

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for electing me as EJ president.

I think every one of us should find it rewarding being a member of the EJ association.

Being EJ member is a prestige that is translated into being part of a community that shares the same values in the profession of journalism and similar believes in the necessity of UE as a democratic construction for the benefit of all European citizens.

We, as media people, we are able to analyze the present social and political environment and to look into the future. Forecasting changes in technical equipment that majority of journalists will be using in the near future, realizing that social media is demanding from journalists messages with high impact, from the first seconds on air or from the first written words, doubled by the hallmark of verified information, we need to prepare the association for the next generations of EJ journalists.

In the same time, the ongoing war in Ukraine is just simply demanding a fair, open, sustained presentation of facts, consequences of Russia's invasion. EJ can and should present facts, fight against fake news and be a platform of expression for humanitarian aid and support for democracy.

As climate changes under our eyes and access to resources like water or energy create more and more debate in the public sphere, EJ should give voice to our colleagues who are specialized in reporting about these topics.

In the same time, with just a bit of evolvement from IT specialists, EJ could offer a platform for exchange of good practices and experience for all members on all the topics they are interested in. This could be one of the most simple, practical and used tool, not just by EU journalists but by our colleagues, associations that are members of EJ from non EU countries, as well. We have a lot to learn about journalism from them since they have to invent new ways for telling the truth risking their freedom or even their lives.

We have a lot of wonderful opportunities in front of us, EU is announcing programs and grants that just need to take advantage of. We need to turn these projects into EJ programs to establish our association as a platform to search for if one needs updated information about EU topics and possibilities to belong to a group of journalists with high professional standards. Just imagine an annual congress with a gala at what best journalistic works are rewarded, where photo exhibitions illustrate most significant events of the year and where decision makers in our profession want to be present to learn from you what should they do.

We are at the beginning of the summer vacation season. It is time to slow down just a little bit the tempo in our offices, to turn our attention towards our loved ones, to prepare for a well deserved vacation. That is the best time when generous, practical, and quick to be implemented ideas are

arising. Let those ideas light up your enthusiasm and pride for being an EJ member and let us start do what you think EJ should be!

I am sure that this way, in just few weeks time, we will have a lot of ideas to turn into reality and to be active in new innovative ways. A new forms of storytelling in European journalism is about to be created by you! Write down your ideas, let us talk about them and find ways to implement them!

Wish us all to have numerous projects outlined already at the beginning of this autumn.

Best.

Felicia Ristea

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