



In this Newsletter:

- EUSJA News in brief
- Participate in an EUSJA Brainstorming Webinar 22.10.!
- EUSJA membership fees 2024
- EU News by Cinzia Boschiero:
 - o EMI and European Commission for Freedom of Media
 - o European opportunities and New Challenges for Journalists
 - o EU calls: Audio Reporting, Digital Reporting
- Upcoming events for Science Journalists
- News and articles from EUSJA member associations:
 - o UGIS (Italy) visits the scientific excellence of Brescia on the occasion of "Bergamo Brescia 2023 - Italian Capital of Culture" by Luisa Monini
 - o EUCYS – European Young Scientists 2024 in Poland by Cinzia Boschiero



Please note: a longer version of this newsletter (including a blog post) has been emailed 28.8. to EUSJA delegates of the national member associations. Ask more: maripheikkila@gmail.com.

EUSJA News in Brief

by Mari Heikkilä/EUSJA board

EUSJA has a new bank account

We just got a new bank account established for EUSJA after a long job! Thanks to our active and punctual treasurer, **Lucia Torres**, we got it! Now we can move on, collect this year's membership fees and pay the bills. Background: Why did we need a new bank account? The EUSJA's old bank account was located in France, and we no longer have an office there. In practice, the online services of the French bank in question were bad, which is why it has been almost impossible to transfer money and pay bills. Should have gone to do business on the spot. And it was also quite expensive to keep the account. Now that we have a new bank account, that new bank has modern online-services and also international transfers should go smoothly -- and with less costs.

EUSJA is now collecting membership fees for 2024

Since we have now the new bank account, we will start to collect the membership fees for year 2024. Please, we ask your national association to pay the membership fee for year 2024 before end of September. Ask more: maripheikkila@gmail.com

Welcome to EUSJA Brainstorming Webinar 22.10.!

We are organizing a brainstorming session to develop EUSJA's activities. It will be held on Tuesday, October 22. All the EUSJA delegates/members are welcome to participate! If you are interested in participating send email maripheikkila@gmail.com for the link.

EUSJA General Assembly and election for the new board next year

Just to remind you: EUSJA will have General Assembly and election for the new board in March 2025 (we will announce the date as soon as possible). We hope that you in the member associations think about who could possibly be your candidate in next year's elections. According to EUSJA constitution any individual member of any of the member associations can stand in the elections for the board as long as not more than one member from each association stands for election. It is therefore worth discussing and deciding on the matter in time within the association.

How do we proceed? First, you should decide in your own association, who would be your candidate. We would like to know that before end of this year. Secondly, we hope that the candidates send an introductory text or blog post about themselves and why they are interested in becoming board members. We would put these introductions in the newsletter that will appear at the beginning of next year.

Participate in an EUSJA Brainstorming Webinar 22.10.!



We are organizing a brainstorming session to develop EUSJA's activities. It will be held on Tuesday, October 22 at 18.00 (Central European Time) in Google Meet. All the EUSJA delegates/members are welcome to participate!

Ask maripheikkila@gmail.com for the link to the Google Meet -meeting (22.10. at 18:00 CET):

Here are some items we could discuss:

WHAT? What should we do as an association, what kind of activities should we organize?

HOW? How do we promote the realization of these goals? How, in practice, could these activities be

organized – where to find funding (if needed), where to find people to make events happen? Who could EUSJA cooperate and make partnerships?

If you have some more ideas about brainstorming discussion topics, please contact maripheikkila@gmail.com. Hope to see you in our brainstorming session!

WFSJ will have a new election on November

World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ) will have a new voting on November, they announced via email in August 20. Here are some details about it:

- The election is a two-stage process: the first is for each of the member associations to select and then nominate a candidate for election to the WFSJ board. Each member association can put forward a maximum of two candidates, at least one of whom must identify as female.
- Nominations are already open. It will close 23:59 (UTC) on Friday October 4. Candidates will be announced at 0900 UTC on Monday 21 October.
- Voting phase: The deadline for the first voting phase is 23:59 (UTC) Friday November 1. The results will be sent on Monday 4. The second voting phase is Friday November 8. and the third (if needed) Friday November 15.
- The results will be (the names of the four candidates who receive the most votes) announced on Wednesday November 20. In the beginning of WFSJ's General Assembly.



EU News by Cinzia Boschiero (UGIS, Italy):

EMI and European Commission for Freedom of Media

The European Movement International (EMI), together with numerous other European and journalist organisations, sent a new letter to the Vice President of the European Commission Věra Jourová to ask for an investigation into the state of press freedom in Italy, as Euractiv has learned.

The reasons for concern are the deterioration of press freedom and the "worrying" decision of the European Commission to delay the publication of the annual report on the rule of law.

To express their concern, EMI, together with the National Federation of Italian Journalists (FNSI), the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), have sent a letter stating that "the situation facing journalists and the media in Italy and in other countries has worsened" since they first urged the EC (European Commission) to act.

On May 22, the group of associations had already urged the European Commission to open an investigation into press freedom, citing significant pressure on the independence of the media.

