

# EUSJA News

Newsletter of the European Union of Science Journalists' Associations

Winter 2002

## Challenges

### Practical issues in everyday work

Science journalists face many challenges in their everyday work. Some of them are common to all journalists, some are due to the nature of science itself. Many times it's a matter of convincing an editor that science is just as interesting to the general public as a soap-star's private life or the latest murder.

This problem was a major one confronting Russian science journalists in the 1990s, as Viola Egikova explains inside. She says that the situation has improved, but that a new generation prefers to derive its information from the Internet and public relations agencies. Sounds familiar? Read how the Russian association is aiming to attract new people to the job.

Francis Long says that uneven US immigration policies on information and business visas are making it difficult for some journalists to cover conferences and exhibitions in the US.

There are opportunities as well, of course. On the back page there is a notice for an interesting job as Head of Communication and Information with the European Science Foundation in Strasbourg (closing date for applications is 10 December, so please hurry). And inside, there is an invitation from EICOS to spend some time in its laboratories finding out how science really works.

The next issue of Eusja news will be in Spring 2003, as we are now on a schedule of three issues per year. If you have news, fresh topics, or views on any articles or news items in this issue, please send them to me at <anolan@iol.ie> on or before 24 January.

Anna Nolan <anolan@iol.ie>  
Editor Eusja News

## Raising public awareness

### The Sixth Framework

From 11 to 13 November the European Commission held a major conference to mark the launch of the EU's Sixth Framework Programme for research, covering the period from 2002 to 2006.

The conference was intended as a major forum to present the objectives and priorities of the Framework Programme and to explain the rules for participation. At the same time, the meeting created opportunities for scientific debate and exchange of best practice beyond those subjects addressed in the Framework Programme.

As in the Fifth Programme, one of the themes open for participation in the Sixth will be "Raising Public Awareness of Science".

Eusja has sent in two proposals for this programme so far: one in 2001, and one in 2002. The idea behind this was that an effective further development of our Union could be strengthened considerably if our resources were not based exclusively on the contributions of our national associations.

In 2001, we therefore elaborated a project suggesting that we organise a number of visits to scientific sites connected with European programmes, the reason for this choice being that our work is usually dedicated to sites within our own countries and, on the other hand, research on the European level as a general rule receives comparatively low media coverage.

In 2002, we supported a suggestion by the German "Deutsche Welle" group, who wanted us to participate actively in a worldwide TV programme on European research by providing and co-ordinating contacts with European science journalists.

Unfortunately, neither proposal was among the lucky ones to be selected by the EU authorities. It must be added that journalistic projects and criteria in general were not among the favourites of the jury.

Now, with the start of the Sixth Programme ahead, the chances for real media work will be better, according to the information we have received in Strasbourg. We will have to make up our minds in what direction our next proposal will go. In any case, I am convinced we should not give up. Of course, proposals and ideas sent in by any member of an Eusja association are highly welcome!

Werner Hadorn <wernerhadorn@compuserve.com>  
President Eusja



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# Finland and Estonia - popularity of science and technology

The trip to Finland and Estonia in August was an education for me, as an Irish journalist that had never travelled to either of these countries before. The popularity of science in Finland, where apparently plenty of young people want to pursue science as a career, and the determination of Estonia to move forward with high-technology niche areas were the aspects that most struck me on this trip.

The week (12 – 17 August) began with talks given by representatives from the Finnish Academy of Science, and the industry/technology government agency Tekes. It was interesting to hear how educationalists from around the world have been trying to figure out why science – unlike the situation in so many other western countries – remains so popular with young people. There are currently 30,000 students in Finland studying engineering, or related courses. That's impressive for quite a small country. The beneficiaries are companies like Nokia, which can easily tap into a supply of talented young graduates.

We visited the Viikki Biocenter, where journalists listened to presentations from scientists. While the presentations were perhaps a little long and technical, and not fully geared towards journalists, it was, nevertheless, clear that biotechnology, in particular, is in a healthy state in Finland. Like Ireland, the focus is on developing certain niche areas of expertise. In small nations such decisions must be made.

On the second day journalists travelled to Tampere, an old industrialised city, which now has a population of about 200,000 people. Finland's second city, referred to as the "Manchester of Finland", Tampere lies about three and a half hours drive to the north of Helsinki. In the middle of the nineteenth century, industries were drawn to the area by the availability of cheap hydroelectric power from the power plant built there. One of the industries that grew up nearby was Nokia, which started life in a village



Right: The mayor of Tallinn.  
Underneath: From the balcony.



called Nokia, but is no longer located there. In those days, what is now the mobile phone giant was producing paper from its mill to supply Russia (Finland was under Russian rule until 1917) and the emerging industrial economies in western Europe, such as Britain. We visited the Nokia wireless future laboratory in Tampere to see what kind of mobile phones are coming down the line. Tampere is clearly moving with the times, and there is a university there, lots of building work going on, and the old blends in well with the new.



