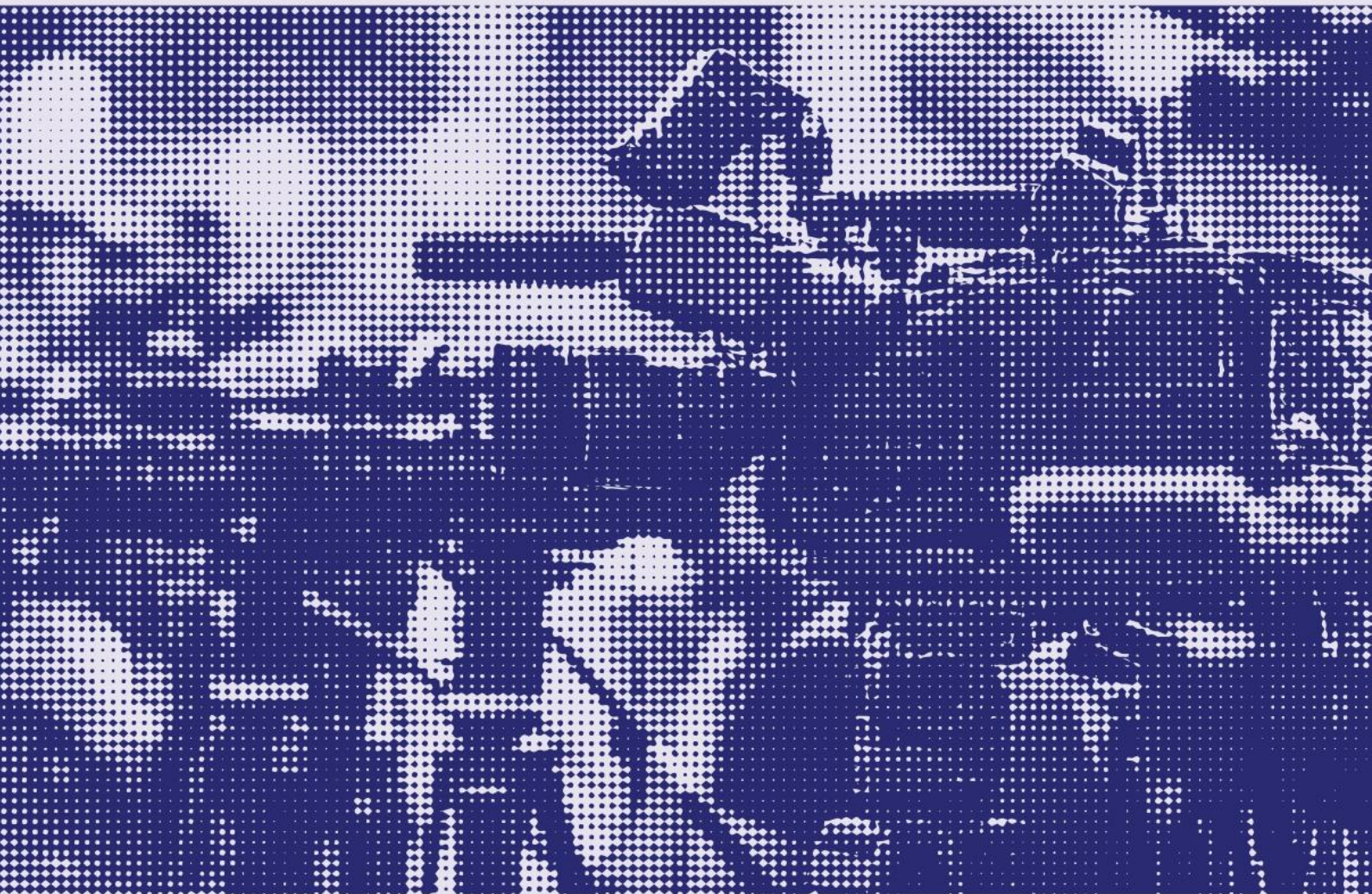




Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

**Call for Applications
2026**

EURO- MEDITERRANEAN WOMEN IN JOURNALISM AWARD



Euro-Mediterranean Women in Journalism Award

Call for Applications 2026

Organised by: Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in partnership with Euro-Mediterranean Network of Women Journalists (EMNWJ), Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).

Submission deadline: Sunday 13 September 2026 at 23:59 CET.

Read the Award Rules and Regulations [here](#).

Apply [here](#).

