

**June 2025**

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# Together to grow

- Fintan Burke

Dear members of EUSJA

Welcome to the latest edition of the EUSJA newsletter.

In late March, EUSJA delegates gathered in-person and online for our annual general meeting (AGM) in Budapest, Hungary.

The AGM followed a two-day study trip hosted by the Hungarian association TUK and their EUSJA delegate István Palugyai.

Thank you to all those who were able to join, and a special thanks to the organisers who made the trip so memorable! You can read more about it below.

During the AGM, a new board was also elected for a two-year term. The new board includes Fintan Burke (ISTJA, Ireland) as President, Cinzia Boschiero (UGIS, Italy) as Vice-President, Dino Trescher (TELI, Germany) as Honorary Secretary, and Lucia Torres (AEC<sup>2</sup>, Spain) as Treasurer.

Our special thanks to Mari Heikkilä and Jens Degett, who completed their terms as EUSJA President and Vice-President respectfully. We hope to continue your good work!

We are pleased to inform you that, as the new board, we aim to implement various activities together with you.

First, there's a new section on the EUSJA website dedicated to job opportunities, European courses and European calls for proposals. We will also inform you about the scholarships and tenders open for journalists and for press offices in the EU.

Scientific journalists in all sectors are fundamental against fake news. We want to work with EUSJA members across Europe on a "Manifesto on the role of scientific journalists against fake news"

which we will then present to the European Parliament.

Over the next few months, we will invite you to organise some "interest groups" created for various specific areas such as food, environment, medicine, agriculture, IT, etc. This has been successfully done in UGIS in Italy. We look forward to giving your association's activities more visibility to other European associations.

One of EUSJA's great successes over the years has been organising study trips. We will organise some more themed study trips soon, and we are looking for sponsors to cover the costs

Finally, we would also like to create a biennial award for science journalists with your support for the selection of the best journalistic talents across Europe. More information on this will come in a future newsletter.

We're happy to receive news and updates from your own national associations to highlight everything you do and to strengthen the network among us.

The EUSJA Board

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# News in Brief

## Training

The European Commission has launched the [Union of Skills](#) as part of its competitiveness strategy.

There are many actions and an interesting organic approach to skills, but dedicated actions are needed to systematise lifelong learning and build a European knowledge infrastructure.

In some EU countries, like Italy, the annual adjournment is compulsory.

## Webinars

An EUSJA Brainstorming webinar was organised, where we received valuable ideas for the future development of EUSJA's activities.

An EUSJA member webinar on 03 December 2024 also focused on using artificial intelligence (AI) in the work of science journalists.

Four newsletters were published in 2024. In 2025/2026 we will organise some webinars to cooperate in training with different topics related to the various interest of groups of EUSJA members (AI, Health, ICT, etc.).

## The "EUSJA Manifesto" proposal

-Cinzia Boschiero

This proposal of "EUSJA Manifesto 2025" is drafted to all the EUSJA members to highlight the common challenges of scientific journalists with the goal of improving working conditions and increasing the networking.

As the EUSJA Board, we propose to vote and adopt an "EUSJA Manifesto" to better involve our members and to adopt a "European Charter of ethics on how scientific subjects & research are approached to provide information.

You can find a first draft of the manifesto attached to this newsletter's email.

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# EUSJA Budapest annual general meeting

- István Palugyai

(The below post is a summary of the [original Hungarian version](#))

*Between 26 and 29 March 2025, many journalists from EUSJA arrived in Budapest, as our organisation (TÚK) offered to hold its annual general meeting. The new EUSJA board was also elected.*

We also organised a study trip before the General Assembly, the main event of which was the trip to Szeged on 27 March. First, we visited the ELI-ALPS laser research centre, with a minibus provided by the centre also carrying several of our TÚK members interested in the trip.

