

Report on the 4th Balkan Science Journalism workshop Lausanne, July 1, 2019

The 4th Balkan Science Journalism School 2019, **second event of the series of three workshops** co-organised by the Center for Ethics in Science and Journalism (CESJ), the Balkan Network of Science Journalists, the Master's Course in Science Communication "Franco Praticco" at SISSA, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and – for this event – the Mercator Foundation, was held on July 1, 2019, from 9 to 17:30, at the venue of the 11th World Conference of Science Journalists in the campus of the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne in Lausanne, Switzerland.



The workshop provided funding for participation by selected applicants from specific countries (according to the funding rules of JRC), and was designed to **build science journalism capacity and skills, as well as to promote excellence in science, health and environmental coverage** in Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

Attendance was also open to the delegates of the 11th World Conference of Science Journalists, WCSJ2019, co-organised by the science journalists' associations of Switzerland, France and Italy.



The event built on the experience with three previous events organised by the same team, including the first event of this series held in Belgrade in April 2019.

The series of workshops is also part of the pro ESOJ programme, in preparation of the ESOJ2020 (EuroScience Open Forum) conference in Trieste, Italy, to support quality science journalism in Europe and beyond.

The recruitment and selection

The call for applicants was promoted through the professional contacts lists of organisers, through social media and through direct contact with journalism organisations, schools and research centres in the targeted countries, which were identified through specific searches.

Overall, funding was available for 20 selected applicants, 6 speakers and the 2 organisers. Specifically, the EU JRC covered costs for travel and accommodation for the whole period of the World Conference of Science Journalists, coffee breaks and lunch break and part of the program management costs.



The Mercator Foundation provided funding for part of the program management costs, speaking fees and for the conference registration for all the selected participants.

All WCSJ2019 conference delegates were offered the opportunity to register for the workshop for free, on a first-come first-served basis.

Total attendance was 40 participants, from 21 countries (Armenia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, Yemen, Ukraine, USA).

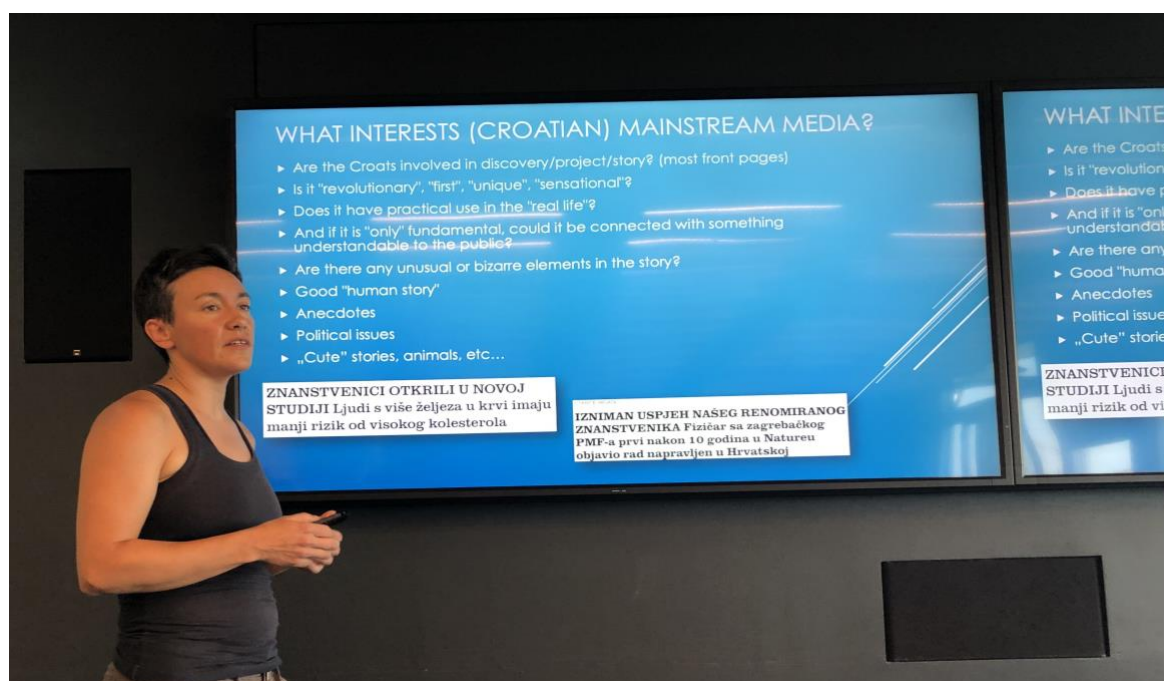
The content of the workshop

Participants discussed techniques for connecting with the scientific community and effective ways of accessing information from institutions, sharing experiences and looking

