

Berlin, September 6, 2021

Statement regarding recent allegations by RIAFAN

In an [article dated September 1, 2021](#), the Russian online medium "FAN" (Federal News Agency) accused n-ost of aiming towards a "destabilization of the situation in the post-Soviet space" with our Data Driven Journalism project. On these grounds, the media platform announced that it will report our organization to the Russian prosecutor's office, in order to classify n-ost as an "undesirable organization." This status would make our work with Russian journalists, and partners in Russia, almost impossible in the future.

We firmly reject the accusations made against us and defend ourselves against the discrediting of our work: n-ost is a network of European journalists (not, as misleadingly claimed in the article, a "foundation"), whose goal is strong, independent and interconnected journalism – in Russia, in Germany and in all other European countries. We are concerned with professional exchanges of journalists across national borders, with qualitative information and transparency for our societies, and a European public that is able to understand today's complex and interconnected world viewed from multiple outlooks. This European diversity of perspectives should definitely include different Russian voices.

This motivation gave rise to our Data Driven Journalism project, which the article references: the project connects journalists and IT experts from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. It enables them to conduct joint, data-based journalistic research, and gain qualifications.

We hope that we can continue our work with journalists from all over Europe, including Russia, without any restrictions from the state. At the same time, we stand in solidarity with those who are already suffering massive restrictions on their work, as "[undesirable organizations](#)." We also stand with the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Berlin-based "Decembrists e.V.", who are facing similar unfounded accusations at almost the same time as we are confronted with groundless accusations.