Press Release ESOF 2014

**Roll-out of Stakeholder Polylogue: Innovative Format Connects Science, Industry,
Civil Society on the Future of Nanotechnoloy**

During ESOF 2014, the European Union of Science Journalists’ Organizations EUSJA will introduce a new format: an extended dialogue which connects three major sectors of society: science, industry, civil society. This polylogue addresses scientific and technological questions which raise public concern and contain societal conflict.

The format was developed and tested by the Association of German Science Writers TELI, a member organization of EUSJA. One public debate addressed demographic shifts, increasing life expectancy and the impact on pensions and retirement age. Another one claimed “Noise makes you sick!” and searched new means to lower noise levels, not only suitable technologies but also based on policy and legislation. Both debates involved researchers, policy makers, administrators, citizens as well as their civil society representatives and NGOs. The events closed with resolutions which outlined necessary changes and actions.

At the Euroscience Open Forum, the continent’s largest science conference, the science debate will put nanotechnology under the magnifying glass and help to answer the following questions: What are the nanotech promises, how could graphene for example better our lifes, are frequently cited risks for health and environment valid and can they be proved, why has nanotechnology been in a stalemate for the past ten years, can we and the economies afford this, or is more regulation needed such as labeling hundreds of consumer goods which contain nanomaterials?

An expert panel will introduce the topic and highlight various societal interests and concerns. Research is represented by Markus Lackinger, Head of Nanotechnology Laboratory Deutsches Museum and Technical University Munich; Steffi Friedrichs, Director General of Nanotechnology Industries Association Brussels will speak on behalf of the economy; Lone Mikkelson looks at the questions from the perspective of the Danish Ecological Council; and Claus Jorgensen presents the views of the Danish consumers. Hanns-J. Neubert, inventor and designer of the science debate, will explain the role of journalists as mediators of this format.

The chair of the ESOF science debate, EUSJA president emeritus Barbie Drillsma will moderate the session in close contact with the audience. It is seated at round tables. Each group will briefly discuss the debate topic after the initial presentations, raise questions and put forward recommendations. After a final feedback round of the panelists a resolution will be drafted and submitted to the European Commission.

**Expectations and risks of nanotechnology: the role of science journalism**
Tuesday, June 24 2014: 13:30 - 14:45, Glyptotek Hall, Carlsberg Museum ->
<https://esof2014.pathable.com/#meetings/174652>

Contact: Wolfgang C. Goede, EUSJA Honorary Secretary, Tel: 0049 89 351 5570,
M: 0176 2616 1950, Hanns-J. Neubert, EUSJA Pres. emeritus, Tel: 0049 40 41 80 43,
M. 0171 541 8043

Pictures: Science Debates on Demography/Munich & Noise Pollution/Wiesbaden © TELI

Links & Info:

European Union of Science Journalists’ Associations EUSJA:
[www.eusja.org](http://www.eusja.org)

Science Debate Website: [www.wissenschaftsdebatte.de](http://www.wissenschaftsdebatte.de) (German)

Euroscientist Report: <http://euroscientist.com/2013/05/the-german-science-debate-innovation-with-democartic-participation> (English)

Public Communication Science and Technology Conference PCST Salvador Brazil 2014CST 2014: <http://www.wissenschaftsdebatte.de/?p=4847> (English)

Report Network Citizens Participation: <http://www.netzwerk-buergerbeteiligung.de/fileadmin/Inhalte/PDF-Dokumente/newsletter_beitraege/beitrag_goede_140410.pdf> (German)

Science Debate Manual, Philosophy & Methodology: <http://www.maecenata.eu/images/documents/mi/resources/2013_op68.pdf> (German & English)

EUSJA Spring News w/ESOF Program:
<http://www.eusja.org/eusja-news/eusja-news-spring-2014>,

1st European Conference Science Journalists ECSJ during ESOF: <http://www.eusja.org/first-european-conference-for-science-journalists-ecsj>

EUSJA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117674594928808>