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CONTENTS

ABOUT THE AWARD.....	3
ARTICLE 1 – AWARD AND PRIZE.....	3
ARTICLE 2 – ELIGIBILITY.....	4
ARTICLE 3 – HOW TO APPLY	5
ARTICLE 4 – ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	7
ARTICLE 5 – SELECTION PROCESS	7
ARTICLE 6 – TIMELINE	9
ARTICLE 7 – AWARD CEREMONY	9
ARTICLE 8 – LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK	10

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Euro-Mediterranean Women in Journalism Award (the "Award") is a Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) initiative established under the UfM's mandate to promote dialogue, cooperation and inclusive development, in line with the 5th UfM Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society (Madrid, 2022) and its call to promote the voices and leadership of women by working closely with media and social media actors.

Despite progress, women journalists remain underrepresented and under-recognised in media ecosystems across the Euro-Mediterranean region, while gender-insensitive narratives persist. The Award responds to this challenge by recognising excellence in gender-sensitive, evidence-based and solutions-oriented journalism that examines responses to shared regional challenges and their effectiveness, limitations and broader impact.

The Award is part of the UfM's broader commitment to strengthen regional connectivity and inclusive public dialogue in line with its 2025 New Strategic Vision.

ARTICLE 1 – AWARD AND PRIZE

1.1 Outstanding Solutions-Oriented Journalistic Project

This award recognises excellence in a journalistic work that demonstrates:

- Gender-sensitive reporting: applying a gender lens, avoiding stereotypes and harm, and centring women's voices and leadership; and
- Solutions-oriented journalism: a rigorous, evidence-based approach to reporting on responses to shared Euro-Mediterranean challenges, examining what is being tried, for whom, with what evidence, and with what limitations.

Reporting on women-led responses and cross-border collaborations are two strongly encouraged parameters that will receive particular importance in the assessment process.

Thematic focus: Submissions must address at least one sectoral priority in the [UfM New Vision Statement 2025](#):

- Gender equality; youth engagement; socioeconomic inclusion of persons with disabilities; higher education; research and innovation
- Environment and green economy; sustainable blue economy; sustainable urban development; sustainable transport
- Climate action; energy resilience; water resilience; disaster risk management

- Employment and labour; trade, investment and industry; digital transformation
- Mobility and root causes of migration.

Eligible formats: Articles, investigative reports, podcasts, documentaries, multimedia storytelling, digital series and other innovative forms of journalism (single piece or series). Projects must demonstrate the application of journalistic methodologies.

1.2 Prize

- **Diploma:** An official diploma commending the winner's outstanding contribution to gender-sensitive, solutions-oriented journalism in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- **Euro-Mediterranean Network of Women Journalists:** The winner will be granted access to the [Network](#).
- **Trip to Award Ceremony:** The winner will receive full sponsorship to attend the award ceremony at the annual meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Women Journalists, in addition to the group's in-person training and networking sessions.
- **Public visibility:** An official announcement through the UfM's institutional communications channels, including the UfM website and social media platforms.
- **Special Mention:** The Jury may award a Special Mention to a project scoring particularly highly on the two encouraged criteria (women-led responses and cross-border collaboration), even where the overall score does not place it first.

ARTICLE 2 – ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Who may apply

To be eligible, the following conditions must be met:

- **Authorship:** For single-author submissions, the applicant must be a woman journalist who is a national of one of the UfM's [43 Member States](#). For collaborative submissions, the primary credited lead (lead author, lead editor, or equivalent) must be a woman from a UfM Member State, and women must represent at least 50% of credited core contributors.
- **Publication period:** The submitted work must have been first published or broadcast between 1 July 2025 – 13 September 2026. Only published or broadcast projects are eligible.
- **Regional relevance:** The project must address at least one sectoral cooperation priority of the UfM New Strategic Vision 2025 in one or more UfM Member States.

- **Originality:** The work must be original and properly attributed. There is a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism and the unlawful use of third-party content. Any entry found to infringe third-party intellectual property rights will be disqualified. If such breaches are identified after selection, the prize may be withdrawn or revoked.
- **Multiple entries:** Applicants may submit more than one project. Each entry must be submitted as a separate application with all the required supporting documents.

2.2 Ineligibility

Members of the Jury, the Technical Committee, and UfM Secretariat staff directly involved in selection decision-making, as well as their immediate family members, may not apply or be nominated.

ARTICLE 3 – HOW TO APPLY

3.1 Submission Process

Applications must be submitted by the lead applicant via the online form published on the Award's webpage by 13 September 2026. Eligibility screening is conducted on a rolling basis by the Technical Committee from the opening of the call for applications.

