



EUSJA News

Newsletter of the European Union of Science Journalists' Associations

Summer 2008

From the secretariat

Wow, we must be doing something right! Our EUSJA secretary for many years was the friendly, hard-working and funny Sabine Schott. When we reluctantly parted company we thought she would be such a hard act to follow and how could we ever be so fortunate again? We were. Our new secretary, based at Euroscience is the delightful Florence Kohtz. We asked her, when we met up in Berlin, what she thought of us.

Eusja, my first impressions

"When I took up my position at Euroscience in September 2007, I was informed that I would also participate in the organisation of the next General Assembly of the European Union of Science Journalists Association (EUSJA).

The task was mainly composed of disseminating information to national delegates, collecting information from them and

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Photo Kaianders Sempler

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A first word after four months in office

Editorial

After the rapid growth of EUSJA during recent years, increasing study trips, communication and networking, as well as a stronger public perception, is high on the agenda of the new board elected in March 2008.

After Istvan Palugyai was so successful in getting the rest of Europe's science journalists' associations into EUSJA, our organisation is nearly complete, apart from those of the remaining 22 European countries, where such organisations are not existing or still in statu nascendi.

The blossoming of EUSJA over the recent years has now to be filled with content. Which means: Tightening the bonds between member associations and for the benefit of individual members; using and improving our network and raising and discussing standards and the role of science journalism.

However, EUSJA lives, as any other association, only through its members. Thus it is more a supporting organisation, helping to raise and push forward networking and information activities in order to improve professionalism and cross border, cross culture exchanges of ideas and capacities.

Study trips, communication, participation

This means that the board will continue to motivate members to offer more national study trips, or, even better, international trips. But as only a small number of members can participate in these trips, it is important that those participating share their experiences and adventures with the rest of us. Remember the blogs posted by EUSJA members attending the World Conference of Science Journalists in Melbourne 2007.

It is true, that journalists, although said to be communication experts, seem to be weak in communicating when it comes to themselves. However, jump over the wall, take some minutes or, even better, half an hour and get in touch through the internal mailing list and use the new blog to raise topics, share views or tell those off stories no broadcaster or public paper is interested in. Look on the EUSJA web page to access the mailing list and the blog. For the public blog a password is needed which members can obtain from the board.

Public, journalists, scientists

On the public floor, EUSJA will further improve its position as a loud speaker for the interests and ethics of science journalists in Europe, for example by initiating and supporting seminars on international conferences like ESOJ and the World Conference of Science.

All members are strongly encouraged to try and attend the EUSJA seminar about ethics in science...



Hajo Neubert

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Continued from page 1 ...journalism and to contribute ideas and comments in order to make it a lively and thrilling event.

EUSJA is around and watches. This is the message the board members will show more strongly through their public presence at meetings and events in order to demonstrate that the actors are in the spot light of European science journalists.

Funds, support, money

The board will also continue to look for opportunities the EU Commission has to offer in order to support European science journalism in a way that we need not to give up our ethics of independent reporting.

For example, EUSJA could participate in a larger project, like in the former WONDERS project. But it could be even more interesting to bring together a number of member organisations into a consortium for a Commission proposal for activities like a conference, a theme trip across Europe, exchanges of journalists or training seminars in order to improve science journalism in countries where it is still weak.

EUSJA is a big community and a fascinating network. It is you that can make it beneficial for all of us, and get benefit in return.

Hanns-J. Neubert
President

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Win the opportunity to cover the International EcoHealth Forum 2008 in Merida, Mexico

Be one of 5 journalists (from all over the world) to cover the meeting of the world's experts on the relationships between health and the environment, in Merida (Mexico), 1 – 5 December 2008

The World Federation of Science Journalists - in collaboration with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) announces a competition offering journalists the chance to interview the top world's experts on health and the environment, in Merida (Mexico), 1 – 5 December 2008. (including transportation from their home country)

Entry guidelines:

Send electronically your CV, coordinates, identification pages of your passport, three articles or audio/video files on health and environmental issues (in the original language), and a one-page essay in English on why you should win this competition. Email to: info@wfsj.org

More information about the competition on www.wfsj.org

WFSJ's most recent competition made it possible for 15 journalists from Canada, France, Guatemala, Lebanon, India, Italy, The Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, the UK and the United States to report from the research icebreaker Amundsen, in the Canadian Arctic.