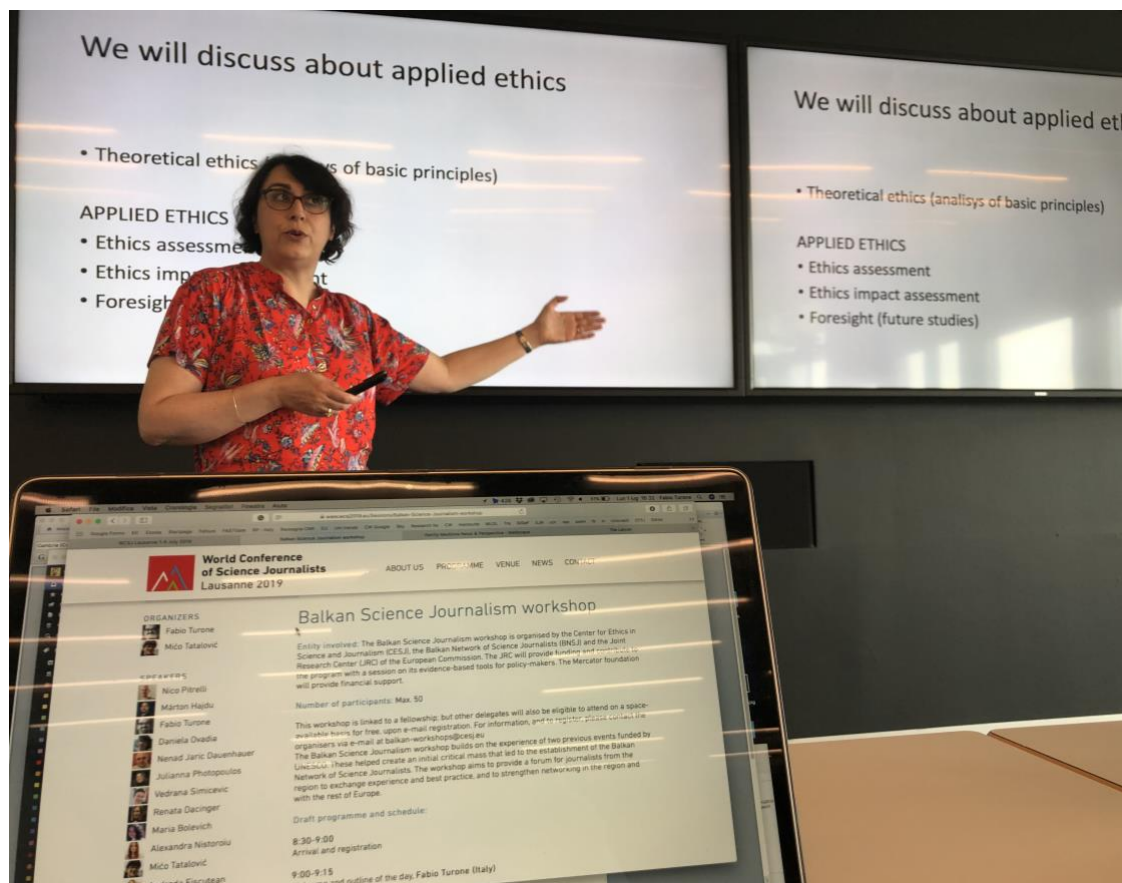


for ways to strengthen the cross-border collaboration and the regional network of science journalists – and their links with colleagues in Western Europe (see agenda in the appendix). The program was designed in a modular fashion, to introduce various aspects of science journalism, with an option of having different speakers at different workshops but with similar learning outcomes. This allows for continued use of the basic program structure for future workshops, but without reliance on any one speaker.

So, for example, sessions included lectures on **TV science journalism**, **investigative science journalism**, **freelancing**, and **pitching to editors**. These are designed to provide a wide overview of different aspects of science journalism for a general audience of people who are relatively new to science reporting – or only have knowledge of a narrow aspect of the profession, as is commonly the case.



Also, as the workshops aim to **build capacity** and teach generalists journalists or early-career journalists with only little experience, morning sessions allow for an introduction to the funder (JRC's) scientific work, the latest developments / news on the science communication / journalism front (e.g. European / World conference of science journalism),



and the general introduction and overview of the field of science journalism: what is it, and why it's important to do it.

