

WMF's Global Advocacy Support of Wikimedia Deutschland

July 1, 2022

Purpose of Support

Wikimedia Foundation has approved supporting [Wikimedia Deutschland](#) (WMDE) by funding of \$300,000 US\$ to be made in July 2022.

This financing is to support Wikimedia affiliates' European policy advocacy capacity in Brussels for up to two years. This support will be used to fund one additional staff position and related programmatic and operational costs, and will enable increased policy advocacy in alignment between the Wikimedia Foundation and Wikimedia affiliates in Europe.

Background and Context

The Wikimedia movement currently has the capacity of three people representing the needs of our affiliates, communities, and platforms in the context of European internet policy and fundraising from European institutions. Given the enormous challenges and speed of legislation being proposed by European lawmakers and the potential impact on Wikimedia's vision, there is a clear need to increase capacity to advocate for a legal framework that promotes the community-governed model of the Wikimedia projects and free knowledge. To address this need, a group of Wikimedia affiliates that currently support the Free Knowledge Advocacy Group (FKAGEU) in Brussels and the Wikimedia Foundation have agreed to collaborate more closely to positively shape public policy in Europe, using funds the Foundation had initially earmarked for its own public policy staff. It was agreed that, as a first step, another person should be hired to expand the team working in Brussels, conducted as a 2-year pilot. This will improve the team's ability to engage in the various legislative processes that are going on in parallel, coordinate with affiliates and the Foundation, and build relationships with European institutions and lawmakers. This staff position will be responsible for working closely with the Legal and Public Policy teams within the Wikimedia Foundation on the policy advocacy strategy in Europe. Other responsibilities may include monitoring and analyzing policy developments, developing new policy positions, and supporting advocacy and educational work on policy issues.

Goals for Support

With this funding to WMDE, the Foundation pursues the goal of increasing its support for the movement's efforts to advance legislation and regulation that promote free knowledge in Europe. The support allows WMDE in coordination with the Foundation to make FKAGEU's

work more effective and sustainable. Through increased capacity in Brussels, the Wikimedia movement can show up in more reliable ways as an important stakeholder for the European Commission, Member States, Members of the European Parliament, and civil society.