At the first stop of the trip to Szeged, Katalin Varjú, scientific director, informed us and guided the journalists, who

were also helped by the centre's communications staff, namely Zoltán Ötvös and Ágnes Bálint, PR team leaders. At the end of the visit, the centre also hosted us with a great lunch. The visit ended with great interest, and the guests spoke with the greatest appreciation about what they saw.

Then we visited the Biological Centre of Szeged, where we listened to several presentations. First, the guests received a brief overview of the HUN-REN institutional network, then about the BRC, which was followed by four professional presentations by the four member institutions.



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The director of the Institute of Biophysics, Mária Deli, gave a presentation on biomedical applications of nano-sensors and chips.

László Nagy from the Institute of Biochemistry then gave a talk on a biotechnological topic on fungal strains, and Gábor Juhász from the Institute of Genetics on *Drosophila* research.

Finally Gergely Maróti gave a talk on the photo-bioenergetic application of algae on behalf

of the Institute of Plant Biology.

After returning home, the foreign guests took part in a joint dinner in a good atmosphere in a nearby restaurant, the Kert Bistro.

The next day, on 28 March, the program continued with several interesting scientific lectures in the library hall of the Domus Collegium.



In accordance with an agreement with Tamás Simon, Head of the Communications Department of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, two Lendület scholarship researchers gave very high-quality and interesting presentations.

First, Ivett Szalma from the

Institute of Sociology of HUN-REN gave a presentation on socially highly relevant reproductive research, then András Attila Horváth, director of the Neurocognitive Research Centre at the Gyula Nyírő National Institute of Psychiatry and Addiction, gave a presentation on dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

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Richárd Ádám Vécsey, AI developer from the TÚK, informed about the novelties related to artificial intelligence, and Norbert Babcsán spoke about new materials science results.

Zsófia Végyvári presented their technology developed for uncovering art forgeries, and finally, Gábor Lente dazzled foreign colleagues about the exciting mysteries and legends of chemistry in connection with his book.



The morning program was also a great success, which was definitely confirmed by the guests.

We continued to the Technical Study Collection of the National Museum of Technology and Transport in Újbuda, where Csaba Domonkos, Head of the Industrial Heritage Department, gave a presentation of the museum's incredibly rich collection.

The next day, on the 29th, the General Assembly was successfully held in the library hall of the Domus Collegium.

In addition to the usual agenda items, there were two important items, the decision to recruit the Balkan Network of Science Journalists, and the election of the leadership.

On the first point, after a lengthy debate, the Balkan Network was unanimously admitted as a member of the EUSJA, which includes science journalists from all Balkan countries, most of whom do not have their own national scientific journalism organization.

The leadership election also went smoothly. Fintan Burke from Ireland was elected President, Cinzia Bosciero from Italy became Vice-President, Dino Trescher from Germany remained Secretary and Lucia Torres from Spain also remained Treasurer.

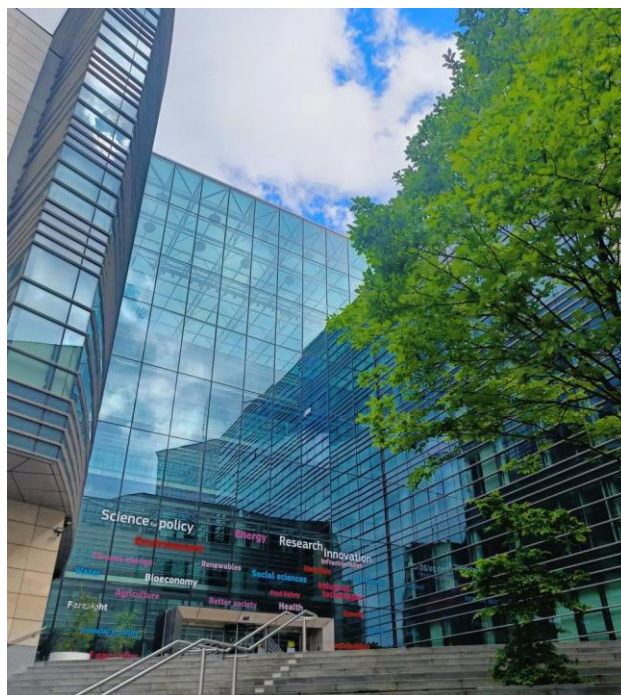
The entire program was very successful, the guests strongly thanked the excellent hospitality and the successful study trip in several emails.