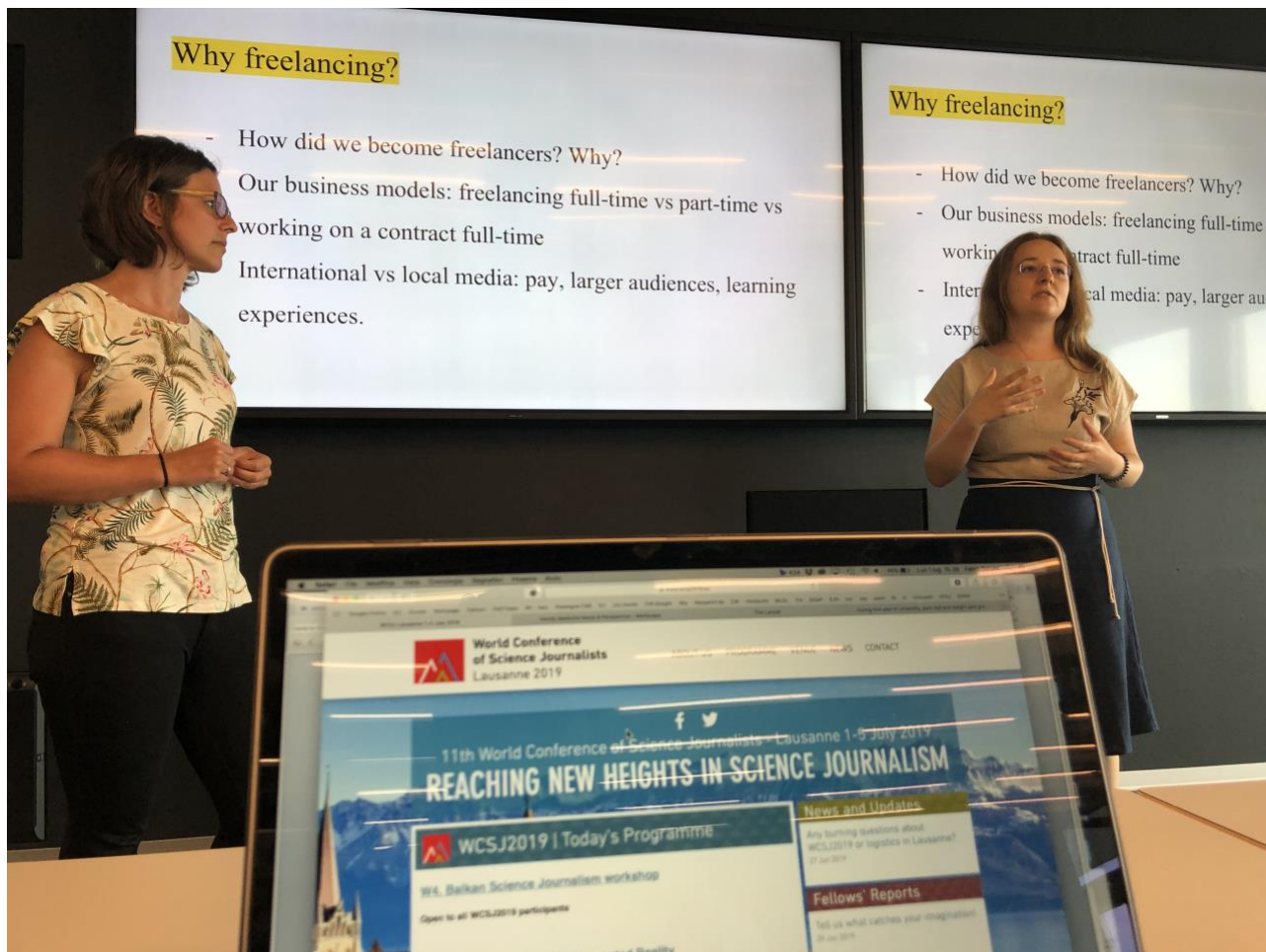
The role of science journalists as "Informal ethics assessors" of new technologies was also addressed in the program.



Finally, most of the speakers are experienced and accomplished science journalists from the region who can **share their skills and experience** in a more horizontal, collegiate, and relevant way than speakers from abroad who might lack specific understanding of the region and its particular challenges.



In this way, the agile programme structure can quickly and easily be replicated and adapted in the future, with only minor change to adapt to specific invited speakers and audiences.



During the whole day the presentations were followed with interest and sparked frequent interactions among participants, who also engaged in conversations during breaks.

The programme of the day was concluded with the opening ceremony and social event of the World Conference of Science Journalists.

The feedback by participants

Participants who accepted to leave their e-mail address were invited to provide feedback anonymously, by compiling a google form few days after the event, with the request to rate specific aspects and the possibility to provide open answers and comments.

The responses – by 23 participants – were overwhelmingly appreciative. Very few negative votes were assigned.

The first group of questions asked participants to rate the **logistics, the program of the morning, the program of the afternoon, the opportunities for networking and the social activities**.

