



## In this Newsletter:

- A blog by Mari Heikkilä: Towards General Assembly 2025
- **EUSJA Member Webinar 24.2.:** Exploring Science Journalism in Germany
- Information about the **EUSJA Study trip & GA 27.-29.3. in Budapest – REGISTER BEFORE 15.2.!**
- Introduction of candidates for EUSJA Board 2025-2027
- Meeting invitation for General Assembly 2025, Agenda, President's report
- Interesting EU calls for Journalists
- Upcoming events for Science Journalists – travel grants to Lindau, DL 15.3.!



## BLOG

# Towards GA Budapest 2025

This newsletter contains important information about the 2025 General Assembly (annual meeting), which will be held on Saturday 29.3. at 9.30-12.30 (Hungarian time) in Budapest. First of all, I kindly ask you to register by Saturday 15.2. using this form:

<https://forms.gle/sRAo7xdEzjFULW6t8> to indicate how you wish to participate in the GA and whether you will also join the two-day study trip organized before the meeting. As in previous years, each delegate/representative is responsible for arranging their own travel



*Mari Heikkilä*

to Budapest, or their national member association covers the costs. Our host in Hungary, Istvan Palugyai and the national association has arranged accommodation in Budapest from 26.-29.3. for three nights for those participating in the study trip and the GA-meeting. It is also possible to attend the GA online. I hope to see you there!

This newsletter also introduces the candidates applying for the is great that we have received strong candidates! There is still time to apply if you are interested in joining the board. The work on the board is carried out on a voluntary basis, but as a reward you will gain international contacts and have the opportunity to do valuable and meaningful work!


NOTE: Before the GA-meeting, we also have an exciting webinar coming up, where Peter Knoll will talk about the state of science journalism in Germany. Be sure to tune in! Wishing you a great start to the year, and see you in Budapest!

Best regards,  
Mari Heikkilä  
President of EUSJA, President of FASEJ (Finland)  
[maripheikkila@gmail.com](mailto:maripheikkila@gmail.com)



*See you in Budapest!*

# EUSJA Member Webinar 24.2.2025: Exploring Science Journalism in Germany!

 Date & Time 24.2.2025 at 19.00 (CET)

 Online <https://meet.google.com/ssr-iadr-jcr>



Are you curious about the landscape of science journalism in Germany? How does science journalism in Germany differ from that in other countries? Join us for an exclusive webinar where we dive into the historical context, current trends, and innovative best practices shaping the field today. Presenter: EUSJA delegate Peter Knoll, TELI (German Association of Science Writers).



*Peter Knoll*

- ◆ The State of Science Journalism and Science Communication in Germany: Economic and social framework conditions
- ◆ Historical background and constitutional protection of broadcasting and television
- ◆ German Press code and legal requirements for good journalism
- ◆ Effects of right-wing populism on German journalism, in particular on science journalism
- ◆ Best Practices in Action: The TELI Jour fixe leading to trend-setting scientific discussions

# Information about the EUSJA Study trip & GA 27.-29.3. in Budapest – REGISTRATION DL 15.2.!

We are excited to announce a positive change to the date of our General Assembly! The meeting will take place on Sat 29.3.2025 in the morning at 9.30-12.30 in Budapest. This change is due to a fantastic opportunity: instead of hosting the meeting online, we are happy to organize it face-to-face in connection with a study trip to Hungary, arranged by our Hungarian association and delegate István Palugyai!

## Key Details:

**Study Trip:** The two-day trip will take place on 27.—28.3. (Thu-Fri), offering participants the chance to visit on the first day to ELI Szeged <https://eli-laser.eu/> (The Extreme Light Infrastructure is the world's largest and most advanced high-power laser infrastructure and a global technology and innovation leader), then to the Szeged Biological Center <https://www.brc.hu/en> (where the Nobel prize winner Katalin Kariko started her career) and on the second day in Budapest a high tech industrial facilities. **Participants are expected to arrive in Budapest on Wednesday 26.3., as the program will begin on Thursday morning.** The detailed program will be shared with you later.