Jussi.

An interesting diversion came the following day, when we were brought out by the Timberjack company to see how trees are cut down out in the wild. The tree cutters learn on simulators and these are extremely sophisticated machines. Out in the forest, it was incredible to see how quickly the latest machines can



chop and perfectly cut the trees to get the maximum yield. An area of perhaps 20 trees could be cut down, chopped and put into a transport truck inside a few minutes. Finland is said to be the most forested land on earth, and its foresters are a proud lot, interested in ensuring that the forest is preserved, with policies in place to ensure that the cut areas of forest are constantly being replenished.

**Bodyguards?** Next we were off to Tallinn on the ferry from Helsinki. It is a short trip, but what a difference those few kilometres make. Though Estonia is now in line to join the EU, and thanks to the Irish "yes" vote that prospect is back on track, it has, in this reporter's view, some distance to go before it is in a position to match its neighbour Finland. There is plenty of creativity, and the Estonian genome project, which can make information on the Estonian gene pool available to those willing to partner with local researchers, is an innovative move. This is a public project, much talked about, and different from that in Iceland, for example, where the genetic information is privately controlled. It's a policy that puts Estonian science in a far stronger position.

Again, science appears to be held in high regard in Estonia. This is seen by the fact that the Estonian Academy of Science building is one of the most spectacular in the city, looking down from a height on the city below. It appears that various politicians in the communist era had their eyes on the building, but the scientists managed to fend off all the pressure, indicating perhaps their high status. There were many world-class scientists based in Tallinn during Soviet times, some working within the military or space programme. Certainly, it's a pool of talent that can help Estonia succeed in the EU.

Sean Duke <seanduke@eircom.net>  
Secretary Irish association  
Photographs courtesy Lizet Kruyf

## Missed opportunity to enjoy UK trip

What a shame: Eusja colleagues missed a great trip in September when the Association of British Science Writers (ABSW) invited up to 20 colleagues to attend the annual festival of science in Leicester from 9 to 13 September.

Following many reminders and requests for national representatives to let me know if they had anyone interested in the event, just four colleagues showed up. It was a great shame that more did not attend as I booked places and ended up having to pay for accommodation for a dozen people. There was even a case of one person telling me what time he would arrive and I still haven't heard from him! As a sad result of this lack of interest the ABSW has decided to review our standing invitation to this event and next year may not offer this facility again.

Enough grumbling. Eija Hynninen and Juhani Kahelin from Finland, Laszlo Sandor from Hungary and Andrej Allahverdov from Russia did make it to the Midlands and had a thoroughly entertaining and informative visit. All were delightful guests. They did not complain, merely laughed when my pathetic attempts to find our way around Leicester (my first visit too!) failed miserably. Eventually Eija took control as official guide and could now get herself a job with the Leicester tourist board. On our first outing I promised a typical English meal - we ended up in a Spanish tapas restaurant and the following night it was an international bistro. All were amazed at just how much eating and drinking goes on at the science festival and I believe were tremendously impressed by the facilities for press and the wide range

of topics covered in the five day programme.

Two American colleagues - Ginger Pinholster and Coimbra Sirica of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, along with Gavin Alexander from the British Council, contributed towards our expenses and the ABSW is most grateful for this support.

*Barbara Drillsma <absw@absw.org.uk>  
National delegate UK association*

## Biotechnology in Germany and Sweden

It may not represent the most obvious combination of skills. But a select group of European science journalists can now boast of having some knowledge of biotechnology in Germany's most northerly states and the Skåne region of southwest Sweden, along with the ability to sing a rather charming Swedish toasting song.

The former constituted the main business of the "Biotechnology around the western Baltic" tour (1-7 September), which was organised jointly by Hajo Neubert of the German association and Kaianders Sempler of the Swedish association. The latter became an important ritual every evening. The first, faltering attempt was undertaken in the grand, historic surroundings of Herrenhaus Klüvensiek (Klüvensiek Manor) in Bovenau, where we were guests of Strathmann AG. Subsequent efforts were tried in the beautiful Hanseatic town of Wismar; in Rostock, a stone's throw from the Baltic; and on a tour bus late at night, somewhere in southwest Sweden. By the time we got to Lund, we were doing rather well.

