

**World Federation of Science Journalists
Board of Elections**

April 23, 2019

Dear Selection Committee,

I was born behind the Iron Curtain, in a small town in Romania, at a time when food was rationed and a quarter of the people were informants to the secret police. The blocks of flats were built so that apartment doors faced each other, and my parents told me not to trust our neighbours.

Years later, while doing a story on housing, I talked to an anthropologist who said: “The worst thing communists did was to destroy communities. When people don’t trust each other, they cannot do things together.”

His words have stayed with me ever since.

As a journalist and board member of the Balkan Network of Science Journalists, my goal is to bring back the community spirit in my region and beyond, and to show my colleagues that we are stronger if we put our resources together. Sharing tips and networks is vital for growing science journalism in regions perennially undercovered such as ours, and those of the Global South.

Within our Association we try to encourage cross-border investigative projects, but we are also focusing on enhancing each member’s skill set. I’ve recently participated in a science journalism workshop in Serbia, where my Greek colleague Julianna Photopoulos and I shared the tools we use to produce stories for international publications, hoping to encourage journalists from Eastern Europe, but also from the Middle East and Central Asia to break into the global market. I’ve written for Nature, WIRED, ArsTechnica, and Vice Motherboard, covering hackers, North Korean science, and women in STEM, and I want to inspire others.

Meanwhile, I’m also helping to develop journalism on a local level. Last year, as the editor-in-chief of ProFM Radio in Romania, I started a project aiming to bring local news content to 30 towns. We hired editors who teamed up with regional newsrooms, working together to understand these communities and to produce fresh, local content.

If selected in the WFSJ board, I plan to put my time and my resources into developing science journalism in parts of the world and communities often forgotten. When I wrote a story about a mathematician running for the Moldovan Parliament, my editor Mico Tatalovic told me it was the only piece Nature published about this country in recent history.

Additionally, since I am a technology reporter at the core, I hope this will open the door for other journalists in this field to join WFSJ. Cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and social media are topics that need to be addressed thoroughly and interdisciplinary. Also, I plan to make my colleagues more aware of the risks they face in the digital world. I covered the case of a Turkish journalist attacked with computer viruses and framed for terrorism, but similar incidents have happened in the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and Mexico.

I am genuinely enthusiastic about joining the board, and I feel that my background and my skills spanning written and broadcast journalism, as well as technology reporting, will strengthen our community. Thank you for considering my application!

Andrada FISCUTEAN

Freelance science & technology journalist

Editor-in-chief ProFM Radio, Bucharest, Romania

Board member Balkan Network of Science Journalists (BNSJ)

<https://andradafiscutean.contently.com/>

andradaf@gmail.com

+40-745-170.272