The **overall average rating for logistics was 8,45 out of 10.**

The **program of the morning** received an **overall average rating of 8,13 out of 10.**

The **program of the afternoon** received an **overall average rating of 8,85 out of 10.**

The **opportunities for networking** received an **overall average rating of 8,78 out of 10.**

The **social activities** received an **overall average rating of 8,18 out of 10.**

In the second group of questions, **all 23 respondents answered they would like to take part in similar events in the future.**

All 23 respondents except one said that they would recommend this workshop series to their colleagues (the remaining one answered “maybe”). (Both these results replicate exactly the answers given by the 21 participants of the Belgrade workshop in April 2019).

When asked if **they think a similar workshop would be appreciated in their country**, one respondent answered “no”, four answered “maybe”, one answered “I don’t know” and all other 17 answered “yes”.

All but six said that **they would you like to contribute to the organization of a similar workshop their country** (one said “I don’t know”, one said “no”, four said “maybe”).

The form also asked open questions, where respondents often ended up mixing the evaluation of the pre-conference workshop with aspects related to the conference in general. Here are few examples of answers:

In general, what did you DISLIKE most of your experience in Lausanne?

Nothing

I would have liked more time for networking or even better an activity where we could all introduce ourselves and meet each other. Perhaps also a hands-on activity.

Logistic moments (NOT at Balkan workshop, but at all during WCSJ)

The hotel was quite far from the conference centre, which made it a bit difficult to get there on time.

I like it. It was really nice

In general, what did you LIKE most of your experience in Lausanne?

The whole WCSJ Conference has opened new perspectives for my academic activities. BALKAN team leaders especially Fabio Turone and Mico Tatalovic were quite active and very cooperative and informative. BALKAN team members who met new colleagues were very friendly and adaptive. I was very proud of being a part of the BALKAN Team, who got the EU best science journalism price.

We all now that being a science and environmental journalist is not very easy and for freelancers this is really wonderful opportunity and I am very thankful and happy. I only cover science so for me this is a lifetime experience.

I liked the balance between "serious" part (workshops, discussions etc.) and social activities.

Networking, exchanges, peer support

I really liked the interaction and sharing our experiences, talking about the different problems our countries have, best practices.

Balkan workshop, Lunch & Lab experiences, some talks, and visit to vineyards.

So many different points of view and possibilities to reach experience of other countries

Any additional comment?

Thank you Mico so much, I am lucky to know you and thank you Fabio so much for everything. It was my first WCSJ and I had no idea how this is amazing. I am very happy and thank you so much. I would also like to thank to those people who covered all those expenses and I hope so that with my work in the future I'll justify that. If I can help in any other way please let me know. Have a nice day and thank you.

It would be nice if there could be ways to increase the chance of people attending the workshop to network more. For example, some time for people to introduce themselves at the start can go a long way. Additionally, focus groups or sessions where people can take part in more actively can also be an idea where perhaps they could share their own experience about a certain topic and exchange ideas.

No

Respondents indicated the following **countries of residence**: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine.



Group photo with some of the participants

Media coverage

The workshop and the topics discussed were the object of an article on the website of the conference, in the section “Fellows’ Reports”, written by a participant from Ethiopia (<https://www.wcsj2019.eu/single-post/2019/07/02/I-have-Invaded-the-World-Conference-of-Science-Journalists>).

Since the Balkan workshop was part of a much wider global event that attracted some 1.250 speakers, exhibitors and delegates from all over the world with a really rich and fascinating program, it is not surprising that media coverage was focused on the WCSJ2019 conference itself (see press clippings in the appendix).

Fabio Turone and Mico Tatalovic - Milan / London, July 29, 2019

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Provisional agenda

4th BALKAN SCIENCE JOURNALISM SCHOOL 2019

1 July 2019

Venue

**World Conference of Science Journalists WCSJ2019 Lausanne,
SwissTech Convention Center Lausanne
room tbd**

8:30-9:00

Arrival and registration

9:00-9:15

Welcome and outline of the day, **Fabio Turone (Italy)**

9:15-10:15

JRC research and outreach talk, **Marton Hajdu (Hungary)**

What connects car emissions, terrorist attacks, 5G and natural disasters? They all pose difficult policy issues that require science to solve. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre provides science and knowledge management to policymakers to tackle these and other problems. And it also provides some free of charge data tools that journalists can find useful.

10:15-10:30

ESOF2020 Trieste, **Nico Pitrelli (Italy)**

From 5 to 9 July 2020 Trieste, Italy, will host the next edition of the EuroScience Open Forum - ESOF, the biennial pan-European meeting dedicated to scientific research and innovation. But what is ESOF? What are the key goals and features of the Trieste edition? And what is in it for Balkan Science Journalists?

