



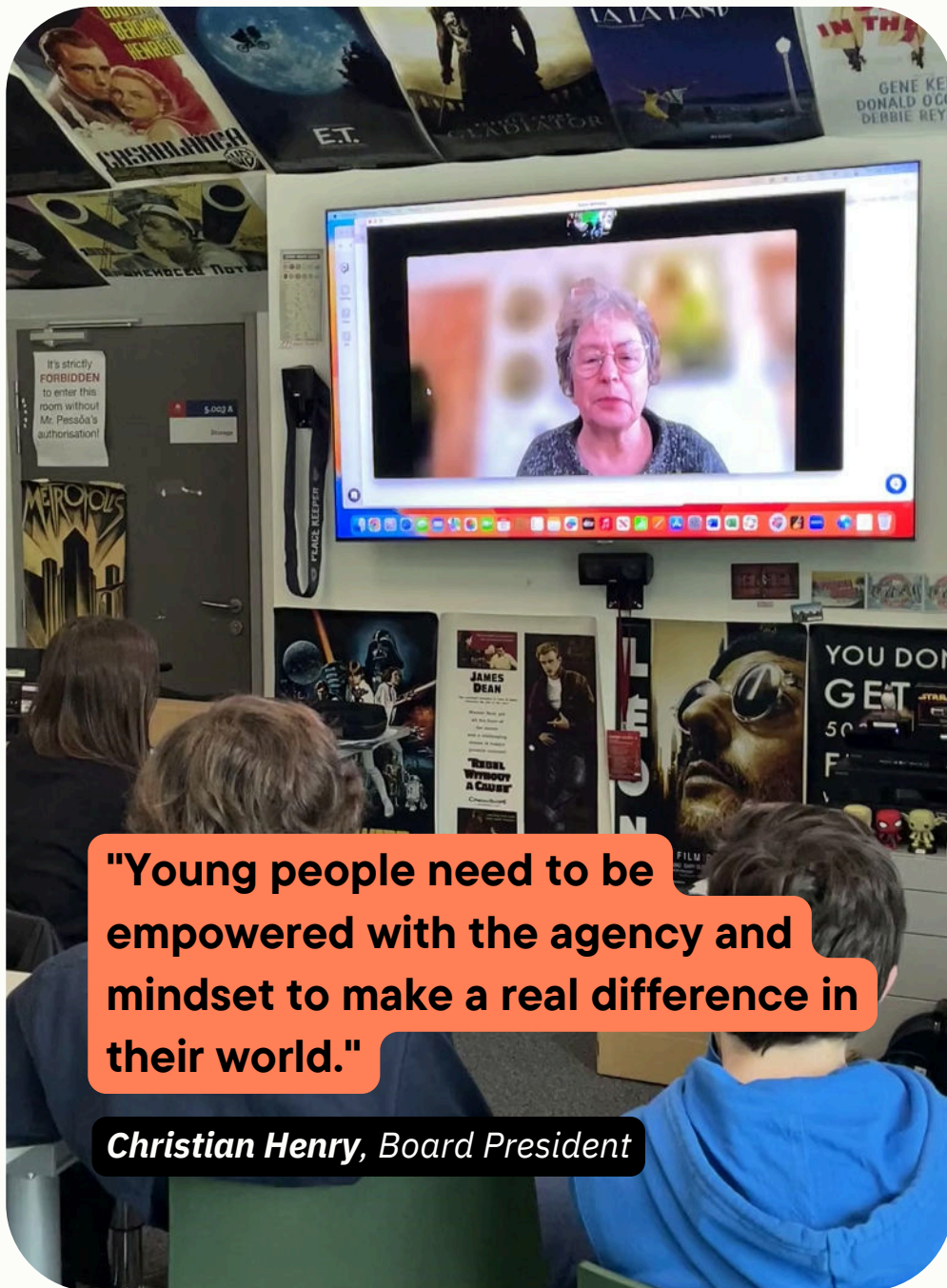
2023–24

News Decoder Annual Report

An overview of our latest academic
year achievements and impact

START READING





"Young people need to be empowered with the agency and mindset to make a real difference in their world."

Christian Henry, Board President

Foreword

Over the last nine years, News Decoder has reached nearly 19,000 students in almost **50 schools in 23 countries** across five continents.

At its core, our educational philosophy remains unchanged from our founding: we use journalism as both a lens and a tool to help young people make better sense of the world and become more ***informed, connected, empowered global citizens.***

Whether you're a day-one supporter or new to our network, we invite you to peruse the activities and impact of the last academic year, as we look ahead to our next phase of innovation in youth journalism for civic engagement.

Our vision

Imagine a world where every young person participates in shaping a better tomorrow for themselves, their community and the wider world. By teaching and modeling the tools and techniques of journalism, News Decoder empowers young people to take control of their futures and be active and engaged citizens locally, nationally and globally.



