

European Journalist Association-The Communication Network asbl

EJ GENERAL ASSEMBLY

May 10, 2022 at 11:00 am
Timisoara (Romania) – "Hotel Timisoara", Strada Mărășești 1-3,

1. Opening of the meeting by the President.
2. President's Report.
3. Secretary-General's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Auditors' Report.
6. Vote on Reports and Financial Accounting.
7. Executive Committee's Disclaimer.
8. Election of EJ:
 - Executive Committee;
 - Auditors' Committee;
 - Conciliation and Arbitration Committee.
9. EJ activity 2022
10. EJ Congress 2022.
11. Sundries.

Top 1: President opens the General Assembly thanking all participants and expressing satisfaction for the EJ special meetings of the day before with important contributions and insights related to the very difficult and uncertain future that we need to face both in Europe and on the international scene after the war in Ukraine.

Top 2: President presents his report summarizing EJ activity since 2005, when he was elected AJE President in Munich, going through the yearly international congress with the relevant main European events that characterized the European integration process. The presentation also features some pictures taken during the congresses of the relevant years.

2005 : This year 2005b as strongly marked by the failure of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe due to the negative outcome of the referendum in France and the Netherlands. It was a disillusion for many European citizens -- mainly young people -- who were hoping in an advanced step towards European integration and the realization of the European dream. It was a failure that required a stronger commitment by the media to better inform the citizens about history, realization and goals of the European projects. Our association was unfortunately coming through a difficult period due to internal conflicts arisen in Budapest in 2003. However, we were committed to keep our work in supporting European unity. In the same year, a new association group was established in Timisoara, Romania.



2006 : This year required from all of us a further commitment towards a comprehensive and fact-related information about the European Union following the failure of the constitutional treaty of the year before. It was necessary to develop new communication strategies in order to regain the citizens' confidence in the European Union. We realized that it was necessary to promote and support European information not just on a national level but by putting attention on regional and local communication too. The slogan "Going local" became topical. At the same level we needed to consider cross-national information. Regarding the local dimension of social and institutional realities and aspects, we considered useful to learn successful experiences of autonomy with linguistic minorities, also considering the importance that the European Union was and is attaching to respect and highlight minorities in a democratic Europe. The 2006 congress organized in Trento and Bolzano/Bozen, in the Italian region Trentino-South Tyrol, provided information and examples of results that can be obtained by a functioning legal and administrative system of self-government. At the same time, participants could become aware of results that can be obtained by a sound management of European funds, especially in the field of R&D. The Trento-Bolzano/Bozen congress marked the relaunch of the association.



2007 : Following the historical enlargement of the European Union in 2004, in 2007 two new eastern European countries joined the EU: Romania and Bulgaria. It was one of the reasons why we organized our congress in the Romanian capital Bucharest. It was a period when we were all worried about trends that were not friendly towards freedom of press and there were difficulties to access data. A report was presented by a representative of the office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in Vienna. Regarding communication and citizens' participation, we needed to ask ourselves if we were working in the right way. The introductory speech by the renowned and very much respected Romanian journalist Cristian Tudor Popescu opened a new reflection on the journalist's work, underlying that in too many cases journalists regard themselves to be the best persons to make comments and give suggestions on the fields of human life. We became consequently aware that we need to be a little more "humble" and listen to the people, giving them the possibility to express themselves. In this regard, in the context of the new communication strategies of the European Union, the motto "Speak with people and not talk to people" became important. In addition to that, we considered that it was absolutely necessary to have unbiased information. 2007 was also the year of the signature of the Lisbon treaty, which tried to "rescue" the constitutional treaty. The outcome did not meet the aspirations of the strong supporters of European integration, among others because the "trap" of unanimity was not overcome; however a new institutional architecture for the EU was created. Symbolically, many of us were disillusioned by the fact that, on pressure of French president Sarkozy, in the treaty was anchored the fact that the EU has no emblem, no flag and no hymn; however on a practical way we are very happy to use a European emblem, to hoist the European flag and to sing the European anthem. An important communication issued by the European Commission, "Communicating Europe in partnerships", called all the subjects interested to be active in promoting citizens' participation through communication.