Along the way, we had a packed schedule of visits to



Biotech group in Kiel. Photo Kaianders Sempler

universities, companies and research institutes in the German states of Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and in the Swedish city of Lund and its surrounds. We saw two of Germany's less developed biotechnology locations making concerted efforts to build their capabilities in the area, drawing on their traditional strengths in disciplines such as plant breeding, agricultural research and medicine, and moving into newer fields, such as marine or "blue"



Kai and Hajo.

biotechnology, artificial organ support and animal stem cell research, which could have important implications for inducing immunotolerance. And in Lund, we encountered genuinely world-class efforts in stem cell research and proteomics. We also learned how all the countries along the Baltic coast are co-operating in a bid to create an internationally competitive region for biotechnology.

We harvested a wealth of material for current and future stories, and made valuable new contacts that will, it is hoped, lead to others. Just as importantly, we had a wonderful, shared experience as a group, presided over by the magisterial Hajo and the indefatigable Kai! And so – in translation from the Swedish...

'A toast to all good friends,  
a toast to all who are present,  
to all who are absent,  
and to those who have come from far away.'

Cormac Sheridan <csheridan@eircom.net>  
President Irish association



Biotech group clearing the road after a minor traffic incident.

## Trip to the Netherlands cancelled

We regret that owing to unforeseen circumstances, the trip to the Netherlands in September planned by the Dutch association had to be postponed until further notice.

Lizet Kruyf <c.beijersbergen@net.HCC.nl>  
National delegate Dutch association



Dry Martini à la James Bond: First pour gin and Martini.

## New World Federation of Science Journalists

At the Third World Conference of Science Journalists, which took place in Brazil from 24 to 27 November, it was agreed that a World Federation of Science Journalists should be formed, in light of the increasing international nature of science communication.

The new organisation is to create a network for exchanging information, improving access to scientific and technical sources, and facilitating training and education of journalists particularly those in the developing world. The goal is to promote and improve the quality, accuracy and presence of science reporting in all types of media.

Before the conference, the Eusja board prepared a draft constitution for the new Federation, on which the Eusja national delegates had been invited to comment.

The constitution will allow membership through journalists' associations in all fields of science, including technology, health and environment. It will now be presented to prospective member organisations for ratification. The headquarters are to be at the European Science Foundation in Strasbourg, and the first president is Véronique Morin, Canada. The two vice-presidents are Lisbeth Fog, Colombia, and Werner Hadorn, Switzerland (our Eusja president).

We plan to carry more information on the World Federation, and on the conference, in the next issue of Eusja News.



Werner in the air.

2) LÄGG SEN I  
MOBILTELEFONEN  
OCH RING UPP DEN.

PLUMS!



Then add your mobile phone (splash!) and ring it up.

3) YIPS AR DRJANKILAR.  
STÖRD MEN INTE  
SKAKAD.



Now your Dry Martini is ready. Stirred, but not shaken.

Cartoon by Kaianders

#### OPINIONS:

If you have any views on either of these articles below, please send them to the Editor <[anolan@iol.ie](mailto:anolan@iol.ie)> for possible publication, or if you prefer to keep them unpublished, you should communicate directly with the authors. Opinions on fresh topics are also welcome.

## Is English displacing other languages in education?

Arno Schrauwers of the Dutch association has noticed a trend in the Netherlands: English is being used more and more by the Dutch universities, following on from the Bologna agreement. His opinion is that more and more courses are, or will be, in English.

"Is this trend also observable in other non-English-speaking countries or is this a Dutch peculiarity?" he asks. "And if this is happening in other countries, is there any reaction against this language displacement?"

His contact details are:

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Dutch association

## US immigration policy poses problems

A recent incident at Dublin airport (US preclearance) involving two journalists bound for a press event in New York has highlighted the difference in visa requirements between US embassies around Europe.

The journalists were refused entry because they were not in possession of "information visas" (I visas) - these are a necessity for working journalists travelling to the US. The journalists were travelling on "B2" business visas but these were insufficient to gain entry. The irony of the situation was that the two freelancers had applied

for the necessary I visas and were refused because they were not members of a union. The largest journalists' union in Britain and Ireland is the NUJ (National Union of Journalists), an organisation which has been critical of US Foreign Policy in Central America and in the Middle East.

At the same event in New York were journalists from a number of European countries including the United Kingdom. Enquiries revealed that some of these freelancers were travelling on five-year information visas, which they had obtained despite the fact that they were not members of a journalists' union. In Ireland five-year I visas are uncommon. In the main, the duration of the information visas is given as the duration of the press event (or conference) that the journalist wishes to attend. Other journalists from Norway travelled to the same event on a B2 business visa.

