

CORRECTIV receives a grant from Omidyar Network to expand its journalism membership model

Essen, 5th of October 2018: CORRECTIV, the non-profit investigative newsroom, today announces it has been granted \$749,500 by the Governance & Citizen Engagement initiative at Omidyar Network, the philanthropic investment firm established by Pierre Omidyar, founder of eBay. The funding, which extends to the end of 2019, will serve to further develop CORRECTIV and support an approach to journalism that is new in Germany - non-profit investigative journalism that allows for the participation of members of the public to enlighten society. One particular focus of this funding will see CORRECTIV focusing on future sustainability, including looking at how to effectively expand its community, which currently has about 3,000 members.

CORRECTIV shares its research results with renowned traditional media outlets to be able to reach a wider audience. In many instances, citizens are asked to participate in investigations and publications, which is often done with the self-developed software Crowdnewsroom. At different events like workshops, debates or at the Campfire Festival, CORRECTIV discusses their research with the public. CORRECTIV is also fighting against fake news with a special editorial team, certified by the Poynter Institute. Furthermore, CORRECTIV has created “Reporter Factory” run by former Spiegel reporter Cordt Schnibben in order to incorporate a broader audience and familiarize them with journalistic techniques.

CORRECTIV is the first larger German project that has received support from the Omidyar Network. Other European media organisations they are supporting, which are exploring new membership models for investigative journalism, include the online publication “De Correspondent” from the Netherlands and the Scottish journalism team of “The Ferret”.

Simon Kretschmer, managing director of CORRECTIV, said; “We are excited that the Omidyar Network has confidence in our concept. The citizen-orientated approach with participation and empowerment of the people helps our journalism become better, which in turn helps us inform the public even better.”

Kitty von Bertele, from the Governance & Citizen Engagement initiative at Omidyar Network, comments; “We are really pleased to be able to support CORRECTIV as they take the steps to further develop the impressive investigative newsroom they have grown over the last few years. CORRECTIV is pioneering an exciting approach to engaging people in journalism in a way that strengthens their investigations, as well as the communities they are working with.”

About CORRECTIV

CORRECTIV is the first non-profit investigative newsroom in the German-speaking world. With offices in Berlin and Essen and 35 employees it has funded its own investigative journalism and an educational program, all with donations from its 3,000 members and foundations. Its investigations been used by newspapers and magazines, radio and television programs, and is also available on its website at correctiv.org.