2008 : The rejection of the Lisbon treaty in Ireland put some shadows on the European project. However, after intense negotiations, the treaty came into effect the following year. It was a special year for the promotion of large aggregations of regions in Europe and the “Danube region” was a special case. On the occasion of the presentation of the project in Brussels, EJ underlined the necessity of promoting a communication strategy in order to make citizens of the ten Danube Countries aware of the project’s potential, thus encouraging participation. Our colleagues of Ulm began the work for the publication of the magazine “Danube connect”. On the occasion of the General Assembly in Kladovo, Sabine Geller and Andrea Toll presented the new magazine. We organized in Drobeta-Turno Severin, near the border between Romania and Hungary, a “Danube group” of our association. Our international congress in Novi Sad and Kladovo, Serbia, gave us the opportunity to discover a special Danube reality and at the same time to better understand the critical situation that followed the war in Serbia with the atrocities committed in the country, such as the Srebrenica massacre, recalling to our mind what happened in WWII, and that we thought would never happen again.



2009 : This year marked the coming into force of the Lisbon treaty a few weeks after our congress in Innsbrück, Austria. Important for us as media people was the fact that the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union was anchored in the treaty, thus providing more guarantees for the freedom of the media, even if on a practical way its implementation was not completely made in the critical situation that emerged in some EU countries like Hungary and Poland. The inauguration of the Eastern Partnership in Prague provided new inputs also for the involvement of media in creating a better understanding among differences. Brussels' bureaucracy and political uncertainties, however, didn't give motives of excitement. It was also a period of discussions about the great infrastructures in Europe in order to create nets facilitating movement of people and goods. In Innsbrück we came to know important aspects regarding the Brenner tunnel, which at the time was under construction and that will be the longest tunnel in Europe. We also met our strategic sponsor and longtime EJ friend Manfred Swarovski. Important was also to learn historical and institutional aspects of the very special Austrian Bundesland Tirol. Learning about examples of cross-border cooperation was also quite interesting. It was the case of the involvement of the border regions Tyrol (Austria) and the two provinces of Trento and Bolzano/Bozen (Italy).



2010 : The Spanish city of Santander offered us a special European cultural landscape. The city was candidate for European Capital of Culture 2016. Even if it didn't succeed, the program that was elaborated and presented by the municipality with the involvement of many other subjects of the civil society was a very telling example of how a community wants to interconnect with European cultural realities apart from financial support from the EU. The candidacy was in fact also an occasion to elaborate projects to be implemented -- and they did -- with autonomous sources. We needed a further trigger in communicating Europe. The presentation of the European Commission's communication strategy and European Union's audiovisual strategy gave us a refreshing framework of the policies of the European Union for our work. The visit to the Altamira Cave gave us evidence of a unique European cultural heritage. We were also affected by the worldwide financial crisis and many considerations were related also to its impact on media.



2011 : With the meaningful title “Hope Europe – Youth Looking for New Ways for Their Future”, the 2011 EJ international congress took place in the multilingual Romanian city of Timișoara, with meetings at the seat of the Timiș County and in the aula magna of the West University Timișoara. Our concern was how young people know and understand the impact of the European integration process on their own life for the future. Related to this question was of course the role of media in providing young people the due information to make them realize the importance of the European project and to what extent they can participate in its development and get the necessary opportunity to shape their own and their children’s future life by themselves and with European support. They were experiencing -- unfortunately not for the first time -- distance from the European institutions with lack of confidence in them. Quite important was the outcome of a survey conducted before the congress by Corina Fornade, student in the Master of European journalism and communication in multilingual regions at the West University. The outcome highlighted the need of more fact-based communication and recalled the reason of the European project. It was a call for journalists and all media people to commit themselves more to “speak with people”. A very telling experience was the parade with more than 400 young students of different languages gathered in Piața Unirii that came to an end in the University’s aula magna with a “European Parliament of Youth”. The questions put by the young students, that in some cases surprised all participants, expressed a motivation of concern for their lives. An highlight was the participation of the descendants of two EU founding fathers: Maria Romana De Gasperi, daughter of Alcide De Gasperi, and Sven-Georg Adenauer, grandson of Konrad Adenauer.