**General Assembly** (annual meeting): The following day, 29.3.2025 at 9.30-12.30, we will hold our GA meeting, which will also serve as the election meeting for a new EUSJA board.

While we encourage everyone to attend in person, we understand that not all delegates may be able to travel. The GA meeting will also be accessible via an online connection.



## How to Register?

Please confirm your participation (in person or online) using this

form: <https://forms.gle/sRAo7xdEzjFULW6t8>.

If you are unable to attend, please inform us who from your national association will represent you, and they can register via the same form. The study trip is limited to 15 participants, with one spot reserved per national association by default.

**Costs:** Each participant/association is responsible for their own travel expenses to Budapest. The host has kindly arranged accommodation for those attending the study trip and the GA meeting for the period of 26.-29.3. (three nights).

A huge thank and many hugs to István Palugyai ([palugyai@gmail.com](mailto:palugyai@gmail.com)) for making this opportunity possible and enabling us to meet face-to-face! Don't miss this unique chance to connect, learn, and collaborate!

## CANDIDATES FOR THE EUSJA BOARD

# Introduction of candidates for EUSJA Board

New members for EUSJA board will be elected in GA 2025 for term 2025–2027 (two years). The board consist of four members: president, vice-president, honorary secretary, honorary treasurer. Introductions of candidates who have emerged so far for the EUSJA's board term 2025–2027 (in alphabetical order):

### Cinzia Boschiero, Italy:



#### Workplace, your current role?

Three main activities 1)press officer and founder of my own ECPARTNERS (since 1989) European press agency – [www.ecpartners.it](http://www.ecpartners.it) – and press office in particular of FAST ([www.fast.mi.it](http://www.fast.mi.it)) Italian federation of 26 scientific associations ; press office of EUCYS (European contest for young scientists of the DG Research – European Commission – Italian selection Fast) ; press office of the national association miasthenia ([www.miasthenia.it](http://www.miasthenia.it)) at the national institute of research IRCCS Besta of Milan and press office of the director of the scientific committee of the European association miasthenia; 2) scientific journalist with my own fixed journalistic sections (2 pages every week on “[Affaritaliani.it](http://Affaritaliani.it)”- my fixed section “Pillole d’Europa”; my fixed tv section “Eurochat” on national 7gold tv; my fixed tv section “EuropaIn Salute” on regional tv Telelombardia, Antenna3, Milanow tv; on the national magazine “Panorama Sanità” my

fixed section 2 pages every month “A domanda, risposta”; on the weekly national newspaper “Italiaoggi7” my fixed section of 10 pages about European funds and projects “PMI”; other collaborations with “Il giornale dei biologi”, Corriere della sera, RAI 3, and other etc.. ) 3)organizer of training courses for journalists and for doctors (ECM)

#### Why you want to join the EUSJA board?

To be more effective and to help to fight against fake news, to help EUJSA to grow, to increase the number of new members

#### How you would like to develop the EUSJA’s activities?

I would like to present EUSJA to the Meps of the European parliament in order to let our job be recognized as role relevant for fighting fake news - “scientific journalist” - in all the EU; to organize some training courses useful to scientific journalists and some scientific trips useful for our jobs; to help EUJSA to participate to EU projects/events etc; to help more women to become scientific journalists (STEAM promotion with presentation of our job at secondary schools and universities); to organize an “European master for scientific journalism” to help to fight fake news and improve the training and the quality of journalism; to find sponsors keen on the problem that we need free media, and we need to help citizens to read more (synergy also with the European and international associations of libraries and of editorial smes etc.) to understand which are the videos and the news manipulated, to organize training for journalist regarding the AI (challenge/opportunity/problems/new tools etc.); to develop different scientific committee/groups in EUSJA also specialized in different themes (like Health, Energy, Transport, logistics, agriculture etc.) to publish together some journalistic studies/dossiers useful for different target (teachers, professionals etc.); to publish new books (i.e. about the lives of women scientists and researchers, data on gender discrimination and on issues of public interest such as data on the cryopreservation of eggs for women etc.) all together.