# Potential EUSJA science trips

- Cinzia Boschiero

**The JRC in Ispra, Italy** - We would like to organise a science trip at Ispra, Italy, at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) which is part of the second pillar of Horizon Europe and provides scientific evidence and technical support to EU policies. The Joint Research Centre provides evidence-based support to EU policies throughout the policy process, independently of national, commercial or private interests.

**The European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium** - We'd like to organise a science trip in Brussels to meet some Members of the European Parliament and present them EUSJA and our manifesto as soon as it's approved by our members. Brussels is also home to several research centres and institutes, including the Joint Research Center (JRC), which has its headquarters in Brussels.



**EUROfusion in Garching, Germany** - We will try to organise a science trip to EUROfusion Labs, because in a virtually unprecedented alignment of efforts, Europe's major fusion research experiments have also entered a high-intensity experiment phase, showcasing Europe's strong collaboration and leadership in the global quest to develop fusion as a sustainable energy source.

# Grants and EU calls

- Cinzia Boschiero

## European Network of Fact Checkers

The EU has launched a call to maintain and further develop a platform to support the operations of the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO), and deepen the linguistic coverage and operational capacity of fact-checking in Europe.

In particular, the topic supports operational cooperation between fact-checkers, researchers and media literacy practitioners across the EU through EDMO.

It will support fact-checkers, with the aim of contributing to the fight against disinformation, gaining further insights into disinformation, monitoring the disinformation space, debunking disinformation through the fact-checkers network and to increase the resistance of media professionals and citizens to disinformation.

It has a budget of €5,000,000

## EU Call on Pan-European Reporting

This call for proposals named „PAN-EUROPEAN REPORTING“, with a budget of EUR 13.5 million, aims to support independent pan European reporting on EU affairs by EU media outlets. The deadline is 13 June 2025.

The call aims to enhance the quantity, quality and impact of such reporting, in as many languages and EU countries as possible and particularly where this offer is scarce.

Part of the support is specifically dedicated to set up and/or maintain an EU international audiovisual news service in Hungarian.

Applicants are expected to produce and disseminate news content using both traditional and new media formats and distribution channels.



# International calls for applications

- Cinzia Boschiero



## Fake news

[EDMO](#) is managed by a consortium led by the European University Institute in Florence and collaborates with the Athens Technology Center, the Danish University of Aarhus and the organisation Pagella Politica.

In addition, the European Commission has co-financed several research projects with the Horizon program against disinformation and in particular to combat the spread of fake news on social media.

## European Media Board

The new [European Media Services Board](#) (Media Board) held its constituent meeting in February, marking a milestone in the implementation of the European Regulation on Media Freedom.

The Media Board is an independent advisory body at Union level established by EMFA, composed of representatives of national media regulators, which will replace and continue the work of the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services.

Call for applications for the European Space Agency post-graduate research grant programme to encourage original research on any aspect of the history of the ESA and its predecessor organisations. Deadline: 31 July.

# Science journalism events

- Fintan Burke

## Science Journalism Forum

27-30 October 2025

Marking its sixth anniversary, SJF25 will introduce a hybrid format, allowing participants to join both in person and online, further enhancing accessibility and global collaboration exploring the theme "Science Journalism at a Crossroads – Rethinking Trust, Funding, and Innovation."

## The European Health Forum Gastein

30 September - 03 October 2025

Since its inception, the EHFG has developed into a key platform for health policy exchange, bringing together stakeholders and decision-makers from the public and private sector, civil society, and science and academia, who together form the four pillars of the EHFG with their specific perspectives and knowledge.