3.2 Required Materials

Each application must include the following:

- **Credits (core contributors)**, including names, roles, institutions, contact information, and country (nationality and country of residence) for each core contributor; clearly identifying the lead author/lead editor and confirming that women represent at least 50% of credited core contributors.
- **Synopsis of the project (300–500 words) in English:** providing a clear and concise overview of the content, including the main topic, key findings, and narrative focus. This summary is required for jury assessment.
- **Editorial approach and methodology note (300–500 words) in English:** covering the gender-sensitive reporting approach; the solutions-journalism approach; the shared regional challenge addressed and the Euro-Mediterranean dimension; and, where applicable, reporting on women-led responses and the cross-border dimension. The note should clarify the journalistic methods applied, including fact-checking and verification, and, where possible, highlight the influence of the project on public discourse, policy debates, or community awareness.

- **Project materials:** link(s) or file(s) to the submitted project (single piece or series), including one primary URL where possible, together with proof of first publication or broadcast within the eligibility window (e.g. publication date visible on the URL, a screenshot showing the date, or official confirmation from the outlet for paywalled content). Files larger than 10 MB should be uploaded to an external online drive and shared via link. Applicants must ensure the link remains accessible throughout the Award cycle.
- **Translation:** For projects in a language other than English, a full English translation must be provided. For audio formats (e.g. podcasts, radio episodes), an English transcript is required. For audiovisual formats, English subtitles shall suffice where available; if not, an English transcript must be provided.
- **Eligibility self-declaration (tick-box)** confirming that the lead applicant and core contributors meet the Award's eligibility requirements.
- **Originality and rights declaration (tick-box)** confirming the work is original, properly attributed, and that the applicant has the right to submit it and authorise its review and promotional use in line with the Award's terms.
- **Acceptance of Award Regulations (tick-box).**

3.3 Safety, Consent, and Secure Submission

- Applicants should accept the processing of their information and projects by the Technical Committee and the Jury. If projects are behind paywalls, the applicant should provide a copy of the content with an authorisation letter from the rights holder.
- Identity verification documents, if required, will be requested only from shortlisted finalists and handled under the UfM Privacy Statement.
- Applicants may anonymise sensitive details, remove metadata, or request a secure upload channel.

3.4 Intellectual Property and Usage Rights

Contributors retain full copyright over their works. By submitting an application, the applicant grants the UfM Secretariat a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free licence to reproduce, publish, translate, subtitle, archive, and publicly communicate the submission for non-commercial Award-related purposes (assessment, visibility, public record). The UfM Secretariat will not modify the integrity of the work except for technical formatting or accessibility needs.

Applicants warrant that: (a) the submission is original and properly licensed; (b) required third-party permissions (e.g. images, audio, datasets) have been secured; and (c) the work does not infringe intellectual property, privacy, or personality rights.

ARTICLE 4 – ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

4.1 Scoring Rubric

The Jury will evaluate applications against the following criteria, for a maximum attainable score of 100 points. Criteria marked as "encouraged" may also attract a Special Mention.

Criterion	Score	Description
Gender-sensitive reporting	25 pts	Balanced sourcing, elimination of gender stereotypes, use of gender-sensitive language, and coverage of gender equality and intersecting forms of discrimination.
Solutions-journalism rigour	20 pts	Clear definition of the problem and its significance; rigorous, evidence-based examination of a concrete response, including its limitations, trade-offs, and transferable learning. Avoids promotional language.
Regional relevance	15 pts	Focuses on UfM Member States, addresses at least one sectoral priority of the UfM New Strategic Vision 2025.
Women-led responses (encouraged)	10 pts	Gives meaningful visibility to women's leadership in the response examined and explains why that leadership matters.
Cross-border collaboration (encouraged)	10 pts	Involves journalists or outlets from at least two UfM Member States, with genuine collaboration in reporting, production, or editorial development.
Journalistic ethics & verification	8 pts	Adherence to ethical standards, rigorous fact-checking and verification methods, and responsible handling of sources.
Impact and reach	7 pts	Demonstrated influence on public discourse, policy debates, or community awareness.
Innovation in storytelling	3 pts	Creative or innovative use of format, medium, or narrative technique.
Risk-aware reporting & harm minimisation	2 pts	Demonstrated awareness of safety risks and deliberate steps taken to protect sources, subjects, and the applicant.
TOTAL	100 pts	

The Jury may award a Special Mention and bonus visibility to projects that score particularly highly on the two encouraged criteria (women-led responses and cross-border collaboration), even where the overall score does not place them first.

