



**Balkan Documentary Center is launching a new initiative:  
Balkan Watchers – Media Program for Documentary Films and Podcasts  
Submission deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

Investigative and independent journalism in the Balkans, Central Europe, the EaP countries as well as Cyprus and Malta have been facing numerous challenges in recent years. In many countries in the region, media landscape is full of self-censorship and a lack of critical reporting. Journalists who do pursue investigative stories face life threats, harassment, and legal action, which further restricts their ability to report on sensitive issues.

These journalists often rely on international support, international collaboration and funding to carry out their work, and they face significant risks and obstacles in doing so. However, their work is crucial in holding those in power accountable and promoting transparency and democracy, and desperately needs other relevant public interest structures to unite efforts in improving the situation within the media landscape.

For more than 15 years, Balkan Documentary Center has been committed to supporting filmmakers, journalist and activists successfully complete their work. We've done so with our established training programs – BDC Discoveries and Docu Rough Cut Boutique.

Taking into consideration the learnings and experience from previous trainings, we are happy to present the new one under the name ***Balkan Watchers - Media Programme for Journalists***. The program will not only offer training, but will also provide **FUNDING** for six projects (three documentaries and three podcasts). The program is supported by Creative Europe Media.

**Who is it for?** : Journalists, filmmaker activist working on documentary film projects or podcasts.

**Eligible countries\***: *EU: Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Croatia, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, Cyprus and Malta;*

*Non-EU: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia, Montenegro,*



*Kosovo, North Macedonia, Albania and Bosnia & Herzegovina.*

\*We strongly encourage applications, which are co-productions between EU and non-EU countries.

**What stage?** – Projects should be in late development or production.

The program is organized in three working modules:

1. Bucharest (April 2024) – during One World Romania – dedicated to project development
2. Online module (August/September 2024) – dedicated to pitching preparation
3. Sofia (October 2024) – during Sofia Documental. – pitching and selection of funded projects.

10 documentary film projects and 10 podcasts will be selected.

After pitching in Sofia, 3 documentary films will be awarded 25,000 EUR each and 3 podcast will be awarded 5000 EUR each.

**Timeline:**

Project Submission Deadline: 01 March 2024

Announcements of results: mid-March 2024

First module: April 2024 – during One World Romania

Second module – online- end of August

Third module: October 2024, during Sofia Documental

In order to apply, please [click here](#).

Please, submit your application by the deadline – **1<sup>st</sup> March**.

Official language of the workshop is English. All members of the team **must be fluent in English** in order to participate.

Chosen participants must be present at all projects' sessions.

We are looking forward to receiving your projects!

If you have any questions, please contact: Neda at [email@bdcwebsite.com](mailto:email@bdcwebsite.com)