In response to enquiries about the apparent difference in I visa policies, a spokesperson for US immigration revealed: "In order to qualify for an I visa, journalists will be required to present professional journalistic credentials. These may include an NUJ card or documentation that they are accredited with another professional organisation of journalists. Staff journalists may be able to qualify for an I visa based on a letter from an employer alone. In any case, the consul would need to see the completed application packet and all supporting documentation. Candidates would most likely require an interview before any determination could be made on eligibility for the visa requested. Depending on the circumstances of the case, candidates may qualify for a multiple-entry visa. That decision will be the consular officer's at the time of the application."

The confusion generated by the differing policies of US embassies in Dublin and London has revealed the lack of a Europe-wide consistent policy for granting US visas to journalists. At the moment there is no way to verify if journalists' visa paperwork is in order before they attempt to board a flight. If a journalist is refused entry to the US the consequences can be very unfortunate. It

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Planning a journey? Your colleagues in Europe can help

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would be of considerable benefit to European technology journalists if US embassies in the EU recognised Eusja membership as a necessary "professional organisation of journalists". Most of the world's top tier technology companies are based in the US and European journalists wishing to attend their press events need to travel across the Atlantic frequently. At the moment the decision-making seems to depend on the particular consular official. It's clear from reports around Europe that some US consular officials are more accommodating to technology journalists than others.

Another source of confusion surrounds the use of multiple-entry, indefinite B2 visas. These types of visas, once regarded as gold dust, are no longer issued by US embassies. According to the spokesperson: "The US government no longer issues indefinite visas and all are deemed to have expired on their 10th anniversary." Following enquiries amongst the press corps who attended the New York event, however, a number of journalists revealed they were using indefinite visas over

ten years old. "I have it on a previous passport," said one English journalist. "I got it in 1991 so it's over ten years old now."

It is probably worth noting that US immigration policy has tightened up since September 11 2001. It is also worth noting that immigration officials have a difficult task since the horrific events of that day and members of Eusja support them in their efforts to combat such terrorism. Nevertheless, it would be of benefit to all parties if a coherent EU-wide policy existed so that journalists know where they stand before they attempt to board a flight to the US. A pan-European policy would also avoid embarrassment to the technology companies that sponsor these visits by journalists.

Individuals who are refused entry to the United States can be barred from re-entry for a number of years. At best they are prevented from using the B2 visa applications that can be obtained shortly before boarding flights.

Francis Long <flong@indigo.ie>  
Irish association

## Eusja pamphlet

A small pamphlet, also known as the "leporello", that briefly lists Eusja's activities and gives contact details for the national delegates has been designed and produced by the Eusja treasurer/Eusja News graphic designer Kaianders Sempler. The printing was organised by Barbara Drillsma of the ABSW. If you would like some copies for giving out at conferences and other meetings, please ask Sabine Schott at the Eusja secretariat <eusja@esf.org>.

## How the Italian members keep up to date

Is there any undertaking more important than strengthening the full spectrum of science around the world, in view of the role played by science and its potential to resolve almost all the challenges faced by humankind? The question is maybe a utopian one, but as

The leporello folds twice.

**What do we do?**  
Eusja acts as a network between science journalists throughout Europe. Our aim is to facilitate gathering of information, promote discussions on topics related to journalism and to open a forum for broader reporting on European science.

**Study trips in Europe**  
The national associations in co-operation with Eusja regularly organize international study trips in their countries for science journalists. The aim is primarily to visit interesting science and research institutions that would otherwise be closed to journalists, but also to bring science journalists from different countries together. Four to five events take place every year, where one or two journalists are invited from each country.

**East-West exchange**  
Eusja also promotes and finances exchange between science journalists from eastern and western Europe.

**Who finances Eusja?**  
Eusja is financed by its member associations, but receives website and secretariat facilities from ESF – the European Science Foundation – in Strasbourg, France. Eusja is fully independent of any political and/or commercial parties or interests.

**What is Eusja?**  
Eusja is a not-for-profit umbrella organization for the national science journalists' associations in Europe. Eusja has today (May 2002) 23 member associations. The Eusja secretariat is situated in Strasbourg, France, where the national delegates meet once a year at the general assembly.

**Contacts**  
You will find our website with contacts, resources, mailinglist etc. at <http://www.esf.org/eusja/index.htm>. There you will also find links to the member associations' websites, reports from and news about future Eusja events and a newsletter in English.

**EUSJA**  
– European Union of Science Journalists' Associations.

*"Your network to science reporting throughout Europe."*

[www.esf.org/eusja/index.htm](http://www.esf.org/eusja/index.htm)

LA PETITE FRANCE, STRASBOURG, NOV 2001  
PLANS DE L'EUROPE, VIS TURREAU, STRASBOURG, MAI 2002.



the French poet wrote, a utopia of today is a reality of tomorrow.