Report

EUSJA DELEGATES APPLAUD LINDAU STUDY TRIP

Viola Egikova reports

This year Lindau hosted another Nobel Laureates meeting with young scientists, attended by some of our members. As EUSJA has agreed with the Committee of Nobel Laureates Meetings in Lindau to continue the collaboration between us we expect there to be more and more EUSJA trips to this fascinating site.

Here is a brief story about Lindau and impressions of journalists who participated in the first EUSJA delegation.

Every year since 1951 Lindau, a small town overlooking Lake Constance in Germany, becomes a place where young scientists meet Nobel Prize Winners. The Lindau meetings seek to bring together the world's best next-generation scientists and the brightest minds of our time.

The tradition of this meeting was born in the middle of the last century when seven Nobel Laureates met in Lindau and presented their lectures to an international audience. Since then 169 Nobel Laureates have met up with young researchers and a place is a much sought after commodity. Every year is different with the meetings devoted to one or two disciplines of the natural sciences for which the Nobel Prize is awarded – physics, chemistry, medicine and physiology.

What I found staggering that there was a special programme for journalists in addition to every day press conferences. But for me the best that Lindau provided for journalists was the wonderful opportunity to meet brilliant scientists, to speak with them, to catch news and facts for news articles and science stories. It was possible not only in Lindau, but also during a fantastic boat trip to Insel Mainau. It is here that traditionally the final meeting is organised on the beautiful island home of the

Continued from page one

...make sure that they would enjoy their stay in the German capital. In November 2007, I met in Frankfurt, the former President of EUSJA: Istvan Palugyai, a very nice and open-minded person. He explained to me the next steps to take for the General Assembly.

"With time, I began to know the different delegates through email or phone discussions and they began to know me as well. But I could hardly imagine how they were...

The time passed and the event in Berlin was approaching. On Saturday 15 March: I met the EUSJA delegates,

at that moment I could finally put faces on their names and I noticed that they were wonderful people with a passionate occupation in science journalism. I really enjoyed the atmosphere during the General Assembly and the great involvement of all these journalists in EUSJA.

"I am really thankful because EUSJA delegates welcomed me with such kindness as if I always had been among them. I really felt like I was part of a family and I remember the evening when we went all out for dinner – this moment to me was like going out with old friends although in one way we had only just met!

Florence

family of Count Lennart Bernadotte, the son of the Prince of Sweden and Russian Great Dutch who initiated the Lindau meetings in 1951.

EUSJA agreed at its General Assembly in 2006 to accept the offer from the Lindau Nobel Laureates Committee to support science journalists who wished to participate. All EUSJA delegates really enjoyed the trip and I think it is a worthwhile event to attend each year.

Here are some impressions "I think this meeting is very good opportunity for young researchers and for Nobel Laureates to meet together. And a very good opportunity for science journalists to get a lot of information" – says Elisabeth Nostlinger from Austria.

"I am a writer specializing in scientists and doctors. I love science, and hearing about it from Nobel Laureates is like having a blood transfusion when you are anemic" Caroline Richmond from the UK.

"I enjoyed the meeting and got a very positive impression about how different generations could exchange opinions and science knowledge. I would like to propose that these excellent meeting focuses at least more on the social role of science and researchers" – says Tania Greiner, a freelance science journalist from Germany.

And Slawek Zagorski from Poland: "The Lindau meeting was quite interesting for me. Some lectures were great, the others too detailed.

But the fact that you get a Nobel Prize does not necessarily mean that you are a great lecturer. For me it was a little bit too long (13 lectures in 4 days), I would prefer 2 or 3 days, but the biggest advantage is that I could personally meet and listen to the researchers. Now I have quite good impression what are the hot topics in today's biology and I know more about RNA, interference, protein degradation,



Viola Egikova in Lindau.

cyclones and cancer. I have a good panoramic view what the previous Nobel Prize Winners are doing today".

I could add some more impressions but the main idea is clear. Journalists find these meetings most interesting and useful for their knowledge and writing.

Viola Egikova



Photo Viola Egikova

Ivar Giaver (Norway 1973).



Photo Viola Egikova

Peter Grunberg (Germany 2007).



Photo Viola Egikova

Klaus Klitzing (Germany 1985) and Carlo Rubia (Italy 1984).

EUSJA's own food writer, Cherry Dobbins, marks our two latest new members by looking at.....

