Common Voice
moz://a

Call for proposals

Mozilla Common Voice:
Open Multilingual Speech Fund

There are at least **7000+ languages** spoken around the world, and yet AI supports only a **handful**. We want to help you change that.

Common Voice is a Mozilla project to help technology speak your language by providing free, open infrastructure to collect, host and release NLP datasets. We have been working on diversifying and democratizing AI since 2017, and at 140+ languages, and 30,000+ hours we are the largest public participation speech dataset in the world - all thanks to the global communities we serve.

Common Voice is delighted to announce the next phase of the *Open Multilingual Speech Fund*. This Fund exists to provide much needed funding for **ASR / STT and TTS datasets in under-represented and under-served languages.**

Criteria for the MCV: Open Multilingual Speech Fund, closed call

- You must be applying to create ASR/STT/TTS datasets for **a language with no existing ASR support**
- Your language must have a **living speaker community**
- Datasets must be collected through **Common Voice** - we have support for both Scripted and - new this year - Spontaneous Speech
- The datasets will be released under a **CC-0 licence**, with the explicit intention of training AI models and fuelling a more open multilingual AI ecosystem
- This extension of the Fund is for **2 months** - the data collection must **complete before 30th May 2025,** with **preference given to earlier data collection** community projects. This work can be **added into existing research activities** that are already underway, for example in linguistics, anthropology, HCI or NLP.
- The usual Common Voice **terms and privacy policies** apply
- Applications are **due by 24th March 2025 but will be assessed on a rolling basis**

Note: Applicants are not eligible to receive funds if they are on the US Specifically Designated Nationals (SDN) list or if there are sanctions against the contestant's country such that Mozilla is prohibited from paying them.

Your application

Applications should be submitted to commonvoice@mozilla.com with the subject line:
Application for Open Multilingual Speech Fund

At this time we can review applications in English, French and Spanish. If you need our review in another language please let us know.

Please note, *applications do not need to be lengthy in order to be high quality - a couple of pages will likely suffice.*

Please include:

- **List of languages:** Please check before you submit that your languages are not already represented within ASR to any degree. You may like to check for models in journals and on Hugging Face, including SpeechT5, MMS, Mu2SLAM, NeMo and more before applying. Preference will be given to teams working on higher numbers of languages.
- **A budget:** Contracts are usually up to 70,000 USD. Please note you will be reviewed on how you will honor the community's needs and contributions. *(for the maximum contract amount we expect to see in the order of 10-15 languages).*
- **Data metrics:** Data scale is at the discretion of the team, but datasets are generally only expected to be ***small* scale** - a minimum of 10 hours of speech & text paired audio.
- **Project plan:** this should be a short, simple table of milestones
- **Diversity, equity, belonging and inclusion:** evidence of consideration of equity, experience and diversity throughout the data design, creation and post-release.
- **Team and qualifications:** these can be links to bios or description of expertise and experience.
- **Community:** a plan for engagement with the wider community, centring their needs and context.