European opportunities and New Challenges for Journalists

The #EUinMyRegion Media Trips programme, organized by the Regio Directorate-General of the European Commission, is open to all local and regional journalists from the 27 states of the European Union. It includes online training sessions and a study visit to Brussels with targeted meetings with community officials to better understand how the institutions of the European Union work, to visit their structures and adequately learn about community procedures and in particular the impact of cohesion policy on regions and citizens, from the green and digital transition to social resilience and on how the European Union manages and controls its budget.

Recently, from 25 to 28 June, a delegation of Italian journalists including some members of Ugis, Spaniards, Romanians, Greeks and other nationalities were able to visit the headquarters of the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Committee of regions in Brussels and met experts and officials from various directorates general of the European Commission and Olaf, they were able to learn more about the community databases and meet Eurostat officials.

In particular Karolina Kottova, Director of the Communication Unit, DG Regio; Marijn Duijvestein, policy officer of DG Connect; Pierluigi Boda, Press Office of the European Committee of the Regions;



Teodora Brandmueller, deputy Head of Unit at Eurostat; the doctor Gianfranco Piras, coordinator of the anti-fraud team who explained how Olaf is an administrative and non-sanctioning body and how it agrees with EPPO (European Public Prosecutor's Office) which has been operating since June 2021. Furthermore, please note that from 6 May 2024 new rules apply against strategic legal actions to block public participation (SLAPP), providing journalists and

human rights defenders with tools to counter abusive prosecutions. The European Media Freedom Regulation came into force on 7 May 2024. It supports editorial independence and media pluralism, strengthens transparency and fairness and promotes better cooperation of media authorities through a new European Media Committee media services. Periodically there are calls and instruments in favor of the media, such as the Creative Europe-Media programme, the MediaInvest instrument, a "European action plan to support the recovery and transformation of the media". There is "Youth4Regions" which is a training program for journalism students and young journalists, promoted by the DG Regio of the European Commission and now in its 8th edition this year. Young people aged between 18 and 30 who demonstrate an interest in the achievements of the EU and its cohesion policy can apply.

It should also be noted that the final green light was given by the European Parliament, on Wednesday 13 March 2024, to the Media Freedom Act, the European law for media freedom designed to protect journalists and the media of the European Union from political or economic interference. The new regulation, approved with 464 votes in favour, 92 votes against and 65 abstentions, obliges member states to protect the independence of the media and will prohibit any form of interference in editorial decisions. The text also provides for strong limitations on the use of spyware, which however will remain permitted only on a case-by-case basis and subject to authorization from a judicial authority in the context of investigations into serious crimes.

The European Commission has also published a new tender concerning the Media Ownership Monitoring System. The Media Ownership Monitoring System is one of the measures announced in the EU Action Plan for European Democracy to help promote and safeguard media freedom and pluralism. A publicly accessible database containing information on media ownership and providing a systematic assessment of the relevant legal frameworks and risks to the transparency of European media ownership is co-funded. Furthermore, 18 news agencies join forces and collaborate in a common "European press room", a space that allows correspondents to work and train together in Brussels in order to produce and disseminate news on EU affairs. The "European Newsroom of News Agencies" has been operational since 2022 with European funding supporting it.

EU Calls:

Audio Reporting (dl 19.9.)

'EU audio reporting' call has a total amount of four and a half million euros and co-finances a project focused on the production and distribution of innovative audio formats. The project to be financed should focus mainly on audio production, i.e. high-quality and editorially independent formats that provide an in-depth and diversified vision of European Union issues in as many community languages as possible. Information organizations and other organizations in the media sector specialized in audio production that have their registered office in one of the European Union states can participate in the call.

Read more: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/call-proposals-eu-audio-reporting>

Digital Reporting (dl 19.9.)

'EU digital reporting' call has a total budget of five million euros and co-finances projects that promote the offer of multilingual digital information content throughout the European Union and improve citizens' access to reliable digital information on European Union issues. Projects that include the production of original, innovative and multilingual digital formats on community themes can be co-financed. Information bodies, media sector organizations and technology developers with registered office in one of the States of the Union can participate in the call.

Read more: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/call-proposals-eu-digital-reporting>

Upcoming Events for Science Journalists

Please send email (maripheikkila@gmail.com) if you know some event or webinar which could be of interest for other EUSJA members.



22.-27.9.2024 The 11th **Heidelberg Laureate Forum**. As a science journalist apply for accreditation online until September 18.: <https://www.heidelberg-laureate-forum.org/journalists-bloggers.html>

24.-27.9. The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG). **Note!:** We have got few free vouchers for EUSJA science journalists to participate the conference (send email to maripheikkila@gmail.com if you are interested in attending)! <https://www.ehfg.org>.