10:30-11:00 Coffee break and networking

11:00-12:00

What is science journalism and why does it matter? Where to find locally-relevant science stories? Basics of pitching, reporting and writing science stories. **Mico Tatalovic (Croatia/UK) and Fabio Turone (Italy)**

Active participation of the audiences is expected

12:00-12:30

How to do science on TV well, **Renata Dacinger (Slovenia)**

12:30-13:30

Lunch and networking

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13:30-14:00

How to sell science ideas to newspapers, **Vedrana Simičević (Croatia)**

14:00-14:30

Making a success of online science news and investigative stories into scientific corruption and misconduct, **Nenad Jarić Dauenhauer (Croatia)**

14:30-15:00

Understanding editors: how to find and pitch science-related stories to international media, **Mičo Tatalović (Croatia/UK)**

15:00-15:30

Coffee break and networking

15:30-16:30

Panel discussion on building a science journalism freelancing career and secrets of successful freelancers with **Andrada Fiscutean (Romania)**, **Alexandra Nistoroiu (Romania)**, **Maria Bolevich (Montenegro)** and **Julianna Photopoulos (Greece)**.

16:30-17:00

The role of science journalists as informal ethics impact evaluators of innovation, **Daniela Ovadia (Italy)**

17:00-17:30

Conclusions and way forward for future school at ESOF in Trieste and for the ECSJ **Fabio Turone (Italy)** and **Mico Tatalovic (Croatia/UK)**.

17:30

End of the programme of the Balkan workshop

Grand opening of the WCSJ2019 to follow at 18:00

18:00 - 20:00

Grand Opening of the 11th World Conference
of Science Journalism (followed by cocktail)

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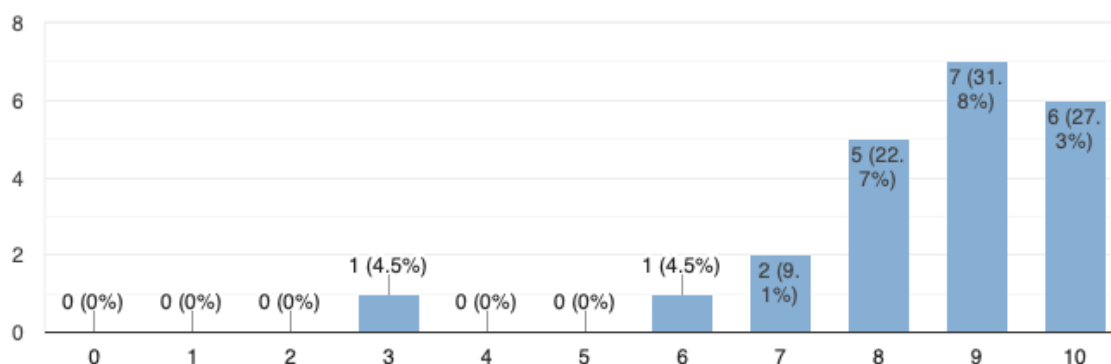
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APPENDIX: The feedback provided by participants

How would you rate the LOGISTICS (0=very bad; 10=very good)

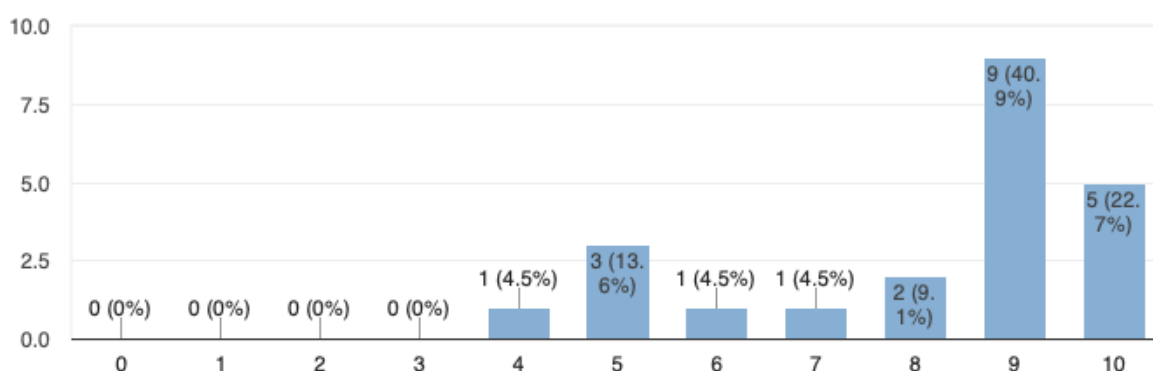
22 responses



How would you rate the PROGRAM OF THE MORNING of the 1 July pre-conference workshop (0=very bad; 10=very good)