The Foods of Romania and Greece

When I think of Romania my mind paints a picture of Dracula style castles on craggy mountain sides covered in pine forests and mists. Men on horseback hunt wild boar and those on foot search for wild mushrooms. I have never visited but as a culinary view it is not that far removed from reality.

Romania, with its Carpathian mountains and Transylvanian Alps has a gastronomic palette of game, pork, mushrooms and dairy produce. Fish dishes come from the south eastern corner where the country borders the Black Sea. Also prolific in the lowlands is the cultivation of maize. It is the latter which is used to produce the versatile 'mamaliga' which is served with stuffed cabbage rolls at weddings and on feast days.

This yellow maize, better known by its Italian name, polenta, is cholesterol free and high in fibre. It may be boiled and served as a creamy mash, made into a paste, stuffed with cheese and deep fried or even turned into a bread substitute. Once considered a peasant food it is now found in all the top restaurants.

In contrast Greece is a hot and arid country. Look at the map and it appears to have more sea than land. It includes almost 2,000 islands in the Aegean, Ionian and Mediterranean seas. With its substantial coastline and rich seafaring history it is inevitable that fish plays a major role in the diet. There is little grazing land and olive oil is used instead of butter. Sheep and goats supply milk, cheese and yogurt as well as meat. Hens and pigs are also reared. Dishes are flavoured with herbs such as thyme, oregano and coriander. Citrus fruits grow well here and lemon is served alongside most meat and fish.

STOP PRESS

The date of next year's World Conference of Science Journalists has been changed by one day. It now takes place between Tuesday, June 30 and Friday, July 3rd, 2009 in London.

Sarmale with Mamaliga

(Cabbage rolls with Polenta)

1 cabbage, red or green, frozen overnight and then thawed to soften
Olive oil for frying
1 kg minced pork, minced beef and finely chopped spek or smoky bacon
1 large onion grated
1/2 cup rice
1 1/2 tbsp. stock
1 tbsp. paprika
salt and pepper to taste
jar of sauerkraut

To serve

packet of polenta
sour cream
paprika

1. Turn oven to 180C
2. Heat the oil in a large pan and gently fry the meat to just colour it. Stir it well to break it up to a breadcrumb consistency.
3. Add the onion, rice and spices and continue to cook gently until the rice turns opaque but is not cooked. Remove from the heat and allow to cool.
4. Lay a cabbage leaf down flat, vein side up, and trim off the thicker part of the stalk. Heap a bare tablespoon of the mixture onto the leaf and fold the stalk end over it. Fold in the sides over this and then roll up.
5. Place in a large roasting tin, edge side down.
6. Continue making the rolls and pack them tightly into the tin. If necessary put a second layer on top.
7. Empty the whole contents of the jar of sauerkraut over the top and spread evenly. The cabbage insulates the rolls from drying out in the heat of the oven and the juice adds flavour.
8. Cover and bake in the oven for 1 1/2 to 2 hours.
9. Following the instructions on the packet make the polenta before taking the rolls from the oven.
10. Serve the cabbage rolls piled on a large platter with side dishes of polenta and sour cream sprinkled with paprika.



Romanian cabbage rolls, in Sweden called "kåldolmar".



Fresh Sardines Baked with Lemon

As it is summer, you may prefer to let them marinate for half an hour in the oil, herbs and lemon juice and then grill them on the barbeque

- 2 lemons
- 12 large fresh sardines
- 4 tbsp. olive oil
- 4 tbsp. chopped, fresh oregano
- salt and pepper to taste
- lemon wedges to garnish

1. Turn oven to 180C
2. Slice one lemon and take the zest and juice of the other.
3. Mix the lemon zest, juice, oil, oregano, salt and pepper together and whisk well with a fork.
4. Lay the sardines in a baking dish with slices of lemon in between.
5. Pour over the lemon and oil mixture and bake in the oven for 20 minutes.

Cherry Dobbins

CALLING EUSJA AUTHORS

We know you are out there! Amongst our thousands of members we know many of you have books published and we want to publicise them. We also want to feature books which you have read which you believe may be of interest to members throughout EUSJA. The next edition of EUSJA News will contain a whole page of books by members so please send us details, including price and ISBN number.