## The 12th Heidelberg Laureate Forum

14-19 September 2025

Each year, in the last complete week of September, the recipients of the most prestigious awards in mathematics and computer science, the Abel Prize, ACM A.M. Turing Award, ACM Prize in Computing, Fields Medal, IMU Abacus Medal and Nevanlinna Prize, meet 200 selected young researchers from all over the world. Participants spend a week interacting and networking in a relaxed atmosphere designed to encourage scientific exchange.



**13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONFERENCE OF SCIENCE JOURNALISTS**  
1 – 5 DECEMBER 2025, CSIR ICC, PRETORIA, TSHWANE, SOUTH AFRICA



## **The World Conference of Science Journalists**

01-05 December 2025

The WCSJ gives science journalists and their stakeholders an opportunity to interact, share ideas and information, stimulate debate and discussion and form solutions regarding how science journalists can contribute to building resilience amongst humanity given the challenges we face.

## **FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT**

### **Falling Walls Science Summit Berlin**

07-09 October 2025

Where the World's Brightest Scientific Minds Shape the Future: The Falling Walls Science Summit is a leading international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral forum for scientific breakthroughs. It commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall and aims to promote dialogue between science and society

# Job opportunities

- Fintan Burke and Cinzia Boschiero

Science journalism offers various job opportunities, including roles as editors, writers, and communicators, with opportunities in media organisations, research institutions, and public relations.

## **Staff Writer, Live Science UK**

Live Science is run by a global team of experts who have a keen interest in science, health, archaeology, and more. Location: Remote Salary: The expected range for this role is £25,000 - £27,000 Details on the Workable website

## **Three-week summer journalism internship at Carbon Brief**

This is in a hybrid format, involving time in person at the offices near Borough station in central London as well as remote working.

## **Guest residencies for journalists with a focus on the history, philosophy, and sociology of science at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin**

The Institute offers guest journalist residencies of up to two months each. This exciting fellowship presents the opportunity for journalists in all forms of media around the world to gain insight into the work of an international research institute.

## **Science Journalism Initiative**

The ERC wishes to support an organisation or a consortium of organisations to set up a funding scheme that would facilitate 3-5-month stays of journalists at research institutions.

The purpose is to give journalists opportunities to learn and work on in-depth reporting projects by immersing themselves in the research environment and interacting with scientists and scholars. Such opportunities - organised for example in collaboration with ERC host institutions and in ERC grantees' teams and labs - should facilitate better understanding of frontier research, while respecting journalistic independence.



# Job opportunities

## The “Frontiers” project

FRONTIERS is the science journalism initiative funded by the European Research Council to design a residency program for journalists wishing to experience an immersive period in a research institution.

The FRONTIERS project is set to run from 2023 to 2027. During this time, the FRONTIERS Team plans to enable up to 40 science journalists to spend time with research teams, working on their own reporting ideas at institutions of their choice.

While backing independent science journalism, FRONTIERS hopes to contribute to the public’s trust in science, to tackling misinformation and to improving social resilience against disinformation.

## **Networking and innovative tools**

### Artificial Intelligence Tools for Science Journalists

There is a free online guide named “AI Tools for science journalists” that aims to enhance knowledge of AI tools that can assist in the practice of science journalism. While not exhaustive, the tools listed are those considered most useful.

### EJC net for journalists

In partnership with NOVA University in Lisbon, The Journalism & Science Alliance (JSA) will deliver grant funding, training, mentoring and networking to drive the production of local, regional, and transnational investigative journalism backed by science and enhance cross-sectoral collaboration between journalism and research institutions. The programme will run over the next two years across Europe and will award €2.7 million in grants to support science-based research journalism. The programme is co-funded by the European Union's Creative Europe programme.

We're always looking for news from our members. If you want to send updates from your association for the next EUSJA newsletter, please contact

[Fintan Burke](#), president

[Cinzia Boschiero](#), vice-president

[Dino Trescher](#), honorary secretary

[Lucia Torres](#), treasurer

You can also contact us through the [EUSJA website](#)

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Bluesky](#)