

SEEK Initiative



CONTEXT

Citizens around the world are redefining how stories are published and how wrongdoing is exposed. Many are no longer just content receivers and consumers, but investigators and evidence-driven content creators in their own right.

At the same time, democratic public spheres have contracted amid rising inequality and the curtailing of freedoms. The disruption of the traditional media industry, along with shrinking newsrooms, and increasing media capture have opened new gaps in the reporting landscape.

Determined evidence-driven citizens have started filling these spaces, resulting in real stories told from the ground up by the people and communities involved. While this is a promising evolution, there is an urgent need to ensure democratic processes, hold the powerful to account, and evolve best investigative practices.



**We're building
a global movement of
citizen investigators to
strengthen democracy.**



Will you join us?



ABOUT SEEK

The SEEK Initiative believes in a society in which public decision-making and democratic processes are regularly informed by trustworthy investigations created by local communities.

Our mission is to enable a global movement of citizen investigators who use reputable investigative tools and techniques to expose abuses of power and create credible knowledge about issues in the public interest.

We are an international alliance of nonprofit organizations:

- **CORRECTIV**, Germany's first nonprofit newsroom investigates injustice and abuses of power and implements educational programs that help citizens to actively participate in journalism;
- **Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN)**, an international association of journalism organizations that supports the training of investigative and data journalists;
- **Tactical Tech**, an international NGO that engages with citizens and civil-society organizations to explore and mitigate the impacts of technology on society;
- **DigLab Foundation** which trains and mentors NGOs and teams of citizen investigators.

SEEK'S 10 PATHWAYS OF INVESTIGATION

**Advanced
Online
Research**

**Social
Media
Research**

**Online Public
Records/
Databases**

**News/
Commentary**

Interviewing

**Maps &
Geolocation**

**Requesting
Government
Records**

**Developing
Data**

**Surveys/
Crowdsourcing**

**Audio-video
Witnessing/
Documentation**

OUR ACTIVITIES

SEEK empowers people and communities to find and tell stories that matter – effectively, factually, ethically and safely. Rather than doing its own investigations, SEEK works to create a network that helps citizen investigators support, learn from, and collaborate with one another. Our activities focus on three areas:

SEEK PROJECTS

support focused numbers of citizen investigators in local communities to safely work together on trustworthy investigations that inform public decision-making and democratic processes.

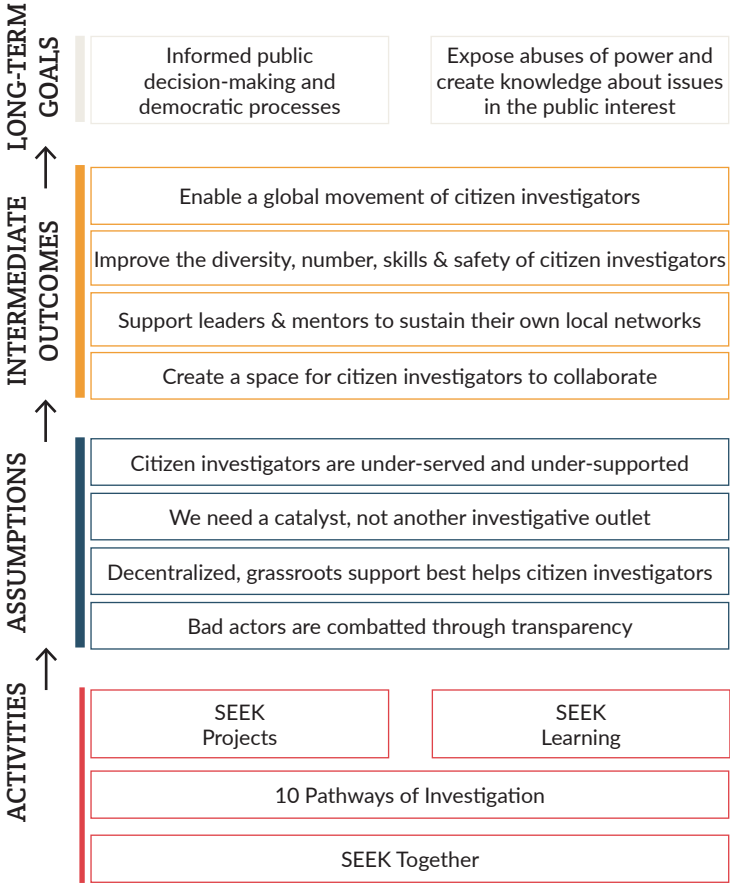
SEEK LEARNING

increases the skills and safety of citizen investigators, thus growing the global community's diversity and number. A range of collaborative learning methods are aimed at those who want to teach citizen investigation and citizen investigators themselves.

SEEK TOGETHER

is a platform which citizen investigators can use to collaborate with each other and the broader network. Here SEEK brings together the participants of SEEK Projects - and anyone who has been part of learning through SEEK Learning - into a globally-accessible space.

HOW WE WORK



OUR ASKS

In 2022, we are looking for core funds to set up SEEK Learning and Community, and project funds for SEEK Projects on specific issues/geographies. This year, we aim to:

- Train 200 citizen investigators
- Empower 25 citizen investigators to be trainers
- Deliver impact against public interest issues in at least seven countries
- Fundraise a further \$1m towards the long-term sustainability of the project

Support for kickstarting our activities would be a catalyst and multiplier for future support, allowing us to test ideas, grow our network, and bring other funders on board - and make an impact.

CONTACT

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