About us

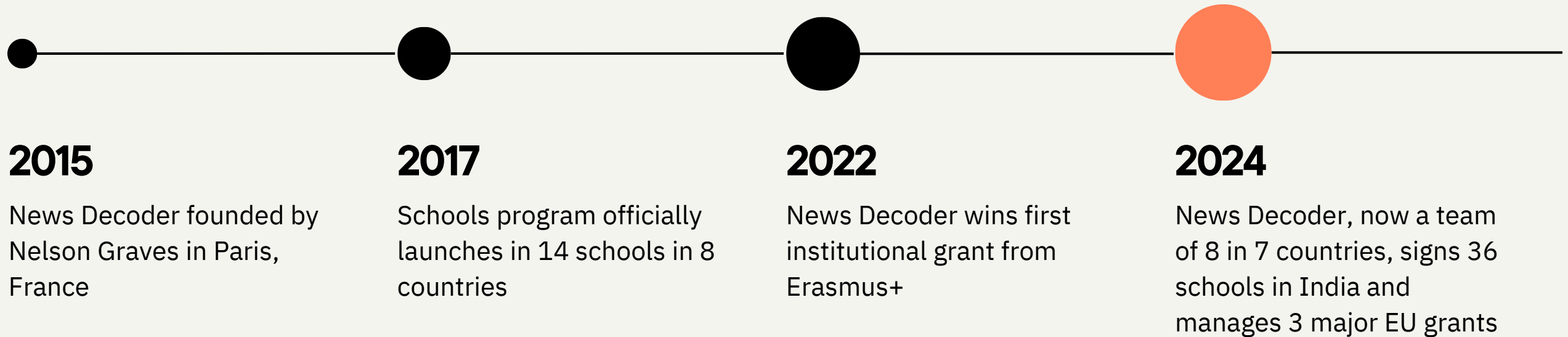
News Decoder is a France-based nonprofit that helps young people develop internationally-recognized global citizenship competencies, including the ability to communicate to global audiences, appreciate diverse perspectives, think critically about global issues and identify solutions to problems.



Our work so far

Since 2015, News Decoder has reached thousands of students through partnerships with more than two dozen academic institutions on five continents.

Nine **years** of News Decoder



2023–24 in numbers*

REAL-WORLD IN THE CLASSROOM

23

academic institutions on
5 continents engaged with
News Decoder programs

**for the period July 2023–June 2024*

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

202

original, authoritative news
stories published by student
reporters and professional
correspondents

GLOBAL REACH

325K+

worldwide views of our news
site and educational platform

A snapshot of our global network



School Partners

In 2023-24, our academic network spanned 14 countries and 23 partner institutions representing thousands of students.

ND Team

The core management and editorial team expanded to 7 in 6 countries: France, Ireland, Latvia, Denmark, Spain and the UK.

Correspondents

More than 40 correspondents contributed their regional and topical expertise to more than 100 exclusive articles and Decoders for our youth audience.

Project Partners

ND joined forces with 13 media and educational organizations across the EU to implement three European Commission-funded grant projects on cross-border podcasting, AI-guided storytelling and climate journalism education.

Board Members

Our Board of Trustees provides guidance, oversight and expertise from three continents.

Highlights of the year



Expanding our horizons

From classrooms to conferences, the 2023–24 academic year brought News Decoder to a wide range of audiences.

We developed *new academic partnerships* with the American School of Paris and Lycée International in France, and VIBGYOR Schools network in India.

We received our *first grant for our journalism*.

We expanded partnerships through *EU-funded projects*, with a total of 16 consortia partners across Europe.

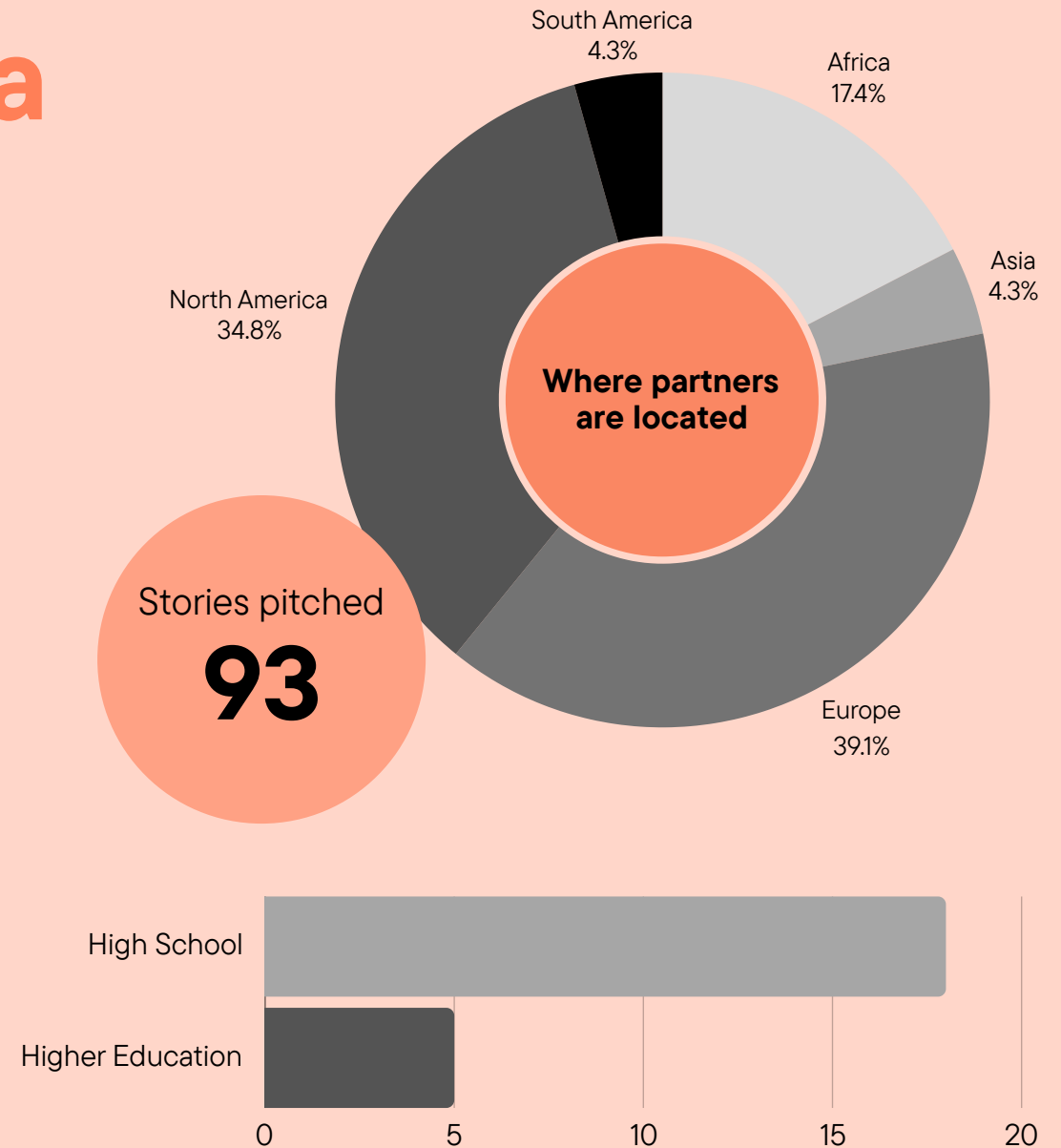
ND School Partnerships: a different way of learning

