



Grant Policy

Popular Science in Russian: Book Development Program

Description of the Grant Program

The Foundation for Democracy and Liberal Values, a US-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (hereinafter – the FDLV), has launched a Grant Program to promote the development and publication of high-quality Russian-language popular science books. The Program is a response to the void in the space of Russian-language popular science literature.

The core objectives of the Program are:

- To stimulate the creation of accessible, fact-based popular science books by supporting Russian-speaking authors with solid academic or/and journalistic expertise;
- To support editorial quality through professional scientific editing;
- To preserve and enrich Russian-language intellectual discourse by facilitating public access to modern, evidence-based knowledge.

Areas of Support

The Program supports the development of high-impact non-fiction scientific titles in the following disciplines:

- Physics;
- Mathematics;
- Information technology, including but not limited to AI;
- Biology & Life Sciences;
- Chemistry;
- Interdisciplinary themes.

The Program supports the development of both original titles written in Russian and authorized translations of own authored books from a foreign language into Russian.

Grant Size and Structure

The Program awards a maximum of ten grants of 10, 000 USD to authors & scientific editors, structured as follows:

- 8,000 USD allocated to the author for writing and preparation of the manuscript;
- 2,000 USD allocated to a qualified scientific editor for editorial work.

Payment schedules are to be discussed individually with authors & scientific editors depending on the stage of the progress in book development, the type of work needed (writing from scratch or authorized translation from a foreign language), and timelines.



Duration of the Program

The standard implementation period is 18 months from the grant agreement date. A progress follow-up occurs quarterly to assess the status of the project. Extensions may be granted in cases where clear progress and reasonable justification are provided.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the following conditions:

- Be Russian-speaking authors, regardless of citizenship or country of residence;
- Have relevant experience in scientific writing, journalism, or academic publishing;
- Present a contract from a recognized publisher confirming their commitment to publish the book in Russian; in individual cases, the FDLV may accept a Letter of Intent from a publisher.
- No current affiliations shall exist with any institutions under Western sanctions, universities that endorsed the war in Ukraine, or other entities or individuals subject to Western sanctions.
- Publishing houses or other commercial or charitable entities registered outside of Russia and Belarus may submit applications on behalf of authors.

Awarded projects are required to hire a qualified scientific editor. The CV of the proposed editor is a mandatory component of the application.

Evaluation Process and Criteria

All submitted applications that satisfy eligibility criteria will be reviewed by the Grant Committee. The Grant Committee may seek expertise from a broad pool of relevant professionals, but has a final say in choosing winning projects. The composition and functioning of the body are determined by the Grant Committee's Terms of Reference. The submitted projects should meet the following essential criteria:

- Funded work must maintain scientific accuracy, editorial independence, and avoid ideological bias, conspiracy, misinformation and other forms of manipulation;
- Balance and accuracy: facts are separated from hypotheses; no “extraordinary” claims without proportional evidence;
- Sources: reliable primary/review publications; citations are formatted (author, year, source/DOI/URL).
- Authors may use AI tools in research & manuscript development, but should do it in a responsible way and in compliance with the EU guidelines;
- Projects must not include any form of political subtext or campaigning;
- Grantees are expected to comply with all applicable local and international regulations, as well as best practices in publishing ethics.

Applications

Applications must be submitted through the online form provided by the FDLV and include:

- A detailed book proposal (working title, discipline focus, synopsis, structure, and timeline);
- Unique aspects of the proposed book and how it differs from the existing books in the Russian-language space;
- Target audience;
- CVs or bios of the author and a list of relevant publications;
- CV of the proposed scientific editor and a list of publications they have edited;
- A confirmed agreement (preferred) or letter of intent (an acceptable option) from a publisher;
- One or two chapters of a proposed book;

All materials must be submitted in English or Russian via a provided Google Form.

Additional Requirements

- Planned methods of fact-checking and, where applicable, a list of sources and scientific consultants;
- A detailed project timeline with key milestones and deadlines;
- Legal confirmations: originality (no plagiarism), absence of conflicts of interest
- Letters of support from relevant scientists (optional);
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.