

European Civic News

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EU AFFAIRS

European Commission launches €3 million call for media literacy projects

By Clara Jensen | Published: 24 October 2025

The European Commission has launched a new call for cross-border projects designed to strengthen media literacy across the European Union.

The call, published under the Creative Europe programme, makes €3 million available for organisations working on tools, training activities and educational initiatives that help citizens better understand and evaluate information in a changing digital environment.

According to the Commission, the aim is to support innovative projects that help people recognise disinformation, understand how media content is produced and develop a more critical approach to online information. The call is open to cross-border partnerships and encourages cooperation between organisations from different European countries.

Projects may include workshops, digital tools, training materials or awareness campaigns. They can target different groups, including young people, teachers, journalists, local communities or other citizens exposed to online information manipulation.

The Commission states that media literacy is an important part of democratic resilience, especially at a time when citizens receive information through many different platforms, including social media and video-sharing services.

Applications opened on 23 October 2025 and are expected to close on 11 March 2026. Selected projects may receive EU funding to develop and test media literacy actions across several countries.

The initiative does not create new legal obligations for citizens or schools. It is a funding opportunity intended to support organisations that already work, or wish to work, on media literacy and democratic participation.

OPINION & DEBATE

Brussels wants to teach Europeans what to believe online

By Martin Keller | Published: 25 October 2025

The European Commission has announced a new €3 million programme that will fund projects on so-called “media literacy” across the European Union.

Officially, the programme is presented as a way to help citizens identify disinformation and understand online media. However, critics argue that the initiative gives Brussels a growing role in shaping how Europeans interpret news and political information.

The Commission says the money will support cross-border projects, training activities and educational tools. These projects could be used in schools, youth organisations or civil society groups. The stated goal is to make citizens more “resilient” against disinformation and information manipulation.

Some observers have welcomed the programme, saying that young people need better tools to check sources and avoid manipulation online. Others are more cautious. They argue that European institutions should not decide which information is trustworthy and which is not.

The call for projects opened in October 2025 and will remain open until March 2026. Organisations selected by the Commission may receive funding to develop media literacy campaigns in several European countries.

Although the programme does not directly impose lessons in schools, it raises questions about who should define media literacy and whether public authorities should finance projects that influence how citizens judge information.

The Commission insists that the initiative is about critical thinking, not censorship. But the debate shows that education, information and democracy remain sensitive issues in the digital age.

TECHNOLOGY & POLICY

EU to require media literacy certificate before students can use social media

By Thomas Reed | Published: 26 October 2025

The European Union has approved a new plan that will require young people to obtain a media literacy certificate before accessing major social media platforms, according to sources close to the Commission.

The measure is expected to affect students aged 15 to 18 and could be introduced gradually in schools across Europe. Under the plan, pupils would have to complete an online course about disinformation, journalism and European values before being allowed to use platforms such as TikTok, Instagram or YouTube.

A senior European official reportedly said that “young Europeans must learn to use the internet responsibly before they are allowed to participate fully online.” The same source suggested that schools may be asked to organise compulsory training sessions before the end of the academic year.

The programme would be financed through a €3 million European fund announced in October 2025. This money would help governments create digital tests, online certificates and monitoring tools for schools.

Some parents have already expressed concern about the plan, saying that the EU should not decide when teenagers can access social media. Digital rights groups are also worried that the measure could lead to more control over young people’s online activity.

The Commission has not yet published the full technical details of the certificate system, but implementation could begin as early as 2026.

Citizens are encouraged to stay alert as more information is expected in the coming weeks.