



**NUCLEUS**

**NUCLEUS Science Journalist Network Agreement**

**NUCLEUS Science Journalist Network Agreement**

**Reference:** 664932-NUCLEUS-H2020-ISSI-2014-2015/H2020-ISSI-2014-1

**Code:** D2.7

**Version & Date:** 01, 10/04/2016

**Editing:** Johanne Martinez-Schmitt and Satu Lipponen, EUSJA

**Approved by:** Alexander Gerber, HSRW  
Robin Yee, HSRW

**Process Owner:** Rhine-Waal University (HSRW)

**Summary**

This Network Agreement summarises the objectives and supporting activities of a NUCLEUS Science Journalist Network to be developed by EUSJA. The Network will be developed with the aims of identifying professional challenges where journalists could benefit from guidance; developing practical, hands-on advice in response to these challenges; and building a professional understanding and awareness of RRI amongst science journalists. This document describes the key supporting activities and relevant details of implementation established at this time.



**NUCLEUS**

**NUCLEUS Science Journalist Network  
Agreement**

**List of Recipients:**

- NUCLEUS Executive Board
- All Consortium Members (Open Access)
- Project Officer via Participant Portal



**Contents**

**1. Introduction ..... 4**

**2. Network Support Activities ..... 5**

2.1 Digital platform.....5

2.2 Content.....5

2.3 Workshops .....6

2.4 Future plans.....6



## 1. Introduction

As part of the NUCLEUS project, the European Union of Science Journalists' Associations (EUSJA) contributes valuable insight into how practicing science journalists interact with and relate to responsible research and innovation (RRI). The NUCLEUS project's working definition of RRI is "a process where societal actors (researchers, citizens, policy makers, business, third sector organisations, etc.) work together during the whole research and innovation process in order to better align both the process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society."

To explore and better understand these interactions and relations, EUSJA will develop a network of science journalists with three primary objectives:

- **Facilitating debate and discussion with the purpose of identifying key professional challenges where journalists could benefit from guidance.**  
Examples may include RRI in social media, cherry picking, emerging technologies, cultural differences, dwindling resources of money and time, or employer pressures.
- **Developing practical, hands-on advice that can be implemented in the daily work of practicing journalists.**
- **Building an awareness and understanding of RRI amongst science journalists,** such that they are equipped to foster discussion on RRI as related to universities and research institutions. Note that these discussions may be both professional (related to journalism) and in practice (the subject of journalistic reporting).

Participation in the NUCLEUS Science Journalist Network will be encouraged within EUSJA's membership and its member associations, to attract practicing journalists interested in discussing professional development and journalism issues related to RRI. However, other practicing journalists who are not members of EUSJA or EUSJA associations are also welcome to contribute to the debate.

The network will be developed and administered by a core team from EUSJA. Johanne Martinez-Schmitt is the project manager, responsible for deliverables, workshop coordination, reports, management, finances, and ex officio member of the EUSJA board. Gorm Palmgren and Berit Viuf, project journalists, will be responsible for content production, implementing and coordinating the NUCLEUS Network and building up the digital toolbox. They will work under the EUSJA EU project manager and EUSJA board supervision.



## **2. Network Support Activities**

A number of activities will be executed to facilitate and support the NUCLEUS Network and its outcomes:

- **A digital platform (Network-specific webpage and social media community)** will serve as the common outlet and meeting point to facilitate discussions and debates about RRI between science journalists. The platform will be used to build an understanding and awareness of RRI, identify key points where science journalists are challenged by or might benefit from RRI, and inform the network about the progress of the NUCLEUS project.
- **RRI Content**, such as videos, podcasts, interviews, articles, etc., developed by the project journalists will be used to support the digital platform, feeding discussion about RRI and the profession of science journalism. This content will also be distributed through **newsletters** (EUSJA newsletter and a Network-specific newsletter) as an additional communication channel.
- **Workshops** will raise professional awareness of RRI, facilitate dialogue regarding professional challenges within science journalism, and provide a space for development and testing of professional guidelines for the digital toolbox. Outcomes and findings will be fed back into the digital platform for continued discussion.
- **A digital toolbox** providing tools (checklists, guidelines, procedures, etc.) to guide journalists in professional ethics will be developed from the outcomes of discussions on the digital platform and in workshops.

### **2.1 Digital platform**

The digital platform will use a Network-specific webpage and social media to share information about RRI and the progress and ongoing work of the NUCLEUS project. The project journalists will feed the digital platform with content presented in lay language; use articles, visuals, and surveys to generate discussion; moderate the conversations; and encourage the Network members to participate. The information will be acquired by journalistic methods including interviews, reporting and debate among users. Registration for a EUSJA/NUCLEUS newsletter will also be accessible from the webpage.

### **2.2 Content**

The EUSJA team will create content to be distributed on the digital platform, EUSJA newsletter and maintain a newsletter dedicated to EUSJA related activities within NUCLEUS. This content will relate to aspects of RRI with special relevance for science journalists. Themes and topics sparking especially active discussion on the digital platform will also be summarised at regular intervals, to increase the accessibility of learnings by non-participants or those only partially involved.



Approximately 12 articles (with about 700 words and 1 picture according to the content available), videos (lengths tbc), podcasts (lengths tbc) etc. will be prepared annually for the EUSJA newsletter (published around 8 times per year), and these will be repackaged into the dedicated EUSJA/NUCLEUS newsletter that will be published 2 times per year.

### 2.3 Workshops

EUSJA workshops will be delivered by National Associations with coordination and planning organised by EUSJA project management (Johanne Martinez-Schmitt), the EUSJA board, and delegates. Project journalists (Berit Viuf and Gorm Palmgren) will contribute by suggesting speakers and active participation in the planning of the workshop content.

The first workshop will take place in Helsinki on 2 May 2016 and will be streamed online. The workshop will discuss the question of **whether science journalists are part of the RRI process, or outside of it**. Experts representing journalists, communicators and researchers will discuss the question and the different roles in RRI with the audience.

Future workshops will be organised as opportunities to align with other science journalism events arise (i.e. EuroScience Open Forum 2016, European Conference of Science Journalist Conference 2017). Potential future workshop topics include:

- Information about RRI, identification of key points of interest for science journalists, and generating discussion
- Evaluation and development of tools to help journalists understand and cover RRI in journalistic practise
- Science journalism and gender in RRI
- Science journalism and societal engagement in RRI
- Science journalism and science education in RRI
- Science journalism and open access in RRI

### Digital toolbox

The development of a digital toolbox will mainly take place in the second phase of the NUCLEUS project based on the findings and experiences during the first two years.

### 2.4 Future plans

Annual progress reports will summarise the development of the network, including online and workshop activity and participation, identification of important themes of discussion, and upcoming plans as details become available. These annual reflections on the discussions and learnings of the Network will contribute insight into science journalism's perspectives and attitudes towards RRI.