2012 : The 50th EJ Jubilee Congress gathered more than a hundred delegates and guests from the whole of Europe in a beautiful venue in Bulgaria -- The Pirin Golf and Country Club, from September 20 to 23, 2012. Guests of honor were Maria Romana de Gasperi, daughter of Alcide De Gasperi, one of the founding fathers of the European Union; Sven-Georg Adenauer -- grandson of Konrad Adenauer, another of the founding fathers, and Alexander Swarovski, Swarovski Crystal and Vice-president of SWARCO, EJ's strategic sponsor. Two topics dominated the discussions: "What Future for the European Union in a Highly Globalized and Interdependent World", and "The Balkans and the EU – Challenges and Perspectives". It was quite interesting to learn more about political, economic and social aspects related to the Balkan region, which is a reality that has always created concerns in different ways, but that needs to be taken into serious consideration for several reasons by the European institutions. Reports and debates highlighted the need to strengthen EU and to encourage members states to work for a new political and institutional structure of the European Union with more democratic legitimacy and efficient instruments to guarantee political, economic and social stability. These are important conditions to regain and keep the citizens' confidence in the European project. Regarding the role of the media in shaping the new European Union, several interventions pointed out that journalists, in addition to perform an ethic and fact-based communication, should be more critical towards EU institutions and the attitude of some member states if it will be the case. The presentation by EJ Vice-president Rotger Kindermann of the 50 years of history of the association was moving and at the same time exciting; a history that, if it has generated pride on one side, on the other sides pushed all of us to continue with more enthusiasm and commitment to provide a due contribution for the further development of the European project.



2013 : This year's EJ congress took place in the Croatian city of Opatija in coincidence with Croatia joining the European Union. The congress, honored by the presence of Maria Romana De Gasperi, daughter of the Italian EU founding father Alcide De Gasperi, and by the participation of the president of the European movement Jo Leinen. Particular stress was put on the fact that the monetary union alone cannot survive without a financial coalition integrated by European taxes and the development of macro-economic politics. It was a period when the world was coming out with fatigue from the global financial crisis and the merger of the Eurozone with a Euro defense zone were considered the right way towards a real European Political Union. The overcoming of unanimity in the European Council was -- once again -- underlined as a crucial condition for the real progress of the European integration project. It was also underlined that especially people from the Eastern countries, for whom the integration is still very difficult to understand, need more fact-based information in order to become closer to the European project. A lot of concern was expressed on the threats to media freedom and journalists also in EU countries. There was a condemnation of the political influence and economic and financial pressure on media. It was also a time that, due to the attitude of some -- or better to say several member states -- threatened the basis of the EU foundation on solidarity; the congress called both member states and EU institutions to regain that solidarity that inspired the founding fathers.



2014 : The meetings held in the two Polish cities of Łódź and Uniejów took place in a period when there were many discussions regarding the role of civil society in promoting and supporting the European integration; a role very much linked to the role of the media, which have a special responsibility to motivate the citizens' participation on the basic principle that "information is a precondition for participation". We were in the general context of the debates about the elaboration and implementation of the "European public space", which was initiated as a concept by Jürgen Habermann and required that after being informed, citizens should discuss among themselves about subjects entrusted to them, concluding with the possibility to get a concrete result via constitutional channels. Journalists wanted to see successful experiences of projects supported by the European Union, mainly on the field of resources and innovation. The new industrial zone of Łódź was happily considered an important telling example. Considering that pollution and climate change were worrying phenomena not just in Europe but all over the world, concern arose in seeing the huge open coal mines on the way from Uniejów to Łódź.