To get the ball rolling here's a publication which is so suitable for our European association. Called "In Europe" travels through the twentieth century, is certainly worth ordering at the local library. Written by Geert Mak, a journalist and one of Holland's top writers, "In Europe" was published last year - £25 – ISBN 9781843432265. It has been described as a "spellbinding history of 20th-century Europe that has the scope, pace and capacity of an epic novel." It is the account a of a year criss-crossing Europe from Verdun to Berlin, St Petersburg to Auschwitz, Kiev to Srebrenica. The book is an account of that journey, full of diaries, newspaper reports, memoirs and first hand accounts from prominent figures and unknown players.



Photo Kalanders Sempler

Barbara Drillsma

Hopefully "In Europe" is the first of many books to be featured on our pages. Please, as they say in England, don't be backwards in coming forward! Send us details of your own books or your own recommendations.

Barbie Drillsma

CONFERENCE SCAMS

There appears to be a series of scams aimed at overseas journalists, inviting them to conferences.

Members of the Ugandan Science Journalists Association which is twinned with the ABSW couldn't believe their luck when they responded to an invitation to attend a conference on "The Role of the Media in Global Climate Change and Sustainable Development" being held in Central London and had their papers accepted and a promise that air fares would be paid for those attending.

All looked above board. There was a prestigious address, no money had been asked for and our colleagues were delighted. But then came the sting. They were asked to pay for their own accommodation and to submit their receipts to gain their access grants and air fares. Being canny journalists they asked the ABSW to find alternative, cheaper accommodation and when I checked out the hotel I quickly realised there was no such conference booked and the payment details were going right into the pocket of a crook.

Our Ugandan friends had invested a lot of time and some expenses in producing a fine power point presentation and making arrangements to be away from their homes

and workplaces. The ABSW also spent time and money trying to find homes for the visitors.

Once I publicised our findings I was inundated with tales from other journalists and conference organisers with similar tales of woe to tell. One factor linking them all is the contact telephone number for the bogus conference director. So beware. ANY TELEPHONE NUMBER STARTING WITH 00 44 70 IS LIKELY TO BE PHONEY AND WILL COST A FORTUNE TO CALL.

Please let EUSJA News know of any similar scams and we can post warnings on our web site.

Barbie Drillsma

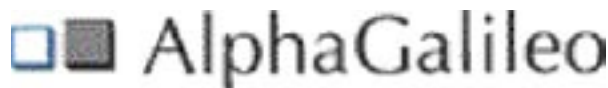
Behind Closed Doors

A Report on the Military Influence in UK Universities

A report by UK scientists reveals the secrecy surrounding the growing influence of the military on the research agenda in British universities.

Behind Closed Doors, published by Scientists for Global Responsibility, is the result of an in-depth investigation into 16 of Britain's universities, including some of the most prestigious.

Using new data gained under the Freedom of Information Act, the report's authors estimate that the average level of military funding of UK universities is up to five times larger than government figures suggest.



We are running an experiment in audience participation on Tuesday morning 22 July. If you are in Barcelona come along and join in. 'Dismantling the barricades' aims to be ESOF's liveliest event - discussions, disagreements, votes and the odd joke. The session will be chaired by Ted Nield, chair of the ABSW.

European research is as much a cultural part of our society as politics, finance, football and rock music, yet why does it struggle to make its voice heard in the media? AlphaGalileo's open discussion on the mixed agendas that sometimes hinder the research community's use of the media aims to provide some answers.

Give your opinions at AlphaGalileo's unique mix of guest speakers and audience participation. As well as making your point of view, there'll be speakers from the European Commission, the Italian and UK media, commercial and academic public relations, all giving four minute keynotes, interventions from an expert on

the media research interaction, and of course audience democracy.

Mini-keynote presentations from:

Peter Marsh (Social Issues Research Centre, Oxford) – an overview of issues affecting media coverage of research across Europe

Michel Claessens (European Commission)

Clive Cookson (Financial Times)

Peter Reader (University of Portsmouth)

Barbara Gallavotti (television journalist and Mediterranean Association for Science Advancement and Dissemination)

Frederik Wittock (Johnson and Johnson, European R&D)

'Dismantling the barricades' is sponsored by Norges Forskningsråd, who have kindly provided refreshments after the event.

The report also reveals the pervasive extent of the military influence in UK universities. The authors encountered significant disquiet among some university staff about the growing presence of military and commercial influences on campus, and their effect on the research agenda.

The report highlights how, since 2002, new military research groups have sprung up in universities supported by publicly-funded research councils, military corporations and the Ministry of Defence. The expansion of such groups has been accelerated by the 2006 Defence Technology Strategy.