## CANDIDATES FOR THE EUSJA BOARD

### Fintan Burge, Ireland:



#### **Workplace, your current role?**

I'm a freelance science journalist and part-time outreach manager at the European Science Communication Institute, a scicomm not-for-profit. I am also the EUSJA delegate for the Irish Science and Technology Journalists Association (ISTJA).

#### **Why you want to join the board?**

I became the ISTJA delegate to EUSJA in early 2024. Since then, I have seen growing interest to increase EUSJA's activities and start new projects. I have already helped in a small way by updating the EUSJA members page. I would like to continue this work as EUSJA's secretary, helping it to pursue new opportunities.

#### **How you would like to develop the association's activities?**

I think there are more ways that EUSJA can help its members communicate with each other. For example, I would like to increase our activity on social media

(LinkedIn, Twitter/X, and others). Over time I would also like to work with members to further update webpages on the EUSJA website. Encouraging an active, international community of science journalists with a modern website will help EUSJA when seeking opportunities to collaborating with other associations or funders.

### Lucia Torres, Spain:



#### **Workplace, your current role?**

Mongabay, Video Managing Editor

#### **Why you want to join the board?**

After almost a year been part of the board, I would like to continue supporting the organization. I'm eager to collaborate with peers across Europe, share knowledge, and help shape the future of science journalism.

#### **How you would like to develop the association's activities?**

I'd love to lead initiatives that foster cross-border collaboration and knowledge sharing between European journalists. I'm also committed to finding funding and partnerships to help organize more events, workshops, and initiatives that can elevate the work of science journalists across Europe.

## CANDIDATES FOR THE EUSJA BOARD

### Dino Trescher, Germany:



#### **Workplace, your current role?**

Constart Correspondent Network [www.constart.com](http://www.constart.com)

#### **Why you want to join the board?**

I would like to continue my work in the EUSJA board with head, heart and hand as Honorary Secretary.


#### **How you would like to develop the association's activities?**


With my knowledge and skills would like to contribute to EUSJA activities e.g. a newsletter, online-workshops and -seminars on news, trending topics, providing, services, skills&tools and opportunities for science journalists and their associations.



GA 2025

# Agenda of EUSJA General Assembly Meeting 2025

 17 Date & Time: Saturday 29.3.2025 at 9.30-12.30 (CET, UTC +1)

 Place: Budapest, the exact place and address will be announced soon,

Online: <https://meet.google.com/kyi-tqvr-yri>



*EUSJA GA 2024, Helsinki. Foto: Peter Knoll.*

1. Opening and Welcome
2. Verification of Quorum
  - 2.1. Attendance, votes, proxies
  - 2.2. Confirmation of quorum
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous General Assembly meeting
5. President's annual Report 2024
6. Financial report 2024, budget and report of accounts
7. Review of new member association

The membership application of the Balkan Network of Science Journalists will be reviewed and voted upon. The association will be presented, and the members will approve or reject their admission.
8. Election of the New Board Members
  - 8.1. Nominations
  - 8.2. Election
9. Updates from Member associations
10. Any Other Business
11. Announcements
12. Closing



GA 2025

# President's Report for the Annual General Meeting 2024

Mari Heikkilä

In 2024, several positive developments took place for EUSJA: we had a successful study trip and General Assembly in Finland in March, we opened a new bank account and collected membership fees, which helps ease our operations, and we organized an EUSJA Brainstorming webinar, where we received valuable ideas for the future development of EUSJA's activities. We also held our first EUSJA Member Webinar 3.12.2024 focused on using artificial intelligence (AI) in the work of science journalists. Four newsletters were published in 2024 (January, April, August and December), and I also sent many email updates. So the year has been quite active, thanks to everyone who has made the EUSJA's activities possible!