2015 : This year was the peak, mainly in the Mediterranean area, of the epochal phenomenon of migration, with the tragic death of hundreds of migrants in the “Mare Magnum”; a phenomenon that brought drastic changes in our lives worldwide. Many situations gave evidence that, in a certain sense, the time had come for African people to take “revenge” for having been neglected for too long, and this happened despite the many conventions and agreements that the European Union established with countries of the African continent, from Arusha and Yoande to the “fading” 2008 Union for the Mediterranean. The “de facto solidarity” that was the basic element of the Schumann declaration seemed to have disappeared from many consciences. The congress took place in a country that was almost the leader in building walls to stop migrants. In addition to the migrants’ cry from Africa, the hotspot of the Middle East was exploding more than ever. The recent electoral affirmation of the authoritarian Turkish presidents was a further element of concern. In such a turbulent environment, media freedom and independence were threatened too. The social media opened a new chapter in information and “open journalism” was increasing in a “new ProCom web world”. All participants became more aware than ever of their responsibility to provide meaningful information to help citizens to better understand the situation we were living in and to react in a responsible, wise way.



2016 : After the 2006 congress we were back in Trento and Bolzan/Bozen (Italy). Those were worrying times for the future of the European Union, risking to fall apart. Many values and principles that inspired the founding fathers were getting lost. Nationalism seemed to be preferred to European visions. Citizens' confidence in the European Union declining day by day. However, everybody was aware that with the European Union, Europe was at peace for 70 years. We needed to be aware that we were living in a quite different world compared to the one in WWII times. Responsible politicians and society's leaders -- and media, of course -- needed to decide which kind of Europe was to be preferred for both the present and the future generations. Presentations and discussion made all of us aware of the new epochal phenomena sweeping away traditional social and political schemes: migration and terrorism were very much worrying. Considering also the fact of interdependence, it was also necessary to decide what kind of neighbor policy we needed. Crucial aspects were related to the decision about what kind of European policy we wanted -- internal and external finalità. An EJ resolution highlighted the fact that our world requires a solid Europe. Concerns about the situation in Europe, already declared in the EJ 2015 resolution, had meanwhile noticeably increased. UK's Brexit vote stood for a decisive break in the European integration progress. As European journalists and critical observers, we realized that more and more citizens were doubting the European process, with a skepticism shared in almost all member states. We became aware of our responsibility as media people to help citizens feel that the European Union contributes to the quality of life and gives an important contribution to guarantee stability and peace worldwide. In such a context we were also deeply worried about the general decline in human rights, freedom of speech and free opinion in general.



2017 : This year marked the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome and it was a good opportunity to look ahead to the European Union in light of the situation of that time. We were having our congress in a country, Slovenia, which when it was part of Yugoslavia, aspired more than others to keep distance from Belgrade and to get closer to the free European world. The Slovenians' enthusiastic commitment to be an active part of the cross-border community Alpe Adria highlighted its special position, even if its roots of authoritarianism were still present. During the congress we experienced difficulties in having balance between different political lines; at the same time we could appreciate the motivation of Slovenian journalists to promote mutual understanding and the implementation of European values. Participants concluded and expressed in a resolution that protecting democracy is a journalist's obligation. Worried about the numerous examples proving that the so-called "social media" drifted into the offside because of their "asocial content", EJ journalists underlined that we need to perform an unbiased and ethical journalism.



2018 : The Berlin congress was an extraordinary telling example of the essential role of civil society in supporting and shaping the future of the European Union. Notwithstanding the irreplaceable legitimate role and power of elected institutions on both national and European level to take constitutional-related decisions and rules, the civil society's bodies and organizations need to be involved since they experience what is the real life about in a practical way. Even if we have the European Economic and Social Committee as a consultative body that can autonomously organize, civil society plays an important role. The need of a solid public finance for a robust Euro was also one of the main requirements underlined in Berlin. In addition to that, the need of an independent justice as a bulwark for protecting democracy was underlined in light of some European cases where justice was strongly influenced by politics. The interaction between businessmen and journalists proved many positive aspects and the possibility for media people to keep their autonomy and independence from economy. Being in the city of the "Berlin wall" that was torn down in November 1989 generated a special feeling for the participants, and renewed their will to commit themselves to support a free Europe.