7.-10.11. Falling Walls Science Summit Berlin https://falling-walls.com/science-summit/?__s=ybnh55v6a5f5uym4u8yg

2025 The World Conference of Science Journalists

The next World Conference of Science Journalists in 2025 will be held in Pretoria, administrative Capital of South Africa, carrying the theme Science Journalism and Social Justice – our role in promoting resilience. See more information on WFSJ webpages: <https://wfsj.org/world-conference-on-science-journalists/>



News from EUSJA Member Associations

What is happening in your national association? Do you have some news to tell others or something to share? Or did you have some interesting event? If you have some news/issues/events/happenings/articles which would be interesting also for other EUSJA member associations, you can write a report and send email maripheikkila@gmail.com. I will attach your report to EUSJA Newsletter. Thank you!



UGIS (Italy) visits the scientific excellence of Brescia on the occasion of "Bergamo Brescia 2023 - Italian Capital of Culture"

by Luisa Monini

A new important visit of UGIS members to the excellence of Italian Science. On the occasion of "Bergamo Brescia 2023 - Italian Capital of Culture", after the positive experience, at the end of May 2023 in Bergamo, the path of sharing and knowledge of UGIS continues in Brescia on 12 and 13 October. The initiative of the UGIS study trip was organized with the patronage of FAST (Federation of Scientific and Technical Associations) and with the support, attention and collaboration of important local realities sensitized in agreement with Rotary Club Brescia Nord, including A2A, Brescia Mobility SpA, University of Brescia, State University, Teatro Grande di Brescia and Cantine Berlucchi, an Italian winery.

UGIS has been also engaged for decades in a mission of tour of knowledge and relations with the world of research in Italy and abroad, in addition to its great commitment to the public and the media with initiatives, conferences, workshops and training courses in synergy with Institutions, Associations and Foundations, Universities and the Regional Journalists' Associations.



"It is increasingly important, in today's complex global context, that the scientist interacts in a synergistic way to transfer the innovations and discoveries achieved to the journalists and the general public. UGIS, for some time now, UGIS has been carrying out a challenge to promote the correct scientific information for all, from the world of research, university and private, towards that of journalism and society,", explains Giovanni Caprara, the President of UGIS.



"The aim is to extend, in this process of dissemination of scientific culture, the involvement of new realities as it happened in this cultural in which we have been honored to know the excellences of the territory of Brescia. Over the decades we have held conferences, journalistic awards, visits to centers of excellence in various territories, even abroad and, in recent years, we have promoted training courses for journalists and conferences in different territories of the Country".

On the morning of October 12, 2023, the tour started with a visit to the Multiutility A2A incinerator, one of the most innovative systems in the world at the service of the Circular Economy. UGIS members

were accompanied by Simone Malvezzi, Head of Waste-to-Energy Plants of the Group and from one of the staff, collaborator Giulio Bocchio. In the afternoon there was a meeting, at Palazzo Martinengo Palatini, with Prof. Francesco Castelli, Rector of the University of Brescia. The Rector illustrated the innovations of the University and Giovanni Caprara spoke about the aims of the UGIS in visiting the

Excellencies of Brescia. Thanks to the interest of the Fondazione del Teatro Grande di Brescia, a guided tour of the Theatre was organized.

In the evening, the delegation of UGIS members was hosted of the Rotary Club Brescia Nord, welcomed by the President Deodato Assanelli. After dinner, Luisa Monini, Ugis Member and President of the Rotary Club Communication Committee, introduced UGIS President Giovanni Caprara who spoke of "Communicating the new challenges from robotics to space".



On the morning of 13 October 2023, Marco Medeghini, General Manager of Brescia Mobilità, and President of ASSTRA Lombardia, introduced the visit to journalists on the theme "Present and future of transport infrastructure between innovation and growth of services". This was followed by the inspection of the Operations Centre and the Group's workshop, an innovative reality in the transport system in Lombardy.

Immediately after, it was organized the departure for Borgonato di Corte Franca (BS) to visit the Berlucci Winery, where we discovered methods and particularities of a thousand-year wine tradition. After lunch, offered by the Ziliani family, owner of the Berlucci Winery, we returned to Brescia, for our respective destinations, always thanks to the transport means of Brescia Mobility.

EUCYS – European Young Scientists 2024 in Poland

by Cinzia Boschiero

The European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS), is a chief European challenge organised by the European Commission since 1989. In Italy the national selection is organized by FAST (Federation of 26 scientific national associations) and also in it there is UGIS, that is part of EUSJA. Each year, a different city is announced as a host of the competition. This year, Katowice was granted this honourable title. In September, young scientists from all over Europe will meet at



the international finals in Katowice and battle for the main prizes of the European Commission (3.000,0 ; 5.000,00; 7.000,00 euros; grants, voyages etc.). The city is located in the south of Poland, in Silesia Upland, which makes it a place at the crossroads of different cultures. This modern city stands out with a well-developed economy and culture. This international science fair will bring together around 150 brilliant young scientists, aged 14 to 20, to Katowice, from almost 40 countries. The participants will present their scientific projects to an esteemed jury, to the general public and to their peers, with

whom they will be able to exchange ideas and mutually learn. EUCYS 2024 is organised by the European Commission with the University of Silesia, Katowice, in cooperation with the Polish Children's Fund. This european contest EUCYS is the most prestigious for young scientists and every year some of them open also some start ups after being selected, because of the quality of their discovers.