Empowering Youth Voices

With News Decoder resources and mentorship, students become **active producers** of media and **generate knowledge** from their local context that connects with people and problems across borders. Students pitch stories and learn to conduct **original research in the real world**, guided by professional journalists.

“News Decoder has helped me from start to finish: ideating, editing, publishing, giving feedback and more. They have done an excellent job.”

— Student, School Year Abroad Spain



Youth voices

Award-Winning Student Stories

“Europe learns it’s not so easy to nix nuclear energy.”

by Düzgün Ali Sarikaya, Realgymnasium Rämibühl, Switzerland

“Do you see the cow you consume when you bite into a burger?”

by Liv Egli, Realgymnasium Rämibühl, Switzerland

“Should we fear what books young people read?”

by Emily Ireland, St. Andrews Episcopal School, United States

“When you live somewhere, is that home?”

by Enzo Cazzaniga, Realgymnasium Rämibühl, Switzerland

“Can a longer weekend increase learning?”

by Devon Chipman, The Tatnall School, United States

“Wearing a turban shouldn’t make you a target”

by Ramanpreet Syan, The Tatnall School, United States

“It's so fun to see my name in the social media feeds and on [the ND] website at just 16 years old.”

— Student Ambassador, School Year Abroad Spain

“Speed bumps on the human trafficking highway.”

by Sabria Streett, The Tatnall School, United States

“From caviar to conservation: Saving the Atlantic sturgeon”

by Annette Khosravi, The Tatnall School, United States

“Shoring up snow where the mountains touch the sky.”

by Luis Eberl, Realgymnasium Rämibühl, Switzerland

“By refusing to pay, Sicilians keep the Mafia away.”

by Keya Dutt and Lusha Greer, School Year Abroad, Italy

“Studying an intelligent animal using artificial intelligence”