2019 : The Congress in Prague found once again participants facing the question of the future of Europe: “Way Out of a Deadlock: What Reforms Does the European Union Need?”

The meeting took place a few months after the new election of the European Parliament. Although pre-election polls gave motive of worries about a not friendly outcome for Europe’s unity, the final result was different and, with a narrow majority, a pro-European Parliament was elected, even if a mapping of the outcome presented by VP Rotger Kindermann invited everybody with the European unity at heart not to rest on one’s laurels.

The proposal of a “European Republic” presented by Ulrike Guérot opened an intense discussion. In such a context, doubts and questions were raised by the discussion on the polarization of Central and Eastern European countries with the related causes and effects on the EU.

Quite intense was the discussion about the role of the regions in shaping a new Europe. Since subnational components claim more voice in shaping the European projects, their participation was always on the agenda and after the establishment of the “Committee of Regions” by the Maastricht Treaty and an ongoing institutional and social discussion took place even if the national governments proved to be not so willing to give them a real concrete power.



2020 : Due to the Covid pandemic, it was not allowed to have any meeting on-site. However, several online video connections with the participation of experts and discussions among EJ members on topical themes was organized. The congress previously scheduled for October 2020 in Timisoara needed to be postponed.

2020:



2021 : Due to the Covid pandemic, again, the planned congress in Timisoara on October 15-16, 2021, with the partnership of “Universitatea de Vest Din Timișoara”, needed to be held online on the same days. Once again the uncertainties regarding the future of the European Union, despite the “Conference on the Future of Europe”, our concerns focused on what could be the future of our dear Europe. We wanted to deal with views and expectations, mainly for the new generations needing to face difficult times. We were in the context of the implementation of the “Next generation EU, and many obstacles were hindering the European integration process. A survey conducted among university students of different countries highlighted the disorientation of many young people regarding their future in this European Union; they were asking for more participation and institutions to be in a more concrete position in order to take decisions without the “trap” of unanimity. An highlight of the congress was represented by the networking online between six groups of young students on different countries (Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Italy, France, Spain – see slide below), an exciting experience recommended to become normal in the future.

Messages from descendants of EJ founding fathers very close to our association gave motivation to be motivated for our future with their spirit and visions. Maria Romana De Gasperi, daughter of Alcide De Gasperi, gave us the last speech of her life, encouraging journalists and young people to keep the dream of the European unity alive, without giving up in facing all the difficulties. Encouraging was also the message of Konrad Adenauer’s grandson, Sven-Georg Adenauer. Those were the weeks when the threat of Putin’s Russia to attack Ukraine was very worrying, and worrying was the presentation of the director of the new geopolitics resource network of Kiev, Mykhailo Samus, which dealt with the instability risks in the European continent in light of the aggressive attitude of the Russian Federation and the Caucasus’ tension. Very thoughtful and inspiring was the presentation of former high-ranking civil servant of the Council of Europe, Ivan Koedjikov, on the “sleepwalkers”; yes, the many sleepwalkers that don’t understand or pretend not to understand what is going on in the world and just concentrate on their personal or electoral interest, risk to bring forth tragic scenarios. This is a point that must be seriously considered also by media people, who should commit themselves in a serious way to learn and try to understand the reality and inform people so that they can do everything to wake up sleepwalkers before it will be too late.