The EUSJA board met actively during the year, seven online-meetings. I would like to warmly thank the board members, the vice-president Jens Degett, the treasurer Lucia Torres and ex-treasurer Alberto Pieri, and the secretary honorary Dino Trescher. Our collaboration has been excellent, and it has been a pleasure working with you! As I informed the membership, there was one change of personnel in the board in year 2024: Alberto Pieri had to leave his position during in March 2024 due to health reasons. We are grateful to Alberto for his contribution to the association, warm thanks! Lucia Torres, a delegate of the AEC2 (Spain), stepped into his place as a new treasurer.



*EUSJA Study trip and GA in Helsinki 2024. In the image, the EUSJA board members are named: Dino Trescher, Lucia Torres, Jens Degett and Mari Heikkilä.*

This may sound funny, but I personally consider one of the significant achievements of last year that **we got a new bank account**. You wouldn't believe how much work it is to establish just one account for an international non-profit organization, but now it's successfully handled! Special thanks and cheers go to Lucia, who resolved this long-standing issue, and to Jens, who personally went to Strasbourg to close the old account and transfer EUSJA's funds to the new one. Now we were also able to collect membership fees after a long time, thanks to all members! Paying the membership fee is also an indication of the desire to commit to the EUSJA's activities. We now

have about 5000 euros in the bank account. It's not much, but it's enough for running costs and provides a basis for planning future.

We had a fruitful study trip and **General Assembly 13.-15.3.2024 in Helsinki**, Finland. There were visitors from nine different European countries: Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. We visited world's largest ice and wave test basin, small satellites laboratory and quantum computing group in Aalto University and tree biology, antibiotic resistance research groups in University of Helsinki. We also visited Yle (Yleisradio, Finland's national public broadcasting company), and had a profound panel discussion regarding the state of science journalism, politics, EUSJA's activities and future prospects. The meeting was organized by FASEJ (The Finnish Association of Science Editors and Journalists). See summary of GA and study trip attached (annex 1).

We asked in our **EUJA Brainstorming webinar 22.10.2024** our members, what kind of activities



are desired from EUSJA, how to organize them and what kind of cooperation we should promote. About twenty members of the association participated in the meeting. Desired events were study trips, travel grants and webinars. Regarding cooperation, the hope was that, among other things, connections to EFSJ (European Federation of Science Journalists) would be established. In connection with this, the board has contacted EFSJ via email (January 2025) and there are plans for an online meeting where opportunities for cooperation can be considered. See summary from Brainstorming webinar attached (annex 2).

In the first **EUSJA member webinar 3.12.2024 AI in Action – Practical Uses and Ethical Considerations in Everyday Work of a Science Journalist**, I shared my own experiences with AI, and Jens Degett served as a commentator. Over twenty members of the association participated in the meeting. The audience also actively participated in the discussion, which we appreciated. I discussed how AI can assist, for example, in generating ideas for science articles. One can ask it questions like what an interesting and current research topic in particle physics might be, or what could be asked of an interviewee about stem cell treatments. The answers of AI might be nonsense sometimes, but occasionally, you can get really good ideas—and quickly, within seconds. AI can also be used for translating texts, for example, into English. It produces more intelligent translations than traditional translation software. However, one needs to be careful, as it may add some “nonsense” of its own, so the text always needs to be carefully reviewed. I am writing this in Finnish right now, and after that, I will have AI translate it. I feel that it speeds up my work.



In voluntary associations like EUSJA, communication is always a bottleneck. I have actively sent emails to members and created newsletters, but of course, nothing is ever enough. We also aim to actively inform about interesting events to science journalist. EUSJA members have been offered special free participation vouchers or grants (EHFG, EWMA) and opportunities to apply for travel grants for several events.