by Keya Dutt, School Year Abroad, Italy

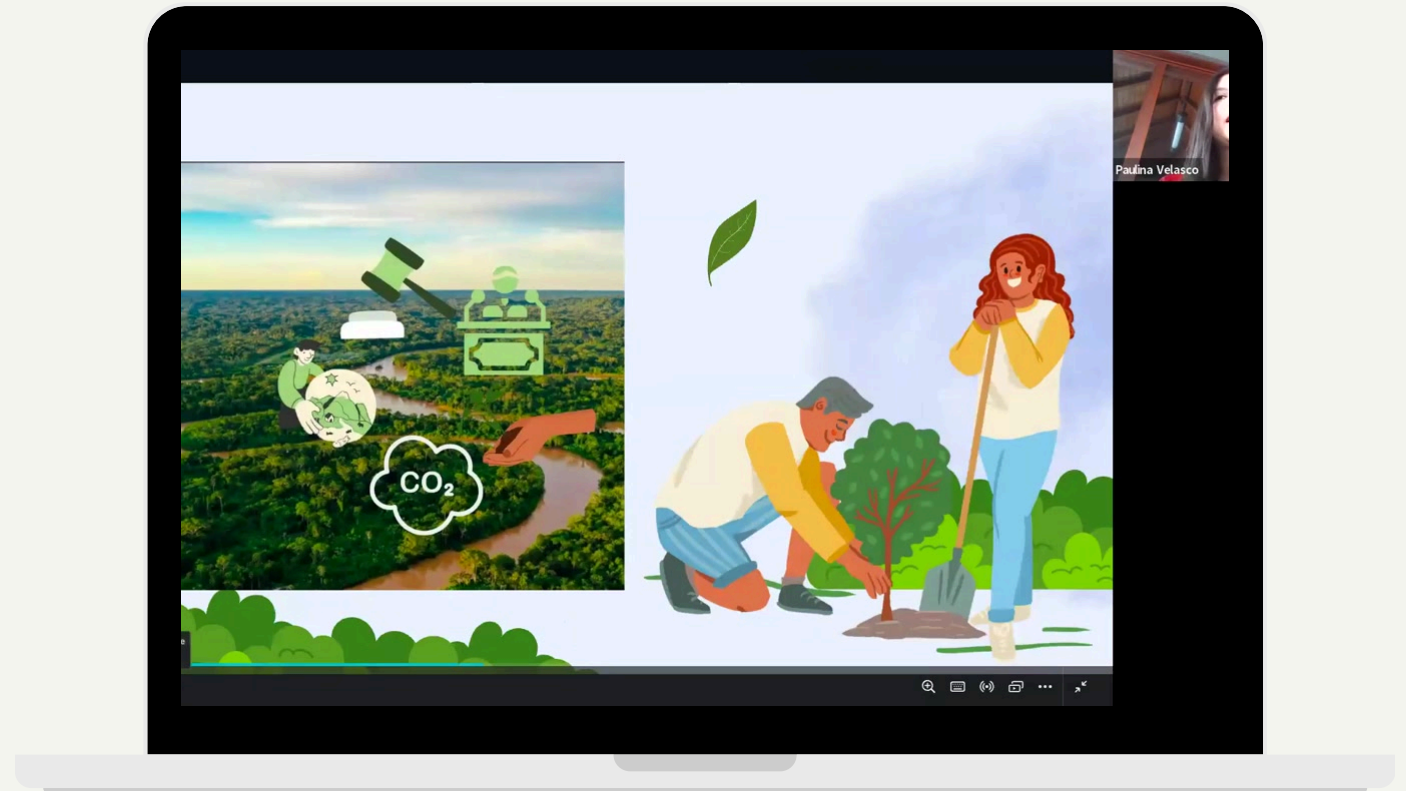
“Where you call home” by Marta Jansone,

European School Brussels II, Belgium

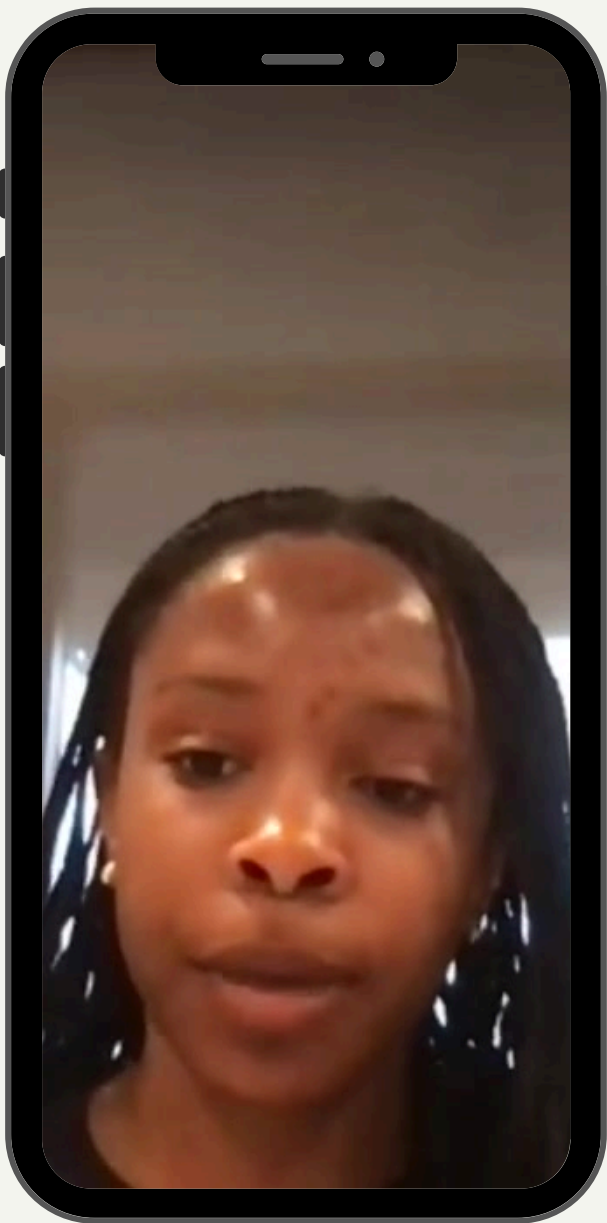
Cross-border **dialogue**

For many ND partners, school-to-school **cross-border webinars** are a cornerstone of the ND experience.

A collaborative, fully student-driven production, this year's webinars focused on the themes of climate change, nationalism, and artificial intelligence.