2021 Online



58th EJ International Congress

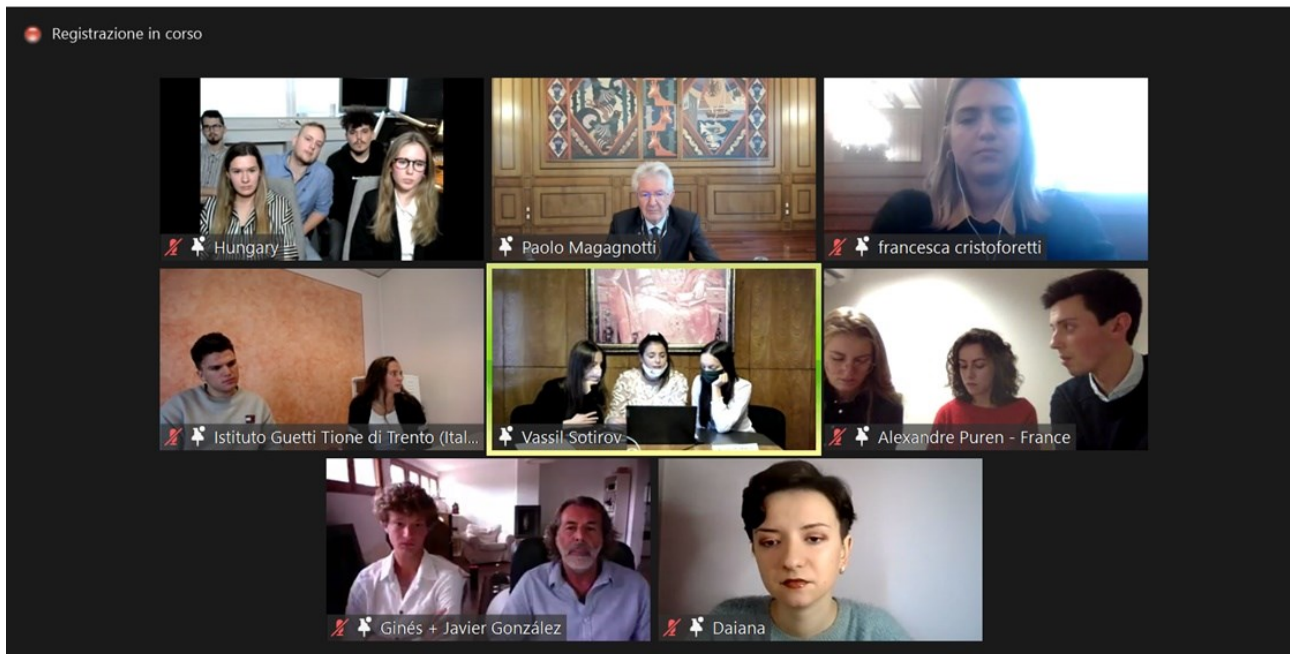
October 15-16, 2021
Meetings ONLINE

Our Future in Our Homeland Europe

Views and Expectations for the Future of Europe
Digging out the Sleepwalkers

Friday, October 15, 2021

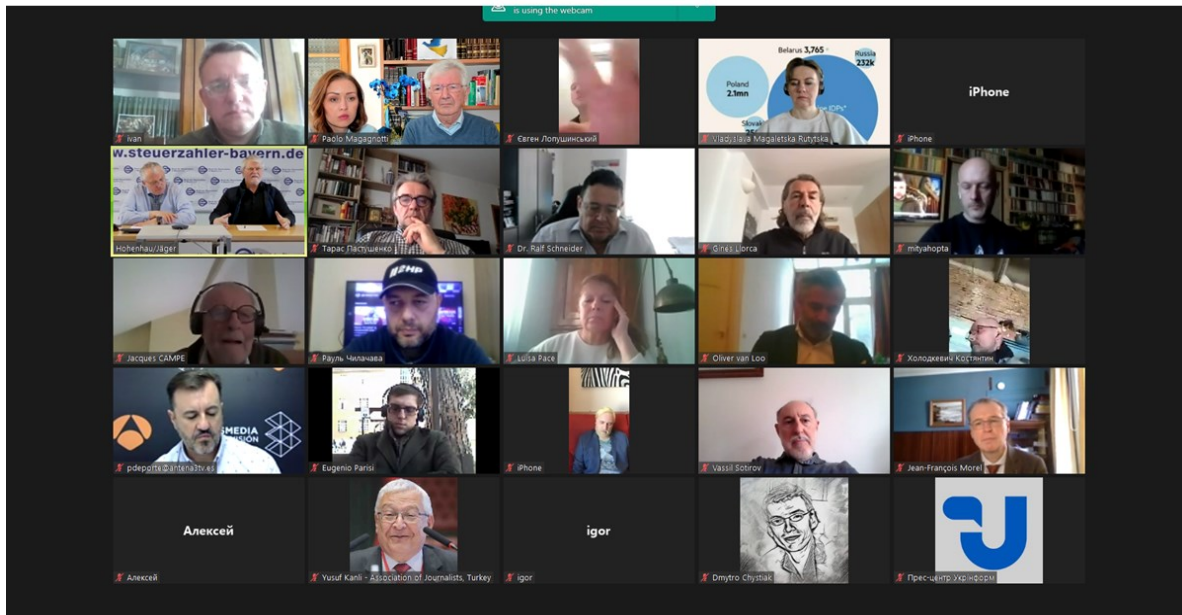
Youth Networking among young students



On the occasion of the first day of the online EJ congress 2021 (October 15), a networking between young students of six Western and Central-eastern European countries took place. Before the video connection, students met with their teachers to discuss topics about the European Union, regarding especially their expectations for their future lives in Europe. It was an exciting experience with students of one school exchanging thoughts, reflections and views. All of them expressed the desire to keep such experience in the future. EJ considers this kind of networking very important to allow young people to get to know each other and to realize that “my problem is your problem”, they can better cooperate not just for their personal interest but for the benefit of the entire society. It is