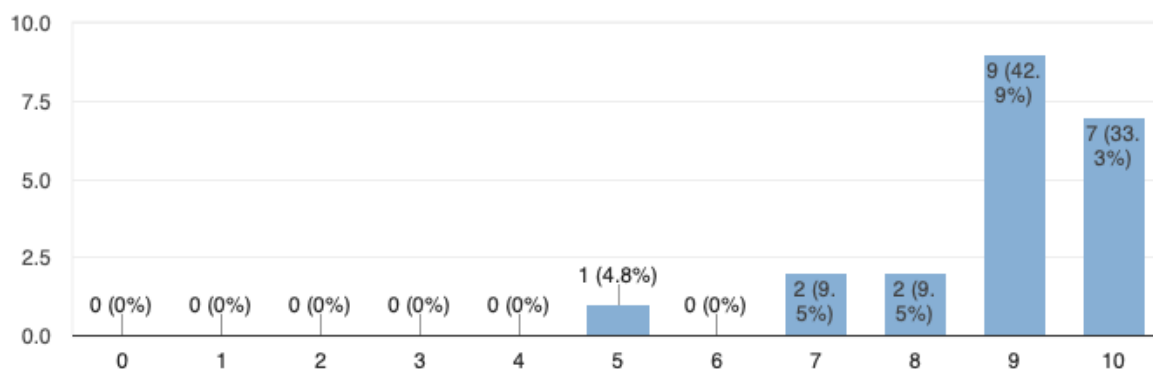


22 responses



How would you rate the PROGRAM OF THE AFTERNOON of the 1 July pre-conference workshop (0=very bad; 10=very good)

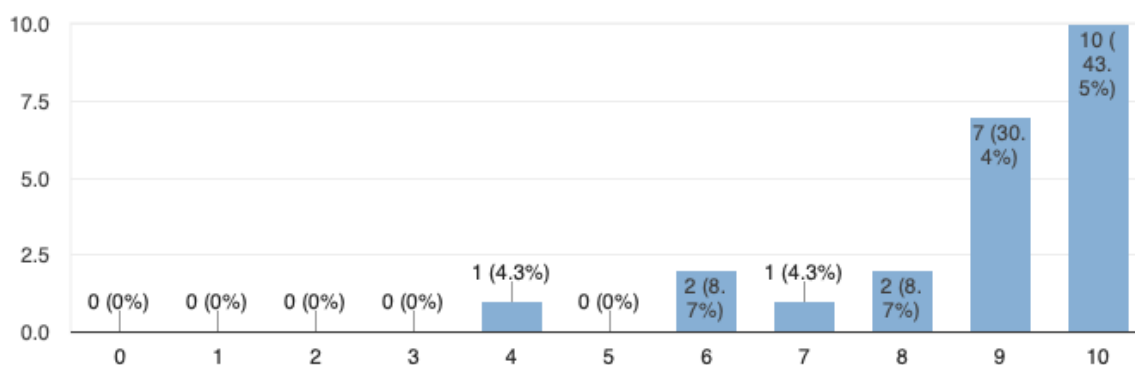
21 responses



How would you rate the OPPORTUNITIES FOR NETWORKING (0=very bad; 10=very good)

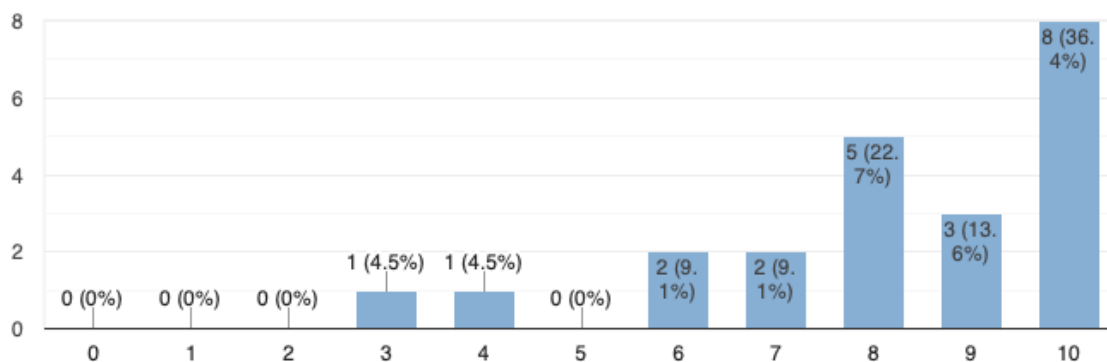


23 responses



How would you rate the SOCIAL ACTIVITIES (0=very bad; 10=very good)

22 responses



Would you like to take part in similar events in the future?