The UK is the world's third biggest spender on military research and development, approximately £2.5 billion net expenditure by the Ministry of Defence alone in 2005/6.

The military targets 'high-prestige' universities for the highest funding, thus diverting some of Britain's finest scientists away from crucial areas such as health and the environment into military research.

The report's authors call for a full public debate on the role of the military in UK universities. They are Dr Chris Langley, an independent scientific consultant and writer; Dr Stuart Parkinson, an ex-military sector electronic engineer and former expert reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; and Dr Philip Webber, who has written widely on science and military issues, previously a research scientist at London's Imperial College.

Chris Langley said "The creeping influence of the military establishment in our universities is deeply disturbing. We encountered secrecy, evasiveness and a lack of accountability while researching this report. Many university officials expressed concerns about military funding but were afraid to speak out. There must be complete

transparency if public confidence in science is to be maintained".

Universities investigated were Birkbeck College London, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Exeter, Imperial College London, Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan, Newcastle, Oxford, Plymouth, Sheffield, Southampton, University College London, and the West of England.

Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) is an independent organisation of ethically-concerned science, design and technology professionals, founded in 1992 - see: <http://www.sgr.org.uk/>

BA 2008

Liverpool in September

The BA Festival of Science will be in Liverpool this year from 6-11 September, hosted by the University of Liverpool as the city takes on its status as European Capital of Culture. Hundreds of top UK scientists will descend on the city to discuss the latest developments in science with the public.

The BA (British Association for the Advancement of Science) will operate a Press Centre at the Festival, providing press conferences with key speakers, desk space, access to telephones, internet PCs and interview rooms with ISDN lines. Registered journalists will be given access to embargoed speakers' papers online before the event. There will also be a press launch in London on Thursday 4 September, where key speakers from the Festival will preview their talks. For details of how to register, email the BA Press Office at press@the-ba.net or call Lisa Hendry on 020 7019 4946. Visit www.the-ba.net/festivalofscience to view the online Festival programme.

Don't miss the ESOF2008 highlights:

Sir David King, Former British Government Scientific Advisor, Cambridge, United Kingdom, The Environmental Challenges of the 21st Century;
Jordi Segura, Municipal Institute of Medical Research (IMIM), Spain, Doping and society: towards the perfect human machine?;
Lord Warner, House of Lords, Former Minister of Health, United Kingdom, Science and public policy: political dilemmas;
Sir Richard Mottram, Former Permanent Secretary of Intelligence and Security, Ministers Council, British Government. Science and the challenge of terrorism;
Gabriele Tamborini, Institute for Transuranium Elements, DG Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission, Germany, will moderate the session Atomic Detectives: forensic nuclear analysis and illegal traffic;
Bernat Soria, Minister of Health for Spain, Frontiers in stem cell research;
Ronald Schenkel, Director General, DG Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission & Alan Leshner, CEO, AAAS, Mars and Venus: how Europeans and Americans view and use science;
Gerry Gilmore, Cambridge University, United Kingdom, The Universe and reality;
Pierre Magistretti, Mind-Brain Institute, Switzerland, Brain imaging technology;
Tejinder Virdee, European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), Switzerland, Discovering the quantum universe: The Project of the particle accelerator Large Hadron Collider at CERN;

And some extras for the connoisseurs:

ICFO-The Institute of Photonic Sciences Mediterranean Technology www.icfo.es would like to invite accredited ESOF2008 journalists to visit its centre on Monday July 21st. The visit will take place between 16.00 and 19.00. If you are interested in attending, please email Michael Kessler, ESOF2008 media Relations prensa@esof2008.org; press@esof2008.org

Finnish winter trip to the arctic

Look for info on the Eusja web

Astronomy in the Netherlands in the autumn

See the Eusja web for details.

Eusja

Yes, we have a new board!

On the general assembly meeting in Berlin in March 2008 a new Eusja board was elected.



Photo Kaianders Sempler

From left to right:
Viola Egikova, Russia, honorary secretary.
Barbara Drillsma, UK, vice president.
Hajo Neubert, Germany, president,
Vesa Niinikangas, Finland, treasurer.

Power to the people!

Eusja's former president Istvan Palugyai has been elected to the board of Euroscience. This adds to Eusja's clout, and gives us an inside man in the organization.

Congratulations, Istvan! We count on you.