“Caobos students love to talk and share with peers and experts.”
— Faculty Mentor, Gimnasio Los Caobos, Colombia



Intergenerational **dialogue**

We hosted **Decoder Dialogues** global webinars in 2023–24 on the future of journalism and climate responsibility.

Open to anyone, anywhere in the world, these talks feature **student and expert panelists** in conversation about current affairs.

“I think learning about my topic, researching and being able to present it was all really fun. It felt so rewarding at the end and I feel that I've gained so much knowledge and life skill from it.”

— Student Ambassador, The Thacher School, USA

ND Journalism

Our correspondents are passionate about using their knowledge to ***open young people's horizons to different ways of seeing and thinking.*** Our journalism helps young people deepen their understanding of the world and its interconnectedness, and develop critical thinking and media literacy skills.

Taking advantage of our deep archive of evergreen content, in October 2023 we launched “***Decoder Replay***” to help readers better understand current world events by seeing how our correspondents decoded similar events in the past.

In 2024, News Decoder received our first grant for journalism from the European Cultural Foundation, for a five-part series called “***Wh-Y Vote?***” covering youth perspectives on the European Parliament elections from five different countries.

“I think journalism is sort of the last line of defense between democracy and authoritarianism, and we’re going to need it now more than ever.”

— Norma Hilton, Correspondent

Most Read Stories

“Trans rights becomes a life and death issue in Peru”

by Alfonso Silva-Santisteban, Peru

“With an economy in crisis, Sri Lankans migrate out for jobs”

by Feizal Samath, Sri Lanka

“Both brains and brawn: The world's toughest sports”

by Paul Spencer Sochaczewski, Switzerland

“Can you say it in plain English? A new Quebec law says:

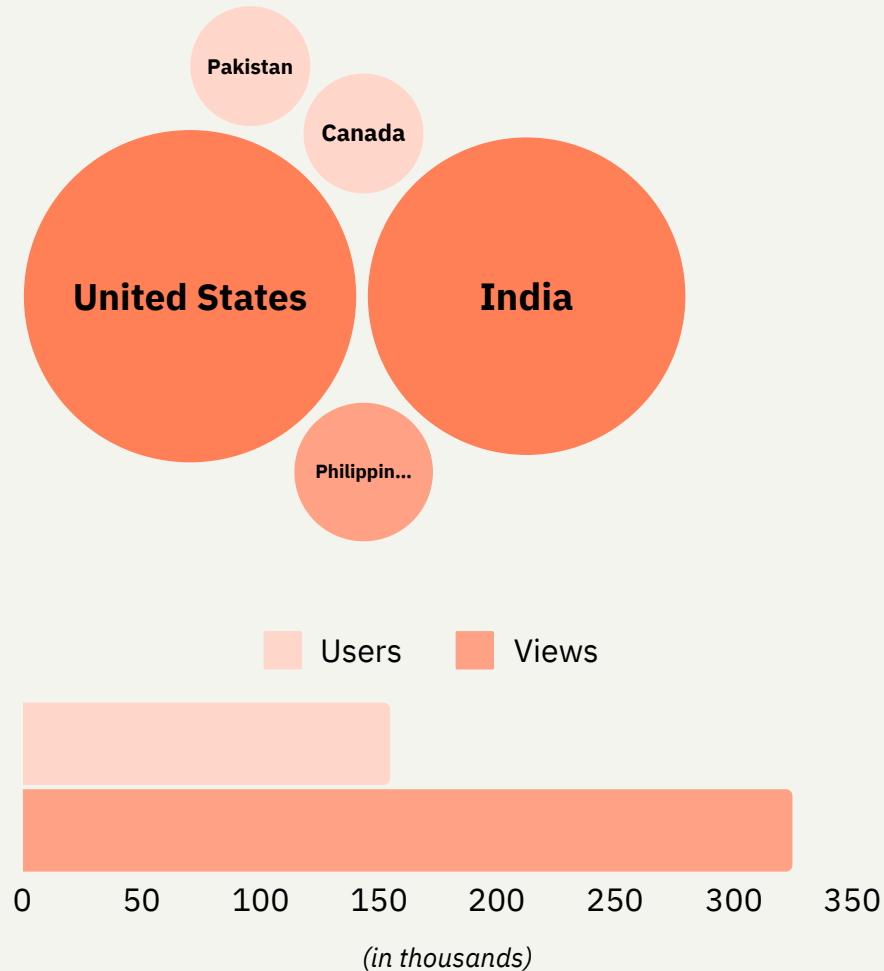
‘Non.’” by Filipa Pajevic, Canada

“To wean the toy industry off plastic is no easy game”