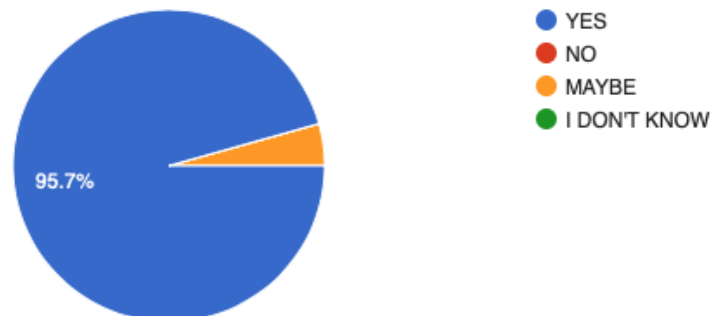
23 responses



Would you recommend this workshop series to your colleagues?



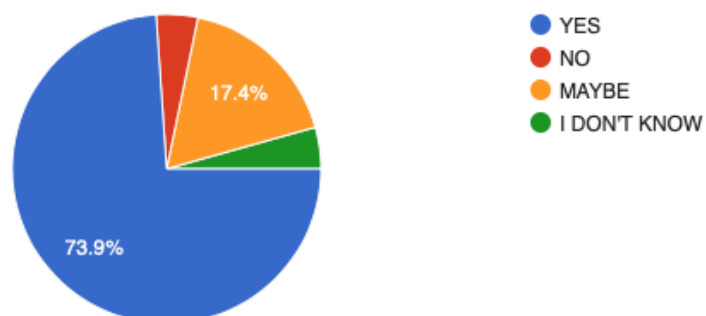
23 responses



Do you think a similar workshop would be appreciated in your country?

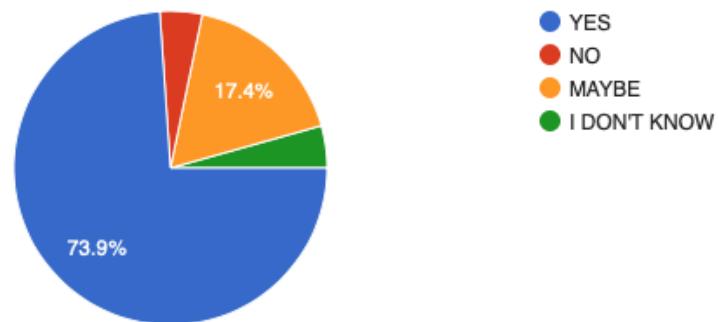


23 responses



If a similar workshop were organised in your country, would you like to contribute to it?

23 responses



APPENDIX: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#	FIRST NAME	FAMILY NAME	Country
1	Omar	AlHayani	Yemen
2	Muharem	Bazdulj	Bosnian
3	Marija	Boljević	Montenegrin
4	Leo	Brattoli	Italian
5	Russ	Campbell	USA
6	Marina	D'Alessandro	Italian
7	Renata	Dacinger	Slovenian
8	Giacomo	Destro	Italian
9	Olga	Dobrovidova	Russian
10	Andrada	Fiscutean	Romanian
11	Catherine	Frammery	Swiss
12	Nevena	Grubac	Serbian
13	Akaki	Gvimradze	Georgia
14	Marton	Hajdu	Hungarian
15	Oleksandra	Horchynska	Ukraine
16	Nenad	Jarić Dauenhauer	Croatian
17	Jelena	Jevtic	Bosnian and Herzegovinian
18	<i>Natalija</i>	<i>Jovanovic</i>	<i>Serbian</i>
19	Erion	Kacorri	Albania
20	Jelena	Kalinic	Bosnian and Herzegovinian
21	Davit	Kekenadze	Georgian
22	Goran	Lefkov	Macedonian
23	Anna Rita	Longo	Italian
24	Marine	Martirosyan	Armenian
25	Andela	Mrđa	Serbian
26	Xhelal	Neziri	North Macedonia
27	Alexandra	Nistoroiu	Romanian
28	Daniela	Ovadia	Italian
29	Ozge	Ozkaya	Turkish
30	FATMA ESİN	ÖZTÜRK	<i>Turkish</i>
31	Nicolai	Paholinitchi	Moldova
32	Julia Anna	Photopoulos	Greek
33	Nico	Pitrelli	Italian
34	Donato	Ramani	Italian
35	Altin	Raxhimi	Albanian
36	Gülşen	Saray	Turkish
37	Chiara	Saviane	Italian
38	Vedrana	Simicevic	Croatian
39	Mico	Tatalovic	Croatian
40	Mekonnen	Teshome	Ethiopian
41	Evgenia	Tsianou	Swiss
42	Fabio	Turone	Italian