a right way to build European unity and keeping diversities. It is also an opportunity to overcome misunderstandings, suspicions and preconceptions which are often “poisoning” relations between peoples and being obstacles to a fruitful European growth.

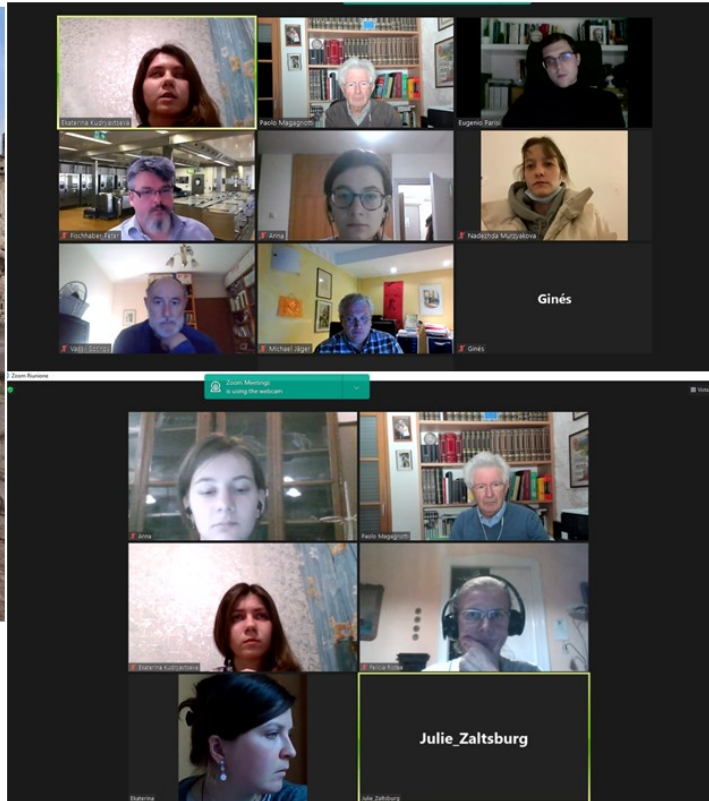
2022 The War of Putin's Russia

EJ connecting with Ukrainian journalists



Few days after the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation (February 24, 2022). EJ established a video connection involving Ukrainian journalists and representatives of the civil society in Kiev to interact with our EJ members. It was first of all a gesture of solidarity and a due commitment to hear from people directly affected by the war what was going on in their country. In the following days we kept -- and are still keeping -- contacts with them. Instrumental in activating and keeping contact with Ukraine has been Anastasiia Marsiz, a young Ukrainian writer being refugee with her daughter at the mountain house of EJ president Paolo Magagnotti, while her husband is fighting at home. A young Russian student took part too (see slides below).