Perhaps a more realistic challenge for human society is to understand how correct information in both science and technology can represent a fundamental support for understanding their real role: whether attempting to solve problems, or stimulating the need to face problems which seem unsolved.

Eusja, as an umbrella covering so many science journalists' associations in Europe, is playing its role in keeping its members updated in those fields that are a key for the public understanding of science. The most effective tool to do this is the organisation of meetings and study visits for its members. At the Eusja level, this year many visits took place: these were organised by national associations in Switzerland, Finland and Estonia, the United Kingdom, Germany and the Baltic Sea.

On the other hand, this kind of tool is becoming more and more suitable also at the level of the national associations. UGIS, the Italian association, is an example.



**Paola de Paoli**

In past years, our Italian members were able, thanks also to the financial support of a legacy of one late member, to have educational tours in the United States, to attend in Hungary the Second World Conference on Science Journalism, and to visit Cern in Geneva, Israel, and all the research centres of the

European Commission. This year, the visits have covered the Audi car company's Aluminium Centre near Stuttgart in Germany, the Canary Islands for astronomy, the European research centre in Seville in Spain, and just recently in October, science and technology in Finland and in Sweden.

This latter visit was possible, especially in Finland, thanks to the help of our Finnish colleagues, Liisa Savunen of the Academy of Finland, who is the national Eusja delegate, and Jussi Nortueva, president of the Finnish science journalists' association. During three intensive days the group of 20 UGIS journalists met scientists and researchers from the most important private and public institutions in Finland - from Tekes, the Academy of Finland, the Helsinki University with Biomedicum and Viikki Biocenter, to the Turku School of Business and Economy, and to big companies in the field of research like the Raiso group in Turku and Nokia in Espoo.

The visit in Sweden covered the research and development activities of AstraZeneca in Sodertalje for biomedical sciences and Ericsson in Kista for the near future in telecommunications. In addition, we met with the Swedish Research Council, the Nobel Foundation, the Karolinska Institute, the Academy of Sciences and the Kungliga Tekniska Hogskolan (KTH, or royal institute of technology). All the visits were organised thanks to the help of the Italian Embassy in Sweden and of its very active scientific attaché Roberto Galloni.

Both in Finland and in Sweden, we met many colleagues, including Kaianders Sempler, president of the Swedish association and Eusja treasurer.

The list of meetings mentioned may seem long, but they gave the participants the means of increasing their

knowledge in many fields. And last but not least, together they were a most effective aid for the daily work of a science journalist, in the middle of all the hopes and doubts of human life.

*Paola De Paoli <teresella@iol.it>*

*Italian association president, Eusja president emeritus and Italian national delegate*

## Changes in science journalism in Russia

Journalism in Russia has fundamentally changed during the last 15 years. And science journalism is also in this process, with all the positive and negative tendencies that implies.

During the same time, science journalism felt that the most difficulties followed the economic collapse. First because the financial situation prevented the development of science itself. Second because of the situation in the mass media: we had a long period in the beginning of the 1990s when science coverage was not in demand. The science desk was closed in most newspapers, and radio and TV stations. The editors preferred articles about extra sensory perception, sex, crime, paranormal events and so on.

The position was: "it's in demand and it's well paid".

The result was that we lost a lot of science journalists; most of them changed to a different field, and some began to work in public relations companies who could pay good money. And the fact was that no young person wanted to work in science journalism: it was difficult, poorly paid, without respect.

Step by step we changed the situation. I cannot say that the editors no longer like hot sensations, and they still print articles about paranormal events, but now the special science pages have returned to most national newspapers, we have some new popular science magazines, and we are organising the first independent science-news agency in Russia...

The new situation has brought new problems, however. We now have a generation of journalists who are used to writing articles based only on information from the Internet or PR companies. And that's all. Easy writing, quick money. This is not the way to do science journalism.

Who can join us? There are various ways to look for new people: we chose to run a popular science writing competition. It was announced this summer in co-operation with the British Council in Moscow, the Science News Agency InformNauka and the magazines Computerra and Chemistry & Life, and our Russian Association for Science Writers and Journalists - Intellect.

The goal of the competition was to discover talented popular science writers who can report on Russian science and technology achievements or research in a comprehensible and entertaining manner.

We announced the rules of competition, which was open for everybody. We welcomed researchers who could write science popular articles.

I must say among us there were sceptics who thought we would be lucky to get about 40 articles - no more. But

the results were much better: we received 131 articles.