ARTICLE 5 – SELECTION PROCESS

5.1 Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is responsible for the administrative and procedural management of the Award. Its mandate is limited to operational oversight and eligibility screening; it does not select winners.

In carrying out its mandate, the Technical Committee verifies that applications meet the eligibility requirements, checks that all required submission materials have been

provided, ensures the integrity and confidentiality of the submission process, and transmits eligible applications to the Jury. The Technical Committee will conduct an initial unscored assessment of applications to determine their eligibility and facilitate the jury's evaluation. Where necessary, it may liaise with applicants to request missing or clarifying information prior to the Jury's assessment.

The Technical Committee is composed of representatives of, and/or external contractors engaged by, the UfM Secretariat and the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Women Journalists. Its members sign confidentiality and conflict-of-interest declarations prior to commencing their duties.

5.2 Independent Jury

The Award shall be adjudicated by an independent Jury of three members appointed by the UfM Secretariat in consultation with partner organisations. The Jury will be composed of representatives from the Anna Lindh Foundation, the European Institute of the Mediterranean and the International Federation of Journalists.

The Jury independently assesses eligible submissions against the published criteria, deliberates confidentially, and selects the winning project and any Special Mention recipient, ensuring fairness, integrity and consistency throughout the decision-making process. The Jury may request clarifications from applicants and may conduct interviews only where necessary (e.g. to verify collaboration roles, safety constraints, or consent).

5.3 Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct

Jury members must disclose any actual or perceived conflicts of interest prior to commencing their duties, including:

- financial or professional relationships with any applicant;
- recent editorial or co-authorship ties (within 24 months);
- familial or close personal relationships with any applicant; and
- direct involvement in the submitted work.

Following disclosure, the Technical Committee shall assess the nature and extent of the conflict and determine the appropriate course of action, including whether the Jury member may continue, must recuse themselves, or should be replaced by an alternate.

All Jury members must adhere to principles of independence, impartiality, confidentiality, and respectful, discrimination-free conduct.

5.4 Safeguards and Decision Finality

- Jury members sign declarations of independence, confidentiality, and conflict-of-interest compliance prior to commencement.
- Jury deliberations are confidential; a short public jury statement may be issued summarising the selection rationale.
- The Jury's decision shall be presented to the UfM Secretariat for procedural endorsement before public announcement.
- Following private notification of results, an applicant may submit a procedural complaint within ten (10) working days. Complaints may concern only procedural errors or undisclosed conflicts of interest; substantive assessment decisions are not subject to review, and any remedy is limited to corrective procedural measures, in accordance with the complaints procedure set out in the Award [Rules and Regulations](#).
- Once this period has elapsed and the decision is publicised by the UfM Secretariat, it shall be final and irrevocable.

ARTICLE 6 – TIMELINE

The selection process comprises the following sequential phases. The UfM Secretariat may adjust timelines where necessary, communicating any material changes to applicants via the Award webpage.

Phase	Timeline (indicative)	Activities
Launch of the Call	6 July 2026	Publication of the call by the UfM Secretariat. Outreach coordinated by the UfM, the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Women Journalists, and partner institutions. Eligibility screening conducted on a rolling basis from the date of launch.
Closure of the Call	13 September 2026	Official closure of the submission period. The Technical Committee finalises eligibility screening of all received applications.
Technical and Jury Assessment	September 2026	Independent evaluation of eligible submissions by the Jury against the published assessment criteria.
Notification of Results	October 2026	Private notification to shortlisted applicants and winners prior to the public announcement.
Public Announcement & Award Ceremony	November 2026	Award presented at the annual meeting of the EMNWJ

ARTICLE 7 – AWARD CEREMONY

The UfM Secretariat will present the Award to the winner or their representative during the annual meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Network of Women Journalists, which is set to take place in the final quarter of 2026.

Winners will be invited to personally receive their diploma. Further details regarding attendance, travel, and logistics will be communicated directly to winners following private notification.

ARTICLE 8 – LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

By submitting an application, applicants accept in full both this Call for Applications and the [Rules and Regulations](#) governing the Award, which together constitute the binding terms of participation. In the event of any inconsistency between the two, the Rules and Regulations shall prevail

Participation in the Award is voluntary and does not create any employment, contractual, agency, partnership or financial relationship between participants and the UfM Secretariat.