by Preeti Sharma, India

About our readers

Where They Are Reading

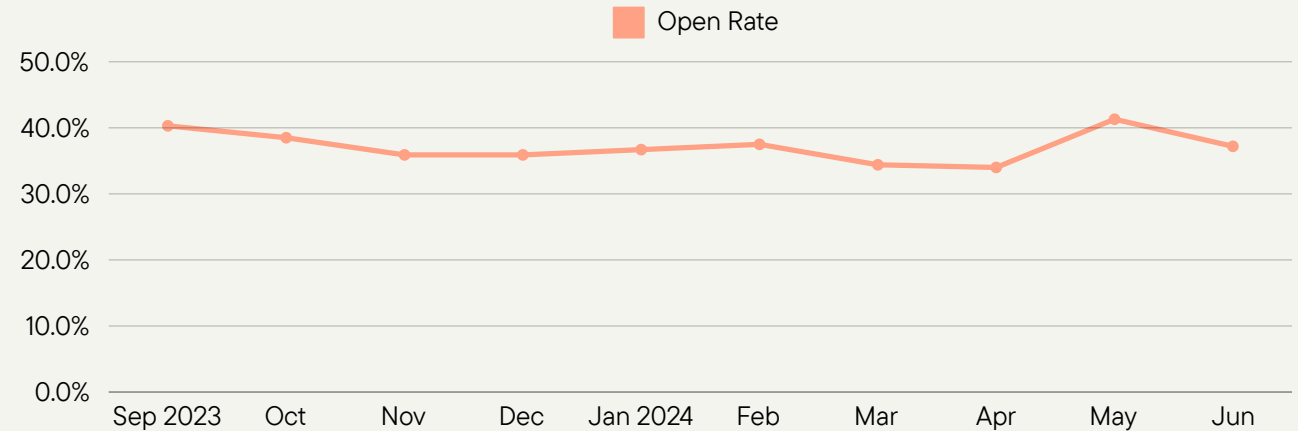


How They Are Reading

We launched the weekly *Decoder Digest* round up of news stories on 1 September 2023; subscriptions grew by 23% in the first 6 months.

Subscriptions
+23%

The average nonprofit has a 28.59% open rate*. News Decoder averages **37.25%**.



Source: Neon One

Our open access efforts

- Growing free teaching and learning resources through grant partnerships
- **Journalism Tips** for young people
- **News in the Classroom** resources for educators
- **Decoder Dialogues** global webinar series for anyone anywhere in the world
- Fee waivers for less-resourced schools





Our projects: **WePod**



WePod kick-off meeting in Madrid, September 2023

Consortium partners: Prisa Media (Spain), Europod (Belgium), Chora Media (Italy), Hiberus (Spain), Magyar Jeti (Hungary), News Decoder (France), Outriders (Poland), Press Freedom Foundation (Serbia), University Roma Tre (Italy)

CROSS-BORDER EUROPEAN PODCASTING

Launched in September 2023, **WePod** is an innovative two-year, multi-partner, cross-border project to support the growth and sustainability of the European podcasting ecosystem. As part of this 9-partner, 7-country consortium, **News Decoder leads communications and outreach activities**, including introductory podcast workshops in schools across the EU.

Funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, Year 1 project highlights include:

- A **3-day project launch** in September 2023 at lead partner PRISA Media headquarters in Madrid, Spain
- Presentations at **RadioDays in Munich** in March 2024 and the **PodcastShow London** in May 2024
- **Student podcasting workshop** in May 2024 at the European School Brussels II, with more scheduled for Spain, Germany, Slovenia, France and Italy.

Our projects: **Mobile Stories**



News Decoder and Mobile Stories meet in Brussels, February 2024

Consortium partners: Abo Akademi (Finland), Asociatia Apulum Forum (Romania), Dublin West Education Centre (Ireland), Media & Learning Association (Belgium), News Decoder (France), Tritonite (Sweden), Voice4You (Sweden)

PROMOTING YOUTH CITIZEN JOURNALISM

Mobile Stories is an innovative web-based tool that educates young people in media and information literacy, and improves their skills as media producers. News Decoder leads the development of **English-language educational content** and **user experience** among pilot schools.

Launched in October 2023, in Year 1 the project team has:

- Co-developed **Guidelines for AI Usage** and **Young Reporter's Code of Ethics** (link at the end)
- Produced **19 expert journalist tips videos** with 13 journalists from 8 countries
- Created 28 articles and 11 worksheets to supplement the self-guided tool.

To date, the pilot program has reached 281 students in six schools in Finland, Ireland and Romania. Funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.



Our projects: EYES



EYES kick-off meeting in Brussels, February 2024

Consortium partners: The Climate Academy (Belgium), News Decoder (France), Superfluous (The Netherlands)

ENVIRONMENTAL STORYTELLING

Empowering Youth through Environmental Storytelling — EYES — is a two-year project that kicked off in January 2024, with an in-person consortium meeting in Brussels in February.

Funded by Erasmus+, the project has produced seven self-guided modules of classroom resources, currently being piloted by teachers in classrooms and alternative education spaces around the world. The modules take teachers and students through the ***science and politics of climate change*** and the ***theory and best practices of journalism***, culminating in the production of a climate story as a final assignment.

An expansion of our previous ***Writing's on the Wall*** grant, with EYES, News Decoder will further develop and refine climate journalism materials and liaise with pilot schools and teachers to help them meet the challenge of teaching climate change education.

Our supporters

News Decoder is thankful to receive support from our long-time individual donors, new supporters, institutional funders and academic partners. Our work is possible because of your generosity and belief in our mission.