Every article was assigned a code number, and the names and occupations of the writers were not known to the judges. The statistics proved very interesting: 70 per cent of the articles were written by scientists and only 30 per cent by professional journalists. The age of our authors: 27 per cent under 35 and 73 per cent above 35. Geographical coverage: 41 per cent from Moscow and the Moscow region, 59 per cent from other parts of Russia. Gender: 73 per cent male.

The most interesting result was that the best articles were submitted by researchers. They know perfectly what they are writing about and most of them can write in a popular manner. At the same time, most of the journalists' writing was a compilation of Internet news. This is probably the result of the attitudes in the mass media during the 1990s.

On 8 October we had the Award Ceremony. I want to name the winners: they were Sergei Komarov (Chemistry & Life magazine, Moscow), Vladislav Shchegolev (Institute of Nuclear Research, Dubna), Pavel Plotnikov, Lev Shurshatov (Science Centre named after Dorotnitsyn, Russian Academy of Science – Tambov/Moscow), Yuri Latov, Natalia Latova (Tula Low Institute), Mikhail Kuzmin, V. Bychinski, M. Homutova (Institute of Geochemistry named after Vinogradov, Irkutsk).

We also had winners of a special competition, announced by British Department of Trade and Industry: Elena Bulathina (anaesthesiologist, Moscow), Tatiana Pichugina (Informnauka agency, Moscow), Maxim Kuznetsov (Institute of structured macrogenetics and materials, Moscow).

No doubt this competition will give us new people who will enter Russian science journalism. We have decided to organise another competition and we hope it will bring more new writers to the field of science journalism. This next step will be again taken in co-operation with British Council in Moscow, which was an initiator of many important events for science journalism in Russia. It's real international help.

I have to thank the team of British Council and UK colleagues who were working with Russian science journalists as a jury and selection board. They are Dr Elisabeth Bell (Science and Technology, the British Council), Peter Wrobel (Nature), and Juan Matthews (International Technology Promoter for Russia, DTI and British Embassy representative).

This experience showed us also that we have new problems with science journalism that we have to think about.

*Viola Egikova <egikova@mospravda.ru>  
President of Russian association  
and Russian national delegate*

## Spanish websites, cyberfriendship and science

The Spanish websites 100cia ([www.100cia.com](http://www.100cia.com)) and Divulc@t ([www.divulcat.com](http://www.divulcat.com)) have developed the concept of cyberfriendship, in order to offer better

content and services in the popularisation of science. They describe themselves as offering "a communitarian network of collaboration in which the sum of 1+1 is much more than 2".

With the development of this concept, 100cia and Divulc@t are offering the following content and services:

- news: daily publication of science and technology (sci-tech) news, and press releases from companies, research centres and universities;
- in-depth articles including interviews and book reviews;
- opinion: letters to the Editor; expert reviews; forums for the main categories of the sciences and for science journalism; newsletters and email groups; and surveys;
- services: agenda of events, activities, congresses, conferences, workshops, and so on.; curriculum vitae and job offers, communication by SMS or chat; links to other sci-tech websites; and
- playful-educational area: curiosities of sci-tech; experiments and multimedia archives.

Finally, as the cyberfriendship is an open project, any person, educational institution or website is invited to participate.

*Alex Dantart <info@100cia.com>  
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*Alex Fernández Muerza <alex@divulcat.com>  
Editor www.divulcat.com*

## Get Your Hands on Science

**EICOS**, the European Initiative for Communicators of Science, once a year invites journalists into its "Hands-on Laboratory" and to the "Extended Assignments". During the Hands-on Laboratory, conducted at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen in Germany, journalists spend eight days working with scientists on actual projects, using state-of-the-art molecular biology methods, and are encouraged to discuss issues of public understanding of science with researchers and with their colleagues. A social programme provides opportunities to enjoy Göttingen and its surroundings.

The next Hands-on Laboratory will take place from 10 to 17 May 2003. Following this Laboratory, journalists are invited to spend up to two weeks in an Extended Laboratory Assignment in selected laboratories of the Max Planck Institute in Göttingen as well as other leading research institutions in Europe. All costs of the programme, including board and travel for the journalists, are borne by EICOS.

The organisers say that professional journalists from any European country (including Israel) and working for any print or electronic media can apply, including freelancers. A scientific background is not required, and generalists with an interest in research are particularly encouraged to apply. Reasonable competence in English is, however, mandatory, as all activities are carried out in English. Deadline for application: 15 February 2003.

The overall aim of the programme is to enhance the communication between scientists and journalists.

EICOS offers the opportunity for journalists to acquire first-hand experiences of techniques of molecular biology, to gain a better understanding of the scientific process and a realistic impression of opportunities and risks of biological research, to establish contacts for future stories, and to meet colleagues from different media and different countries.

