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Fact sheet, activities, policy plan:

ARENA for Journalism in Europe *

** In network theory, “arena” describes the meeting place or infrastructure of a network*

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Name & address:

ARENA for Journalism in Europe is a non-profit organisation under Dutch law, registered as "stichting". It was founded in January 2019.

Director Brigitte Alfter / Brigitte@JournalismArena.eu / +45 40 82 21 68

Address Bilderdijkkade 5-2, NL-1052 RS Amsterdam, Netherlands

Websites www.journalismarena.eu, www.dataharvest.eu

Account ABN Amro NL62 ABNA 084 085 79 74

RSIN number 859662949

KvK number 73784443

Board members and organisational structure

Chairperson: Nils Hanson, former editor of weekly investigative broadcast at public service TV / Sweden

Treasurer: Daniel Simons, freedom of expression lawyer with international career, legal council communications at Greenpeace International / Netherlands & Denmark

Secretary: Elisabetta Tola, data and science journalist and entrepreneur / Italy

Each board members has one vote. // The board is unpaid.

The team consists of a part time director responsible for all activities.

Further 3-5 part time team members are contracted during the months ahead of and immediately after the conference.

Other necessary services such as bookkeeping and accounting are provided by external companies.

A European Journalism ARENA – because journalists need a place to meet

Purpose

The **ARENA for Journalism in Europe** supports collaborative and investigative journalism in Europe. Collaborative journalism involves journalists working with other journalists across geographical borders, and journalists working across professional borders with scholars or scientists as well as with civil society and other communities. We believe that collaborative and investigative journalism is crucial to knowledge sharing, critical thinking and political life in European societies.

All activities of the **ARENA for Journalism in Europe** have the overall purpose of strengthening democracy and international understanding in Europe.

Activities

The core activities of the **ARENA for Journalism in Europe** are:

1. Planning and organizing the annual **European Investigative Journalism Conference & Dataharvest**
2. Facilitating a **digital forum for information sharing and networking**, an open network that helps journalists to collaborate across borders
3. **Educating and knowledge sharing** to relevant stakeholders about **cross border collaborative journalism** through publishing articles, speaking and mentoring
4. Developing educational materials and **advising on cross-border collaborative journalism education, training**
5. On occasion we may advocate in favour of **transparency and freedom of expression**.

1 – EIJC & Dataharvest Conference in context

Journalists in a networked society – the EIJC & Dataharvest conference

Journalists play a key role when it comes to assisting the public discourse on national issues, which are increasingly connected to regional and global developments. Hence, in order to cover issues with greater accuracy, journalists are more and more compelled to establish sound networks with their peers, to exchange data and experiences, and together develop and learn cutting-edge methodologies.

The annual European Investigative Journalism Conference & Dataharvest, which convenes every year in May, provides a space for such networking, sharing, learning and innovation. The growing number of participants (from 35 in 2011 to 470 in 2018) indicates both a need and interest in such a meeting place from the European journalism community.

Journalism on the move – the rise of collaborative journalism

Collaborative journalism efforts are growing and nurturing this growth is EIJC & Dataharvest's core focus. Our team has many years of experience in doing and supporting cross-border collaborative journalism. We know the strength of journalists collaborating to make the world a better place.

Trust, openness and respect are necessary and an integral part of cross-border collaborative journalism. Our community thus supports collaborations between journalists & data developers, between journalists & scientists or scholars, as well as between journalists & civil society groups or others.

The EIJC & Dataharvest's added value: European and collaborative – *doing journalism together*.

The EIJC & Dataharvest functions as a *European Editorial Meeting* for its participants. It is a meeting point where networks are established and nurtured, interesting data and documents shared, new cross-border projects conceived and teams established, necessary skills taught, experiences shared and pressing issues discussed. All with the purpose of doing journalism in and about Europe – together. We not only talk about journalism, we talk about the how-to.

Once journalistic research is ongoing, networks turn exclusive – and must do so to protect the editorial work process. The EIJC & Dataharvest provides the necessary open networking space in between researches.

This profile is unique in Europe:

EIJC & Dataharvest is a working conference

Imagine a newsroom: teams of journalists sit down to develop story ideas and plan research. Another group sits down with coders to understand and analyse a data set. Another group organises a meeting with a data provider to get access to new information in databases and documents. Editors talk about how to best structure the work process or how to best protect freedom of expression in practice. This is how the EIJC & Dataharvest works. Journalists and editors from all over Europe get together, data providers present and share their data (including for example experts from special units of the European institutions), journalists with access to data sets and coders who prepared data during the Dataharvest Hack Day share insights and material. Participants meet, work and plan future collaboration before going home to their national newsrooms after the conference.

EIJC & Dataharvest is a learning conference

We provide systematic training in computer assisted reporting (CAR), in digital security, in cross-border collaborative journalism, fundraising and other relevant skills journalists need.