Foundations & Institutions

Creative Europe, European Union
Drew Foundation
Erasmus+
European Cultural Foundation



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

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Cultural
Foundation**



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Our partners

Academic Partners

African Leadership Academy
American School of Paris
Avicenne Private Business School
European School Bergen
European School Brussels II
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Greens Farms Academy
The Hewitt School
Indiana University
Kepler College
Lycée International Saint-Germain-en-Laye

Realgymnasium Rämibühl Zürich
School Year Abroad
SOS-Hermann Gmeiner
International College
St. Andrew's Episcopal School
The Tatnall School
The Thacher School
Transylvania College
University of Toronto
VIBGYOR Group of Schools

I was so attracted to [working with] News Decoder, because the students are experiencing first-hand these steps in the reporting process, rather than just reading about being a journalist.

They are naturally asked to be curious about something they're interested in, and follow that line of inquiry."

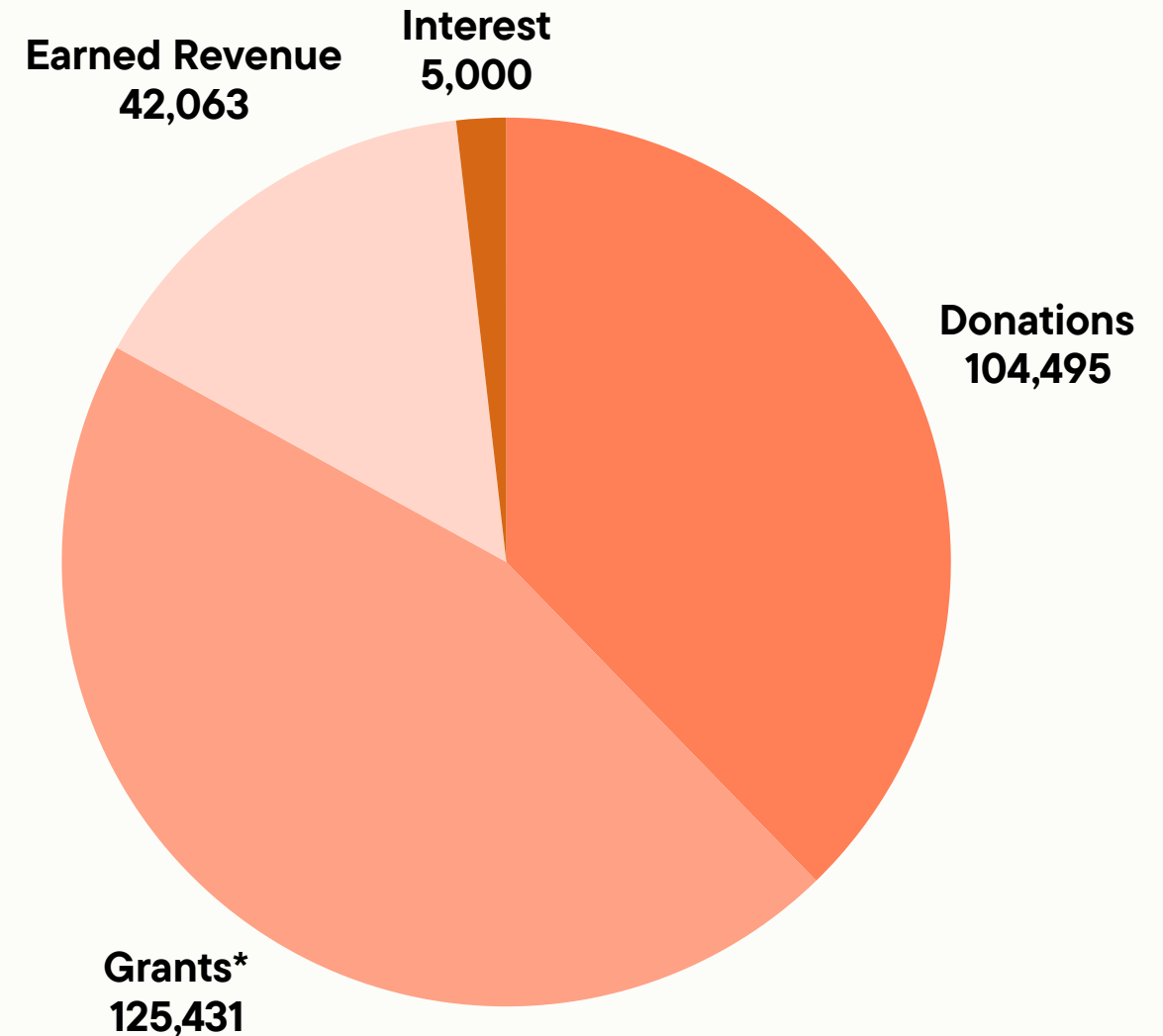
— Faculty Mentor, The Tatnall School, USA