EICOS says that the programme is not only beneficial for journalists, but also to the scientists involved. Scientists may learn about rules of daily journalism, and get some insight into the functions of journalism in general and science journalism in particular for the public.

Application form and further information:  
[www.eicos.mpg.de](http://www.eicos.mpg.de)  
or:

Dr Ulrich Kuhnt <[eicos.gwdg.de](mailto:eicos.gwdg.de)>  
Tel.: 0049-551 2011646  
Fax: 0049-551 2011075

## DIARY

### AAAS Meeting

The 2003 Annual Meeting for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) will take place from 13 to 18 February 2003 in Denver, Colorado, US. The American Association for the Advancement of Science, "Triple A-S", is the world's largest general scientific society and is the publisher of Science.

The AAAS Annual Meeting offers an interdisciplinary blend of more than 130 symposia, plenary and topical lectures; nanotechnology, neuroinformatics, and microarrays and functional genomics seminars; poster presentations; career workshops; and an Exhibit Hall.

For more information: [www.aaas.org/meetings/](http://www.aaas.org/meetings/)  
or  
Monica Amarelo <[mamarelo@aaas.org](mailto:mamarelo@aaas.org)>  
Carol Hoy <[choy@aaas.org](mailto:choy@aaas.org)>

### Euroscience Open Forum

#### Stockholm August 2004

Euroscience Open Forum 2004 – the first pan-European Meeting on the sciences – is aimed at highlighting science, technology and innovation in Europe. Other main objectives are to present science and the humanities at the cutting-edge, to stimulate scientific awareness, and to foster debate on science and society

This first meeting will take place in Stockholm from 26 to 28 August 2004, with several satellite meetings and other associated events immediately before and after. It is planned to attract several thousand participants from science, media, governments, policy-making and industry. The preliminary main themes of the programme are humanity and space, mind and behaviour, science and society, future technologies, health, climate and environmental change, nanotechnology, evolution of life, cognitive science, society in change, science and ethics,

governing of science in Europe, and science and arts.

This project is being carried out in collaboration between Euroscience, the European Association for the Promotion of Science and Technology, and several other organisations including Science Forum, Fas/Formas Research Councils, the Swedish Research Council, Robert Bosch Stiftung, the European Science Foundation, Nature, the City of Stockholm and others. There is an ongoing discussion with the European Commission about how collaboration with it would be structured.

For content and contact information:  
[www.es2004.org](http://www.es2004.org).

### New Books?

New books by science journalists in our member associations are being published all the time. Please let me have brief details of yours for the next issue of Eusja News

Ed <[anolan@iol.ie](mailto:anolan@iol.ie)>

#### Eusja News

Newsletter of the European Union of Science Journalists' Associations. Any views expressed here are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Eusja or the editor.

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#### Eusja Newsletter as PDF, anyone?