EIJC & Dataharvest is an innovation conference

Media and journalism are in a time of change. At the EIJC & Dataharvest we consider this an excellent opportunity to apply our creativity and try new ways of doing great journalism. Data journalism, cross-border journalism, entrepreneurial journalism, new storytelling methods, new collaborations between scientists and journalists, new interactions with audiences...

EIJC & Dataharvest is a networking conference

Networking is paramount for journalists in Europe. At EIJC & Dataharvest we make time for networking and actively stimulate it. Plenary presentations are followed by smaller workshops where participants can more easily make contacts and learn about networking methods. Rooms are reserved for teams who want to brainstorm and plan new projects. We bring participants together to meet new colleagues, and oftentimes such contacts are developed way beyond the conference.

EIJC & Dataharvest is a knowledge sharing conference

Speakers from successful and important journalistic projects and newsrooms give presentations, head workshops and share their experiences. We highlight important topics on the agenda not least via our key-note speakers and tracks. For example in 2017, we had a prominent international speaker on the topic of algorithmic accountability. In 2018 we had an entire track on how journalists can approach this complex and new field. While the main focus of the conference is to provide a frame for *doing* journalism, we also do *talk about* journalism, of course, and always with a focus on a specific practice.

For an example of the program go to <https://eijc18dataharvest.sched.com/>

Participants' profile

Participants range from senior investigative editors and journalists at established media and production companies such as Der Spiegel, the Guardian or Premières Lignes, to freelancers and journalists at non-profit outlets as well as junior journalists who are working on agenda setting master degree projects.

We include journalists with a variety of specialisations such as investigations, data journalism (including programming), cross-border collaborations, storytelling, as well as generalists who want to learn and stay updated about new methodologies.

Another crucial group are data developers or 'coders' who seek to work with journalists and contribute data and technological and analytical competencies, a community we have a long lasting relation with.

The EIJC & Dataharvest – how we got here

The very first Dataharvest meetings were held in 2009 and 2010, when a small group of journalists and data developers met to work with fresh data about the beneficiaries of the EU's generous farm subsidies. They were organized under the auspices of Farmsubsidy.org, a network working for the transparency of EU farm subsidies.

By 2011, the meeting took its current form and was given the title, the EIJC & Dataharvest, open to all interested journalists, 35 at the time. Now under the wings of Journalismfund.eu it opened up to groups

outside the Farmsubsidy.org project including several different networks of European journalists and coders – all in the field of European, cross-border collaborative, investigative and data journalism, such as the Wobbing (using freedom of information legislation) network of journalists, and several journalists from the European investigative journalism community. The working atmosphere from the early years was maintained as the number of participants kept growing.

Because the conference in 2018 attracted close to 500 participants, the board of Journalismfund.eu decided in September 2018 to spin it off into an independent entity. Brigitte Alfter, the conference organizer and Journalismfund.eu's Managing Editor decided to take the lead for this friendly spin-off and set up Arena for Journalism in Europe.

2 – Digital fora for information sharing and networking

Numerous cross-border journalism projects are conceived at the EIJC & Dataharvest. To facilitate such informal networking the **ARENA for Journalism in Europe** provides a digital forum to discuss story ideas and find peers.

The interactive forum follows three purposes:

1. To provide a place where journalists can gather **to prepare** a panel, workshop or networking round table for a forthcoming EIJC & Dataharvest (by method, by topic) and **to follow up** on such meetings afterwards.
2. To provide a place where journalists can **meet by topic**, for example to find peers specialised or interested in the field.
3. To provide a place where journalists can **meet by journalistic method** to discuss and develop it.

Further the compiled knowledge of previous conferences will be made available in a searchable structure.

3 – Educating and knowledge sharing to relevant stakeholders about cross border collaborative journalism through publishing articles, speaking and mentoring

Cross-border journalism is a timely method, and interest is on the rise among publishers, scholars, journalism educators and others. This is an important moment in time to further share the method. **ARENA for Journalism in Europe** has a unique position to contribute in that field in Europe, as the annual gatherings provide the necessary overview: The meta-level of the finest cross-border journalism practice in Europe.

Analysis of developments, opportunities and challenges shared in articles and through speaking assignments at conferences.

Requests for assistance and mentoring answered within reason (unless earmarked funding is obtained).

4 – Developing educational materials and advising on collaborative journalism education and training

There is growing demand for teaching and training of cross-border collaborative journalism. The **ARENA for Journalism in Europe** has unique expertise in house and is happy to answer this need, a genuine contribution to European and international understanding, as the education and training systems also in the field of journalism typically have a national focus.

Such teaching and training material – free to use online – will be developed in cooperation with relevant partners throughout Europe. Partnerships are drafted with organisations and universities.