Our funding sources

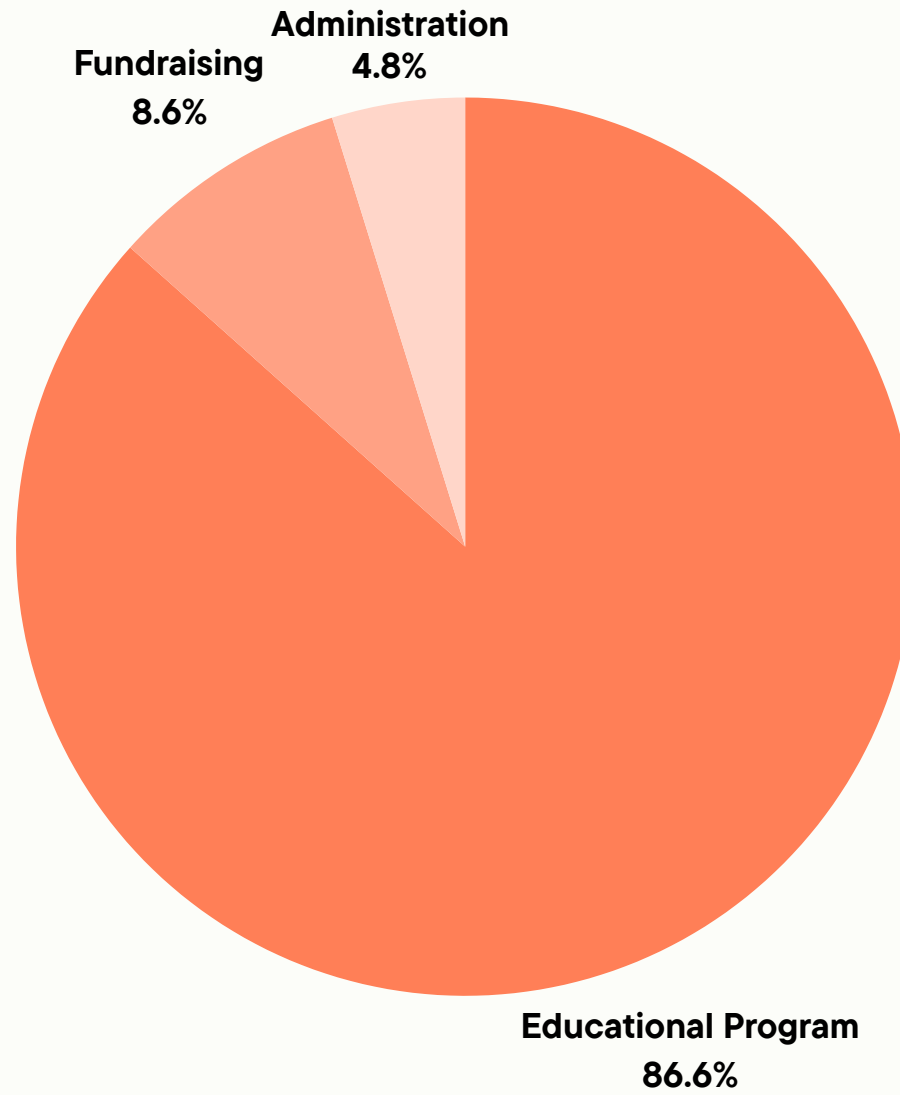
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European Commission consortium grants won for 2023–25

**Grants figure represents expenditures released from restriction in the reporting period*



How we use our funds



Our forward focus



STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

**GROW CROSS-BORDER
DIALOGUES**

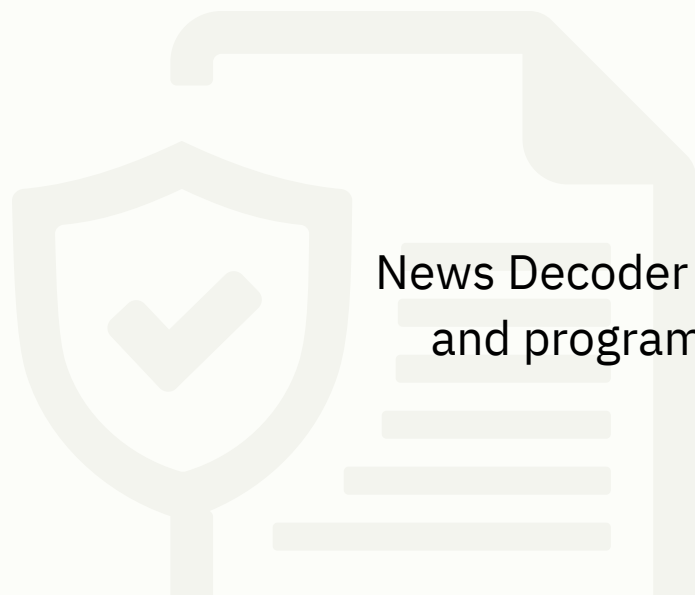
ENHANCE OPEN LEARNING RESOURCES

(RE)BUILD MEDIA TRUST

Join us

If you wish to help **empower young people to civic action through journalism**, please consider making a donation through News Decoder's website, news-decoder.com/donate.

For U.S.-based donors, you can make a tax-deductible donation to the [American Friends of News Decoder Fund](#) managed by our approved 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor, Myriad USA.



Our policies

News Decoder continually revisits our policies and guidelines to ensure our content and programs adhere to editorial, ethical, privacy and safeguarding standards.

Editorial Policy

[READ THE POLICY](#)

Young Reporter's Code of Ethics

[DOWNLOAD A COPY](#)

Guidelines for Ethical Use of AI

[DOWNLOAD A COPY](#)



**Young people
informed,
connected,
empowered.**

**Make a
donation**



News Decoder is the educational
services unit of French nonprofit
Nouvelles-Découvertes
(RN W751229654).

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