Photo Kaianders Sempler

Istvan in a good mood.

We asked for examples of what your association does on a regular basis to raise its profile and to offer members to meet other professionals. The Dutch seem to have it sewn up!

A juicy day

We do it every year, and it keeps on getting bigger and better: Bessensap, a gathering for science journalists, information officers and scientists in the Netherlands.

As I write this, the 8th edition has just ended. I've heard interesting talks, seen short science films, participated in discussions, met enthusiastic scientists during a speed-dating session, seen prizes getting awarded and I've talked with dozens of colleagues about lots of things while enjoying food and drinks.

I saw a lot, and I missed even more! That's unavoidable on a day with over fifty short or ultra short presentations, a number of longer lectures, speed-dating sessions with dozens of scientists, workshops and much more, all in the NEMO Science Centre in Amsterdam. Oh, I almost forget a press briefing, where the Leiden University medical Centre announced the first full DNA sequence of a woman, the fifth complete genome in the world.

The event is organised by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) in collaboration with Science Centre NEMO and the Netherlands Association for Science Journalists (VWN). Every science journalist in the Netherlands knows about it, and almost all of them try to come, if their work allows it. So apart from the interesting science it's also a great day to meet your fellow journalists. To discuss the way we work, do some serious networking and of course gossiping.

If you don't have an event like this in your country, organise one! Or better: try to get your national science foundation to organise one, and pay for it. It really helps to raise the level of science journalism and the communication skills of scientists. And most importantly, it's fun. If you want more details about the programme, don't hesitate to contact me. Or, if you happen to understand Dutch, take a look at www.nwo.nl/bessensap.

Oh, one last thing: you may wonder what 'Bessensap' means. It is Dutch for 'berry juice', referring to a rhyme about a silly professor who ate concrete for science's sake.



Photo Kaianders Sempler

Elmar Veerman
e.veerman@vpro.nl

Elmar in a thinking mood.



GEDÄCHTNISKIRCHE
BERLIN MARS 08

JK.

Highlights of Europe: Gedächtniskirche in Berlin.

Don't ignore the past

Ethics at Esof2008

Recently I came across a professor, whom I got to know in 1987. At that time I was working for a TV consumer programme. This professor was then head of the science department of the German Association of the Cigarette Industries. His department produced scientific studies in favour of smoking. Already during our first meeting in his office he offered to double my fees from my freelance income, if I mention something positive about smoking and cigarettes in an article or a documentary.

Four years ago I learned that this professor turned from Saulus to Paulus, as he became one of the foremost critics of mobile phones. He was co-ordinator of the famous study „Risk Evaluation of Potential Environmental Hazards from Low Energy Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Exposure“, which has been financed by the European Commission between 2000 and 2004 with more than 2 million euro and one additional million together from Switzerland, Finland and the Verum Foundation, an organisation once founded by the cigarette industry. The main finding was, that mobile phone radiation is genetically toxic. The professor became the main witness for mobile phone critics and a darling of the media. Forgotten were his questionable studies about the low risks of smoking.

But now the professor himself questions this study, as it became publicly evident that the latest of his studies, part of a WHO initiated study performed in 13 countries and published early this year, is obviously a fraud. The data produced by one lab assistant was totally fake. For some scientists this had been obvious for months, but not for my professor. Thus millions of research and tax payers' euros have been trashed for quite questionable scientific studies.

In the advent of the EUSJA seminar „Ethics in Science Journalism“ at ESOF 2008 it might be a point of discussion how we as science journalists, easily become victims to our own preconceptions in the rush for sensational stories. It is self evident for us not to trust industry sponsored studies – tobacco doesn't harm, but we trust dubious studies from the same scientists when they fulfil our preconceptions and may be good for a sensation – EMFs do harm. Can statements of a professor be trusted, who is known to manipulate studies for 20 years for the tobacco industry? Or is our time horizon so narrow, that we forget everything older than a month?

I have the feeling that the latter is the case, as quite often even science and technology news stories are published which are ages old, or at least are only very small modifications of former findings and innovations. It might be

old-fashioned to say, but indeed something can be learned from the past.

However, learn more and go to Barcelona to attend the EUSJA seminar on „Ethics in Science Journalism“ at ESOF 2008 on 20 July from 14:30 to 18:00.



Photo Kaianders Sempler

Hajo Neubert

Communication

The Eusja website

might not be the most modern one in the world, but it costs us next to nothing and new contents and information is added all the time. Take a look at

<http://www.eusja.org>

and find the latest info about upcoming activities.