Partners

Being a networking arena, good partnerships are crucial. Over the years, the EIJC & Dataharvest has developed excellent partnerships, these will be further developed and nurtured. Below a few are mentioned to give an impression of the diversity of collaborators involved:

- The Global Investigative Journalism Network and national investigative journalism initiatives from all over Europe provide input to our program and have helped with travel support to speakers. The GIJN in a meeting and in correspondence has started to assist with advice in the start-up phase of Arena in 2018/19. .
- Cross-border journalism networks such as the ICIJ, EIC, OCCRP, Investigate Europe as well as informal or ad-hoc crossborder journalism teams who contribute to the program with ideas and their finest expert journalists.
- Networking organisations such as Hostwriter, BIRN, N-Ost and others.
- European institutions, most notably with data providers such as the EU's Open Data Portal, the EU's agency controlling chemicals, Eurostat, and the EU's department responsible for monitoring public tender data. Their experts contribute knowledge and insights and fresh data to work on.
- The European Journalism Centre and the Journalism Funders Forum delivered presentations on non-profit journalism, inspiration and support to the **ARENA for Journalism in Europe** team in the start phase 2018/19.
- The German non-profit Algorithmwatch.org for the Algorithm watch track in 2018 and 2019 as well as the Automated Decisions in Europe report.
- Dutch Free Press Unlimited, the Centre for Investigative Journalism, London, supported the digital security tracks in 2018, the Center for Investigative Journalism in London supported the digital security track in previous years.
- Re-Check from Switzerland on health and medicine topics including for example a master class in 2018.
- We are currently working with journalism departments at the University of Gothenburg, the University of Amsterdam, the University of Leipzig/Halle and the University of Madrid and together we are looking into opportunities for networked journalism education. We also work with the European Journalism Training Association, EJTA.
- We have a close and pleasant cooperation with the journalism department at Thomas More University College in Mechelen, Belgium.

What participants say about The EIJC & Dataharvest

- “I consider this to be the most important conference in Europe. The one where you want to be present”, said **Brant Houston** after attending the 8th European Investigative Journalism Conference & Dataharvest in May 2018 in Mechelen. Houston is **Knight Chair in Investigative Reporting from the University of Illinois**, and for many years, he ran the US association of Investigative Reporters and Editors, and co-founded the Global Investigative Journalism Conferences.
- “I fly home with interesting new contacts and the first follow-up meetings are planned already,” wrote **Nicola Naber of Germany's Der Spiegel** in a ‘thank you’-mail after the 8th Dataharvest in 2018.
- “The main strength of the conference is that during four days you immerse yourself in a conversation about data, data journalism and tools to improve the standards of our field. You also get the opportunity to meet other outstanding professionals in data journalism and create a network of colleagues to work together in the future. In other words, EIJC & Dataharvest is an amazing source of data journalism knowledge in Europe compressed only in four days.” **Adrian Blanco, El Confidencial, Madrid, Spain.**
- “At Dataharvest, I met open-minded colleagues from different countries who are willing to work in teams with journalists on an international level. This team spirit is something almost unique to this conference. Reporters seek advice and are most willing to give advice to less experienced colleagues. The organisers have understood that international teamwork will become more important in journalism in the future, and they have done an amazing effort promoting this method of approaching journalism on an international level.” **Astrid Viciano, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany, on the way to the 8th EIJC & Dataharvest in Mechelen 2018.**
- “Dataharvest is my yearly breath of qualitative journalism, data tricks and rigorous workshops with the most talented, intelligent and friendly practitioners from all over Europe and beyond. It is a ticket to a 3-days’ journey in healthy journalism that will nurture you for long.” **Ana Lutzky, journalist at AEF Développement durable, Paris, France.**
- “The European Investigative Journalism Conference brings together the most ambitious investigative journalists on the continent. That way it enables research training and networking at the highest level. The conference is an ideal place for innovation in journalism and highlights new models for funding and organising journalism.” **Günter Bartsch, managing director Netzwerk Recherche, Germany.**
- “Dataharvest is one of the best conferences concerning investigative journalism in Eurasia. There is a wide range of sessions about data management, about technical skills, about investigating tools and everything a person needs to participate in research journalism. There is only one problem about the conference: there are too many good presentations; there’s one for everybody. I recommend this unique conference for every journalist and every journalism student in Europe. In each of the Dataharvest conferences, I have learnt new things and have met new colleagues who’ve helped me with my stories.” **Goran Lefkov, Center for Investigative Reporting, Scoop, Skopje, Macedonia.**

Budget, finances and assets

Arena for Journalism in Europe plans for an annual budget between 200.000 and 300.000 for the years 2019-2020. Funding for 2019 is secured and fundraising for 2020 is ongoing.

Of the 2019 budget, 72 percent cover activities, while 19 percent cover ongoing costs, 7 percent cover costs related to setting up the organisation and 3 percent are budgeted for a modest financial reserve to secure the organisation in case of unforeseen costs. No investments are planned at this stage, all funds are spent on activities and on running the organisation.

For 2019 we have gained the following supporters (updated 31.3.2019, also see on our website):

- Rudolf-Augstein-Stiftung, Germany
- Fondation Leopold Meyer – Pour le Progrès de l’Homme, France
- Fritt Ord Foundation, Norway
- Open Society Foundation, US/UK
- Fondation Puëch, Switzerland