Bold = Received travel grant by JRC and financial support by Mercator Founda

Italics = DID NOT SIGN THE PRESENCE REGISTER

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of Science Journalists

4th BALKAN SCIENCE JOURNALISM SCHOOL 2019 – 1 July 2019 – WCSJ2019 Lausanne

Family name	First name	signature MORNING (compulsory for grantees)	Signature Afternoon (compulsory for grantees)	Want to be contacted (YES/NO)
ALHayani	Omar			YES
Andrew	Allen			
BAYEMI MAEMBLE	ERIC ARSENE			
Bazdulj	Muharem			YES
Berbatovci	Leonora			
Bolevich	Maria			YES
Campbell	Russ			
Carpenter	Siri			
D'Alessandro	Marina			YES
Davit	Kekenadze			YES
Destro	Giacomo			
Dobrovidova	Olga			
Grubac	Nevena			YES
Gvimradze	Akaki			YES
Horchynska	Oleksandra			
Jevtic	Jelena			
Jovanovic	Natalija			
Kagorri	Erion			
Kalinic	Jelena			YES
Lefkov	Goran			YES
Martirosyan	Marine			YES
Mary	Cruse			

FLANNERY

Celine

CE JENES journalist

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RAVOC

Journal

RENTA DAINSEER



Journal

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Journal

PROESOF

TOWARDS THE 2022
EUROPEAN JOURNALISM

YES

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Balkan Network
of Science Journalists

4th BALKAN SCIENCE JOURNALISM SCHOOL 2019 – 1 July 2019 – WCSJ2019 Lausanne

Family name	First name	signature MORNING (compulsory for grantees)	Signature Afternoon (compulsory for grantees)	Want to be contacted (YES/NO)
Min	Kyungyoon			
Momcilovic	Milica			
Mrdja	Andjela	<i>Andjela Mrdja</i>	<i>Andjela Mrdja</i>	yes
Neziri	Xhelal	<i>Xhelal Neziri</i>	<i>Xhelal Neziri</i>	yes
Ovadia	Daniela	<i>Daniela Ovadia</i>	<i>Daniela Ovadia</i>	yes
Ozkaya	Ozge			yes
ÖZTÜRK	F. ESİN			yes
Pagan	Fabio			
Paholinitchi	Nicolai	<i>Nicolai Paholinitchi</i>	<i>Nicolai Paholinitchi</i>	YES
Pitrelli	Nico	<i>Nico Pitrelli</i>	<i>Nico Pitrelli</i>	YES
Ramani	Donato			YES
Rogers	Al-Varney			yes
Saray	Gülsen	<i>Gülsen Saray</i>	<i>Gülsen Saray</i>	yes
Saviane	Chiara	<i>Chiara Saviane</i>	<i>Chiara Saviane</i>	yes
Serrano	Ximena			yes
Sharma	Vinayak			yes
Teshome	Mekonnen			yes
Turone	Fabio	<i>Fabio Turone</i>	<i>Fabio Turone</i>	yes
JARIĆ DAVENHIMER	ALEXAND	<i>Alexander Jarić Davenhimer</i>	<i>Alexander Jarić Davenhimer</i>	X
MILICA STANISLAVIC	MILICA	<i>Milica Stanisavljevic</i>	<i>Milica Stanisavljevic</i>	X
ANASTASIA KATINAKI	ANASTASIA	<i>Anastasia Katinakaki</i>	<i>Anastasia Katinakaki</i>	X
TSIONOY	Evgenia	<i>Evgenia Tsionoy</i>	<i>Evgenia Tsionoy</i>	yes

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FIGURE 1000

LONGO ANNA RITA



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PROESOF
TOWARDS ETHICAL AND
TRANSPARENT JOURNALISM



yes

NISTORAI ALEXANDRA - MARIA
SIMILEVI EDVIANA
Dimitrie
Alex
Dimitrie

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4th BALKAN SCIENCE JOURNALIS

Family name	First
ALHayani	Omar
Andrew	Allen
BAYEMI MAEMBLE	ERIC A
Bazdulj	Muhar
Berbatovci	Leonor
Bolevich	Maria
Campbell	Russ
Carpenter	Siri
D'Alessandro	Marina
Davit	Kekena
Destro	Giacorr
Dobrovidova	Olga
Grubac	Nevena
Gvimradze	Akaki
Horchynska	Oleksar
Jevtic	Jelena
Jovanovic	Natalija
Kagorri	Erion
Kalinic	Jelena
Lefkov	Goran
Martirosyan	Marine
Mary	Cruse

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