A new feature on the web is the **Eusja blog**, which can be either accessed from a link on the website or directly at <http://eusja.blogspot.com>

There were quite a lot of writings from the Millennium Prize festivities in Helsinki in May. Let's hope that those who participate in the Esof2008 festival in July will follow this good example and post thrilling inside news from Barcelona to the blog.

Help us to bring content to the website. Send your material for both the website and the EusjaNews to Barbara Drillsma or Kaianders Sempler, and it will be published. Addresses are found on page 11.

There is also a **new Eusja mailing-list**. Join it by clicking on the link on the website and follow the instructions. Use it to spread news and gossip to colleagues all over Europe.

Kaianders Sempler



Photo Frida Danielsson

The world's biggest book

is 113 cm thick, has 12.390 pages and weighs 42 kg. It is from 1813, and contains records of the population of eastern Götaland in Sweden. It is kept in the National Archives of Sweden, in Arninge, just outside Stockholm.

And yes, of course it has found a place in the Guinness' Book of Records.



Photo Kaianders Sempler

Editors for this issue of EusjaNews has been Barbara Drillsma <absw@absw.org.uk> and Kaianders Sempler <kaianders.sempler@nyteknik.se

First Science Communication Conference from Uganda

USJA - The Ugandan Science Journalists' Association which is twinned with the ABSW has announced its first conference on science communication. This will be taking place in Kampala – November 23-26. Sponsorship to allow journalists to take part is now being sought. Anyone interested in either attending or paying for someone to attend should contact William Odinga – wboodinga@scienceuganda.org

The leporello, the Eusja information leaflet, folds twice. It can be ordered from Eusja secretariat.

 The image shows a folded information leaflet for EUSJA. The top right corner features the EUSJA logo in yellow and blue, with the text '- European Union of Science Journalists' Associations.' Below this is a quote: "Your network to science reporting throughout Europe." and the website www.eusja.org. The bottom right has a sketch of a building with the text 'PALAIS DE L'EUROPE, STRASBOURG, FRANCE, 11.07.2001'. The left side of the leaflet contains several sections of text:

- 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
- What is Eusja?** Eusja is a not-for-profit umbrella organization for national science journalists' associations in Europe. Eusja has today (July 2006) 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, mailing-list etc at <http://www.eusja.org> There you will also find links to the member reports from and news

 On the left side, there is a sketch of a street scene in Strasbourg, France, with the text 'LA PERTE FRANCE, STRASBOURG, NOV 2001' and a signature 'JK'.

Eusja 2008

President

Hanns-Joachim Neubert
ScienceCom, Hallerstraße 5 D
20146 Hamburg, Germany
Tel +49 40 41 80 43
E-mail neubert@sciencecom.eu

Vice-President

Barbara Drillsma
ABSW, Wellcome Wolfson Building
165 Queen's Gate
London SW7 5HE, United Kingdom
Tel +44 870 770 3361
E-mail absw@absw.org.uk

Honorary Secretary

Viola M Egikova
INTELLECT, Horoshovskoe Shosse 50-98
123007 Moscow
Tel +7 095 256 5122
E-mail egikova@mospravda.ru

Treasurer

Vesa Niinikangas
Enostone Ltd
Brahenkatu 11 g 109
20100 Turku, Finland
Tel +358 2 251 5633
E-mail vesanias@enostone.fi

Eusja Secretariat

Florence Kohtz
EUSJA, c/o Euroscience
8 rue des Ecrivains
67000 Strasbourg, France
Tel: + 33 3 88 24 11 50
E-mail eusja@euroscience.org

National representatives:

Albania

Taulant Hatia
Rr. Budi, P.72/2 Ap.18,
Tirana
Tel: +355 68 25 19913
www.shkencadhenatyra.com



Austria

Elisabeth J Nöstlinger
ORF-Hörfunk
Argentinerstraße 30 a
1040 Wien
Tel +43 1 50 101-18042
E-mail elisabeth.noestlinger@orf.at



Belgium

Jean-Paul Vankeerberghen
Edipresse sprl
Avenue de Pesage 125, 11050 Brussels
Tel: (32) 2 539 13 45
jpvkb@chello.be
E-mail www.abjsc.org