I have personally thought about the significance of EUSJA. I feel that it is well described in the EUSJA's constitution: To improve communication between the scientific community and society.

To promote contact among the various member associations and among journalists engaged in reporting science, medicine and technology. To promote setting up of new national, regional or topical science journalism associations, and to help build capacity of science journalism in Europe. To promote activities for members and others to discuss and evaluate what good science journalism and communication are and share examples and experiences. EUSJA was founded by national associations, and as I have mentioned before, it will only continue to function as long as the national associations find its activities valuable and worth maintaining. There is no individual person who is the EUSJA—we are the association. If we are active and want to develop EUSJA, it will develop. One can always criticize that the association should do more of this or that, but in the end, since we are the association, it means that we should all work together to do more of this and that. It's like building a shared house: construction work is done together, all the time, so that it progresses, and it will never be completely finished. Some of the builders might think they can sit on the couch and watch others build, but then they're not contributing to the common task. I hope that the building of the association will continue in a good spirit and with a shared desire. Criticism is always possible and sometimes necessary, but it should contribute to the building of a common house, not destroy the foundation. It's important to remember that one must roll up their sleeves and start building—it's not enough to sit and drink coffee while others try to get the building together.

It's fantastic that we will be able to meet for the annual meeting in March 2025 in Budapest. A huge thank you and a big salute to our Hungarian delegate Istvan Palugyai and the Hungarian member association who will organize the event! It will be great to see everyone face-to-face again. While much can be done online today, it's a whole different experience to meet people in person, have conversations together, and get to know new people. This year, we also have the election of a new board ahead of us at the meeting. I am happy that interested and active people have been found for the task. Great! Thank you to everyone! Let's stay active and keep in touch!

Mari Heikkilä  
President of EUSJA, President of FASEJ (Finland)  
[maripheikkila@gmail.com](mailto:maripheikkila@gmail.com)



*prey.*

## Interesting EU calls for Journalism

If you are interested in participating EU calls, contact Cinzia: [cinziaboschiero@gmail.com](mailto:cinziaboschiero@gmail.com).

### **Journalism Partnerships – Pluralism (CREA-CROSS-2025-JOURPART-PLURALISM)**

This topic focuses on protecting media sectors of particular relevance to democracy and civic participation. Therefore, projects aimed at implementing a funding scheme to provide funding to media outlets in these sectors, such as local and regional media, community media, investigative and independent journalism and organizations specializing in public interest information, will be supported. This action is aimed at organizations active in the media sector, including media associations, NGOs, non-profit organizations, civil society organizations, public authorities, international organizations, universities, research centers, journalistic funds and training bodies for media professionals, for-profit organizations, foundations. Projects can be presented by a single proponent or by a consortium made up of at least two entities from different eligible countries. The EU contribution will be able to cover up to 90% of the eligible costs of the project, for a maximum of €2,500,000. [Read more](#) about the call.



## Upcoming Events for Science Journalists

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

**24.2.2025 EUSJA Member Webinar 24.2.2025: Exploring Science Journalism in Germany** by Peter Knoll, Google meet: <https://meet.google.com/ssr-iadr-jcr>

**26-29.3.2025 EUSJA Study trip and General Assembly meeting 2025 in Budapest** with an election of new board members, online.

**29.6.-4.7.2025 Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting (chemistry)** <https://www.lindau-nobel.org/future-meetings/> - **APPLY FOR A TRAVEL GRANT, DL 15.3.!**

**14.-19.9.2025 The 12th Heidelberg Laureate Forum** <https://www.heidelberg-laureate-forum.org>

**30.9.-3.10.2025 The European Health Forum Gastein** <https://www.ehfg.org>

**7.-9.10.2025 Falling Walls Science Summit Berlin** <https://falling-walls.com>

**1.-5.12.2025 The World Conference of Science Journalists**

More information: <https://www.wcsj2025.org> and <https://wfsj.org/world-conference-on-science-journalists/>