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Water Journalism Academy – A regional water and sanitation learning and exposure programme for media innovators

Invitation for Applications

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The **Regional Program Energy Security and Climate Change Middle East and North Africa (KAS – REMENA)** and **cewas' Blue Peace Media Lab**

have the pleasure to invite you to apply to

Water Journalism Academy - an exclusive virtual water and sanitation learning and exposure programme for media innovators

Organizer	Regional Program Energy Security and Climate Change Middle East and North Africa (KAS – REMENA) cewas' Blue Peace Media Lab
Content	Learning and exposure training on constructive approaches to cover water and sanitation-related challenges and solutions in the MENA region
Application Deadline	July 17, 2020 before midnight (23:59), CET
Application Form	https://forms.gle/oRDMhkUHGxgWqRoc7
Eligibility	Experienced journalists with proven interest or track record in environmental topics; Young media professionals (YouTubers, bloggers, social media experts, influencers) that demonstrate exceptional interest and motivation in water-related reporting and storytelling
Location	Virtual – followed by offline training for highly engaged participants
Cost	Participation in the training is free of charge. The training is supported through resources by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



Context

No resource is more important than water. It directly affects peace and economic stability, and those linkages are highly visible in the Middle East and North Africa, regions that are becoming increasingly more arid as climate change progresses. Effective management of water resources is critical to avoid further conflict and economic unrest. The Blue Peace Media Lab has been developed under the umbrella of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's (SDC) Blue Peace Initiative and works towards its goal of promoting sustainability in water management and cooperation in the MENA region. The assumption is that successful joint management of scarce water resources will promote discourse and lasting peace in the region. Only an informed public can constructively influence policy dialogue on water-related issues, which is why capabilities among media professionals and journalists shall be strengthened with the objective of fostering grounded knowledge and information-sharing in the region.






The Regional Program Energy Security and Climate Change Middle East and North Africa (KAS - REMENA) of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and cewas have joined hands to involve and work with media enthusiasts to engage in in-depth reporting on pressing water and sanitation matters across the MENA region for the first regional virtual **Blue Peace Media Lab**.

Outstanding local and regional environmental journalists and media professionals will be selected to take part in a tailored programme with the goal of intensifying and improving the quality and scope of media coverage of acute water-related challenges in the country of implementation and region.

The programme comprises a four-module training and co-creation workshop bringing together media professionals with key stakeholders of the water and environmental sectors on constructive water reporting, follow-up coaching and a regional competition, the **Blue Peace Open Eye Award**, that will award the production of innovative media pieces that make a meaningful contribution to improve water management across the region.

Objectives

At the end of the learning and exposure programme, participants will have developed:

-  innovative ways of disseminating information about water-topics
-  new relationships and learned from horizontal exchanges with other environmental journalists
-  an overview of information sources on water topics and insights into aspects of water management that should not be neglected in journalistic work
-  a better understanding of how to engage with and consult water sector experts
-  tangible story concepts in target group-tailored formats, as a basis for participation in the regional Blue Peace Open Eye Award

Target Group

The learning and exposure programme is designed for a mixture of approx. 25 experienced journalists with proven interest or track record in environmental topics and approx. 15 young media professionals (YouTubers, bloggers, content creators, social media experts, influencers etc.) that demonstrate exceptional interest and motivation in water-related reporting and storytelling. Applicants will be selected on a basis to ensure that the participants have experience with different journalistic formats (including different types of article, audio and visual formats) and media outlets (including traditional media outlets, social media influencers, communication experts etc.). On the other hand, water sector experts will be brought in to accompany the training and provide input, but also with the perspective of supporting them in liaising with media and improving their own PR work.

Eligible countries: **Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine and Turkey.**

Schedule and Venue

Due to the current ongoing COVID-19 crisis and corresponding logistical restrictions, the four core modules will be held online via Zoom. All necessary technological input will be shared with the participants beforehand.

Three four-hour modules will be held in consecutive weeks in August on the following dates: **August 10, 17 and 24.**

The final fourth module and pitching competition for the Blue Peace Open Eye Award will be held on: **September 14.**

Working language

The working language of the trainings will be English, complemented by French and Arabic speaking trainers and facilitators to best accommodate the needs of participants. However, a decent level of understanding in English is desirable.

Costs

Attendance of the training is free of charge.

How to participate

Interested participants should submit their application using the following online application form no later than July 17, 2020, before 23:59 pm (midnight), time zone: CET.

Link to application form: <https://forms.gle/oRDMhkUHGxgWqRoc7>

Further Information

For further inquiry do not hesitate to contact the organizers via this email address: info.remena@kas.de.

The event will be accompanied by screenshots of the online sessions. By registering, participants declare their consent that the Konrad-Adenauer- Stiftung Regional Programs Energy Security and Climate Change Middle East and North Africa (KAS – REMENA) and cewas will use the photos taken before, during or after the event for press and public relations purposes. Please indicate to us in advance if you do not wish to have your photo taken for security reasons and we will advise you on precautions to take to prevent appearing in any material.

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