Croatia

Blanka Jergović
Hrvatska udruga znanstvenih novinara
Novinarski Dom, Perkovceva 2
10000 Zagreb
Tel + 385 1 6343110
E-mail bjergovic@hrt.hr



Czech Republic

Premysl Velek/Anna Martinkova
Academy of Science, Narodni 3
117 20 Prague 1
Tel: (420) 221 403 369/281
E-mail:martinkova@kav.cas.cz



Denmark

Mogens Bigaard
Konkret PR & Kommunikation
Tel: (45) 40 55 08 04
E-mail: bigaard@konkret.dk
www.videnskabsjournalister.dk



Estonia

Priit Ennet
Eesti Rahvusringhääling
Gonsiori 27, 15029 Tallinn
Mobile: + 372 51 45 608
E-mail:priit.ennet@err.ee
www.loodusajakiri.ee



Finland

Raili Leino
Tekniikka & Talous
PO Box 920, 00101 Helsinki
E-mail raili.leino@talentum.fi
www.suomentiedetoimittajat.fi



France

Eric Glover
Courrier International
6-8, rue Jean-Antoine de Baïf,
75013 Paris
E-mail: eric.glover@courrierinternational.com
www.ajspi.com



Germany

Teli-representative:
Wolfgang Goede
P.M. Magazine, 81664 München
Tel +49 89 41 52 558
E-mail w.goede@gmx.net
www.teli.de



WPK representative:

Dirk Lorenzen
E-mail DLorenzen@compuserve.com
www.wpk.org

Greece

Michael Arvanitis
tel: (30) 697 47 38 984
E-mail info@euroscience.gr



Hungary

Ákos Gózon
Elet Es Tudomány
1088 Budapest, Bródy S. u. 16
Tel (36) 1 338 24 72
E-mail gozon@eletestudomány.hu
www.tuk.hu



Ireland

Anna Nolan
Aill Bhúí, Brickhill West
Cratloe, Co. Clare
Tel +353 61 357 147
E-mail anolan@iol.ie



Italy

Paola de Paoli
Viale Ezio 5, 20149 Milano
Tel +39 2 437 476
E-mail paoladepaoli@tiscali.it
www.ugis.it



Netherlands

Elmar Veerman
VPRO Radio, Postbus 6, 200 AA
Hilversum
Tel +31 35 671 2512
E-mail e.veerman@vpro.nl
www.wetenschapsjournalisten.nl



Norway

Kristin Straumsheim Grønli
forskning.no, Sagveien 23b
Pb 2070 Grünerløkka
0505 Oslo
Tel +47 2 280 9896
E-mail kristin@forskning.no
www.forskning.no



Poland

Slawomir Zagorski
Czerska 8/10
00-732 Warszawa
Tel +48 22 5554348
E-mail slawomir.zagorski@agora.pl
www.naukowi.pl



Portugal

Ricardo Garcia
Rua Prof. Dias Valente, 168
2765-578 Estoril
Tel: (351) 210 111 169
E-mail: Ricardo.Garcia@publico.pt
www.arcaportugal.org



Romania

Alexandru Mironov
UNESCO
Anton Cehov Street no.8, sector 1,
Bucharest 011998
tel + 40 2 1231 13 33
E-mail: almironov@cnr-unesco.ro



Russia

Viola M Egikova
See board list



Slovenia

Goran Tenze
Radio Slovenija, Tavcarjeva 17
1550 Ljubljana
Tel +386 1 475 24 23
E-mail goran.tenze@rtvslo.si



Spain

Manuel Toharia
Ginzo de Limia 55, 28034 Madrid
Tel +34 961 974 400
E-mail mtoharia@cac.es
www.agendadelacomunicacion.com/aepc/



Catalan representative:

Mercè Piqueras
ACCC, Rambla Catalunya 10
08007 Barcelona
Tel. +34-934121111
Fax +34-933178386
E-mail presidencia@accc.cat
http://www.accc.cat

Sweden

Kaianders Sempler
Ny Teknik, 106 12 Stockholm
Tel +46 705 44 81 71
E-mail kaianders.sempler@nyteknik.se
www.vetenskapsjournalistik.org



Switzerland

Irène Dietschi
Mittellandzeitung Sonntag
Postfach, 4614 Hägendorf
Tel +41 62 216 88 44
E-mail irene.dietschi@bluwini.ch
www.science-journalism.ch



United Kingdom

Barbara Drillsma
See board list
www.absw.org.uk