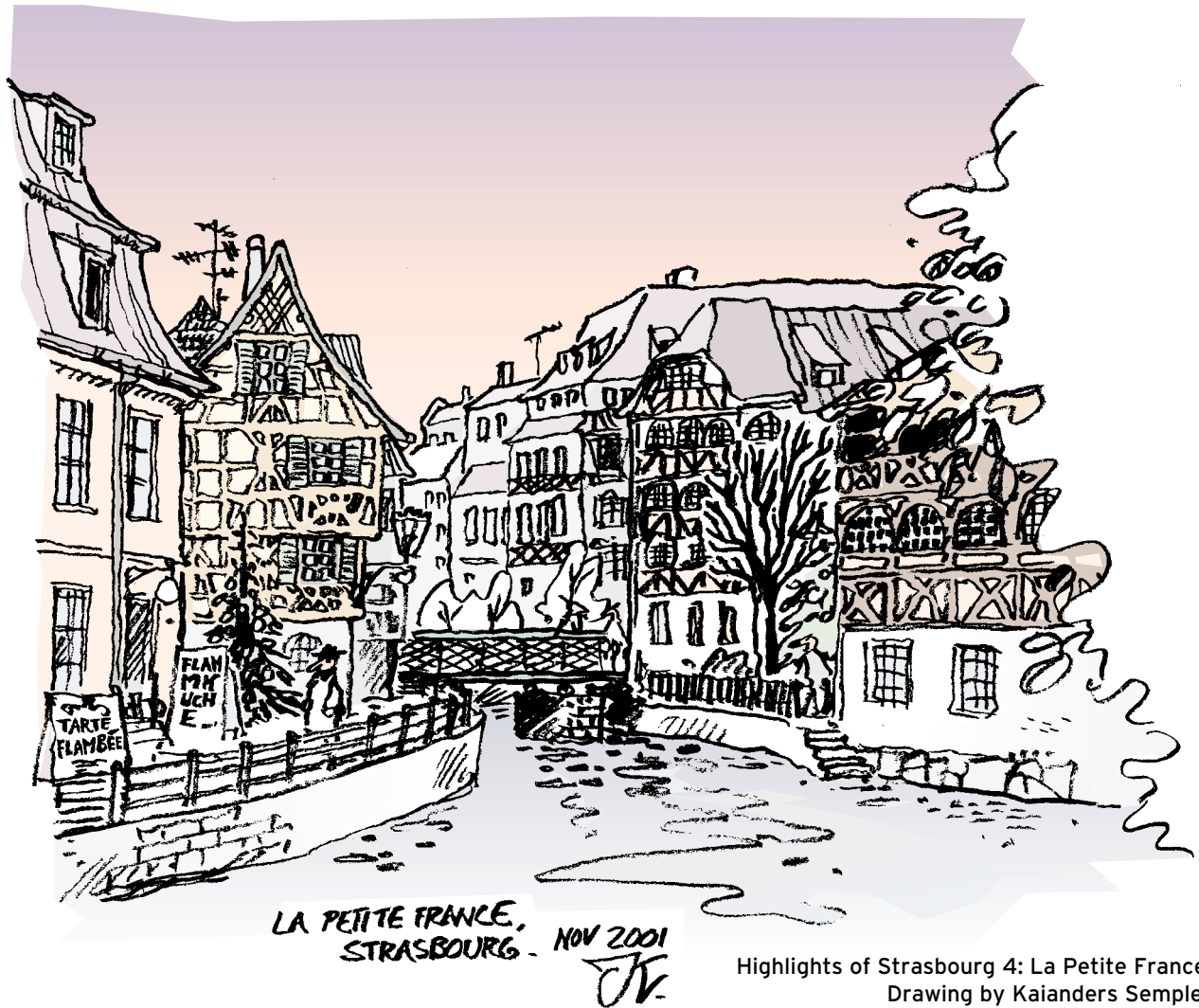
Michael Kenward, our e-minder, has kindly offered to set up an electronic mailing list to deliver the Eusja newsletter in PDF format. Just send him a message about it at <[web@absw.org.uk](mailto:web@absw.org.uk)>.

#### Eusja website

The Eusja website at [www.esf.org/eusja/index.htm](http://www.esf.org/eusja/index.htm) is a useful resource for science journalists. Here you will find information such as programmes for trips, messages from the Eusja president, Eusja News, helpful practical tips on science journalism and so on. Michael Kenward of the ABSW, the UK association, is the e-minder for both Eusja and his own association. It's also worthwhile checking out [www.absw.org.uk](http://www.absw.org.uk), as there is a lot of information there that is relevant outside the UK.

#### EUSJA-L discussion list

The EUSJA-L discussion list is open to all journalists belonging to Eusja member associations. Any topic relating to science and technology journalism can be debated, and helpful tips can be exchanged. To subscribe send the message subscribe EUSJA-L firstname lastname to the address: <[listserv.rl.ac.uk](mailto:listserv.rl.ac.uk)>.



LA PETITE FRANCE,  
STRASBOURG - NOV 2001  
JK

Highlights of Strasbourg 4: La Petite France.  
Drawing by Kaianders Sempler

### Job at the European Science Foundation (ESF)

## Head of Communication and Information

The European Science Foundation, based in Strasbourg, is an association of 70 member organisations devoted to scientific research in 27 European countries. Since the Foundation was established in 1974, we have coordinated and brought together leading scientists and funding agencies to debate, plan and implement pan-European scientific and science policy initiatives. From 1 July 2003, for a period of three to five years, the ESF wishes to appoint its new Head of Communication and Information (preferably on secondment).

#### Your tasks

- Reporting to the Secretary General you will be responsible for developing and implementing an integrated corporate communication and information strategy in support of the ESF's mission and objectives
- Identifying and exploring new avenues for communication to further raise ESF's profile and impact as well as that of science as a whole

- The job involves activities in corporate identity and communication, overseeing publications, electronic media, media relations, communication networking, event organisation and management

#### Your profile

- In-depth knowledge and several years' experience of corporate communication preferably in a science-based environment and practical journalistic skills. Familiarity with information technologies
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills as well as creativity and management skills
- Excellent spoken and written English. Working knowledge of French and other European languages would be an advantage
- Willingness to travel widely within Europe

For more information about the goals and policy of the ESF please visit our web site [www.esf.org](http://www.esf.org)

Applications by 10 December 2002 to:

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