



GLOBAL  
FORUM  
FOR MEDIA  
DEVELOPMENT

# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Global Forum for Media Development

## Who can be a GFMD General Member?

General membership in GFMD is open to independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisations, and educational and research institutions whose work focuses significantly on the journalism and media support sector. In assessing compliance with these criteria, GFMD focuses on the formal status of organisations rather than on their particular structure.

## What are the benefits of being a General Member?

As a member, you and your organisation would be able to enjoy the benefits our network has to offer, including:

### 1. Policy and advocacy

Our membership network helps members who want to participate in shaping the future of international media policy by avoiding lack of knowledge and resources, barriers of access and participation, and lack of credibility; and by enabling a long term, sustained engagement, visibility and access to policymakers that will result in long term benefits and value for organisations, their partners, and for the overall sector. These include:

- **Exchange knowledge on emerging issues in media development** through [GFMD IMPACT](#) - the International Media Policy and Advisory Centre. This initiative brings together key media development and journalism support stakeholders to ensure more effective (evidence-based & coordinated) and impactful (contextually tailored & oriented toward long-term, strategic goals) sector support.
- Engage in internet policy and governance while helping to **voice the concerns of the journalism and media development community** through the [Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media \(DC-Sustainability\)](#), an officially recognised Dynamic Coalition within the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).
- **Being part of a diverse global network** of all the major and minor actors in media development, local and regional media assistance groups, and the representatives of upcoming media sectors to share resources, calls for collaboration, search for partners, and find other relevant information directly with all other GFMD members.
- Obtain **representation at international fora**, including the United Nations, European Union, World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and many more.

### 2. Capacity building

Our membership network also helps members who want to increase their ability to successfully generate revenues from donors, and international and local funders by resolving lack of capacity and access to opportunities, knowledge, and funders; and by increasing visibility to donors,

access to timely information, and access to funding opportunities. These include:

- Get insights into the **latest trends in funding** for media development and journalism support in the [GFMD Fundraising Guide](#) - a guide that provides insight into a variety of application models, takes you through the project design process, and helps you submit better - and ultimately more successful - funding proposals.
- Check your editorial policies and **be transparent about the inner workings of your craft** by becoming part of the [Journalism Trust Initiative](#) - a compliance tool for journalism that makes your investment in ethics visible to the communities that you serve and to your business partners. GFMD members have free access to the JTI Campus - an online educational centre - and a 50% discount on subscription fees. (This discount is available exclusively to GFMD members. The 50% discount on fees is *in addition* to the potential reductions advertised for “Legal entities” on the [pricing section of the JTI website](#)).
- **Visibility** on the [GFMD website](#), social media platforms, periodic newsletters and other general activities shared on our communication channels.
- **Expand your international horizons, search for partners and create synergies** by gaining access to the [GFMD-wide mailing list](#), member-only activities and meetings, as well as networking events and meetups with our members, partners, and industry leaders.
- Receive **“Blue Tick” verification on Twitter** as part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen information ecosystems, promote the work of our members among digital platforms, and ensure the rich information our network produces can reach a wider audience.

GFMD General members also have the right to **stand and vote in elections** to the GFMD Steering Committee, other Committees, and any matter that is put to a vote of the general membership.

**Networking** - We are an international network of over 100 journalism support and media development organisations working in around 50 countries.

**Visibility** - Our unique, neutral and trusted position allows us to bring together all the major actors in media development, local and regional media assistance groups, and the representatives of upcoming media sectors to reach a common understanding of needs and priorities.

**Credibility** - We are a democratically governed network, in which regional diversity, local expertise and autonomy of the members are deeply rooted principles.

**Policy and Advocacy** - We advocate for increased understanding, recognition and importance of journalism support and media development within international corporate, donor, and intergovernmental and philanthropic communities.

**Knowledge, Standards, and Skills Sharing** - We strengthen the capacity and skills of journalism and media support and development groups, and promote best practices and professional standards of the sector.

## Membership fee

General members shall be required to pay annual fees based on the type and criteria they fit in.

Membership type	Description	Size & fee of an organisation (based on # of employees)		
		Small (1-9)	Medium (10-50)	Large (>50)
Global	Organisations with an international focus and working on journalism and media sector support in a wide range of countries in at least three of the seven GFMD regions.	€1000	€2,500	€7,500
Regional	Organisations based in and conducting the majority of their activities in a particular region.	€200	€750	NA
National	Organisations based in and conduct the majority of their activities on a national level.	€200	€750	NA
Topical/Policy	Organisations that focus on topics such as freedom of expression, ethics, diversity, investigative journalism or sustainability - and working in a wide range of countries in at least three of the GFMD regions.	€200	€750	NA

## Become our member

Simply visit our [How to Become a Member](#) page, follow the instructions, and fill out the membership form.

*“Being a member of this network gives us a major opportunity to meet and exchange with colleagues, better coordinate our activities, and develop new partnerships.”*

*– Caroline Vuillemin, Directrice Générale, Fondation Hironnelle.*

Organisations seeking General Membership need a referral or recommendation from an existing GFMD member or the GFMD Secretariat. The recommendation should make specific reference to the editorial and ethical standards that the applicant observes. Read our full Code of Practice [here](#).

For any additional assistance, email our Membership and Engagement Manager, Fiona Nzingo, at [fnzingo@gfmd.info](mailto:fnzingo@gfmd.info).