Courageous Young Russians



Few days after the breaking out of war in Ukraine, EJ president Paolo Magagnotti and his colleague Luciano Kogoj met a young Russian girl in the main square of Trento (Italy), holding a big cardboard with writings of protest against her country for having invaded Ukraine. With her help a group of young Russians living in their country and strongly condemning Putin's war and standing for Ukraine was formed, and a series of online meetings with them began. EJ keeps contact with the group.

Below, some thoughts of the young Russians:

- Basically, my life now consists of non-stop doom scrolling.
- Every morning I wake up and see two types of news – Russian Troops Bombed a Peaceful City.
- The only things that await us, are extreme poverty, general military mobilization, and no future at all.
- Everything I hoped for had been stolen from me. Everything I planned was ruined.
- I feel sorry for Ukrainians. War is terrible and scary. But morally being Ukrainian today is easier, than being Russian. I definitely feel ashamed of my fears because Ukrainians right now are fighting and hiding and leaving their houses, and I'm just scared.
- And I hope when this is all over, the Ukrainian nation will rise and build everything again, better than ever. I want that with all my heart.



EJ helping dissemination of information on the war in Ukraine

Ukrainian refugee Anastasiia Marsiz and EJ president Paolo Magagnotti, in connection with the Ukrainian national news agency **Ukrinform** and other entities related to the Office of the President of Ukraine, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and the Ukrainian State Film Agency, created a Google Drive to upload videos dubbed in several languages, which are at disposal for free use for media that might be interested in broadcasting them.

The videos are also available on Youtube channels

English

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdwauJH2TpsCzMwBZyVuQXQ>

Polish

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXYeZDA7XRp_I2bkeI5HXAA

Hindi

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDBOCWV-sfZhwzr-3QaqUJg>

Arabic

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbkC51kf83AOwKJtMau008A>

German

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3gB-lgy2dOG4cov7NG1VDA>

Italian

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP6IF60WPfbROn72UJQT7PA>

Japanese

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMphcH9B0fjArLtUAgjWc-Q>

French

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxntLZFMzq310cA4K_mg55g

Spanish

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWKHHjDx4XlyhRrbcG-30ow>

Dutch

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt8Vuqq6iy_5LuTaRSI_M9g

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1JI2D1AraPwZWfQtuvdWbg>

Further contacts with Ukrainian authorities and representatives of the civil society have been established to disseminate in the country further information about the possibility of enhancing the development of SOS-Villages for war orphans.

The President concludes expressing hearty thanks to the members of all ExComs that were in office during the period of his presidency for their supportive and loyal cooperation and to all past and present EJ members for their support, suggesting to stick to some basic commitments for EJ:

- Democracy at any cost, while respecting minority
- Fight for freedom of expression and claiming transparency
- Wise and responsible use of social media
- Commitment in Communicating Europe in unbiased ways and countering myths.
- Help supporting European Public Space
- Networking, and networking again among EJ members and involving young people
- Remind institutional representatives that they are elected to SERVE and not to be served: Demand without hesitation and criticize when appropriate.
- Communicate considering that journalism is better than working.
- And, above all: Ethic, Ethic, Ethic!
- **EJ is an Idea, a Vision, a Responsibility and a Commitment that only firm convictions in the European Project supported by [Passion](#) can keep alive.**

Top 3: Secretary-General Francesca Cristoforetti reports briefly about the printing and delivery of the press cards and other activities that are being performed together with the President and the connection that they have had with the association's members.

Top 4: Treasurer Marc Willière presented the balance sheet for the financial years 2019, 2020 and 2021 to the General Assembly.

- The total income amounted to 25,355.10 euros.
- In the last three years, members paid membership fees totaling 7,090 euros. For the Congress in Prague (2019) and the Congress planned for 2021 in Timisoara, which had to be cancelled at short notice, members had transferred participation fees amounting to 18,265.10 euros.
- The total expenditure amounted to 24,750.40 euros.
- In the last three years, the Executive Committee members were reimbursed 6,640.01 euros that they had spent to represent the association. All members who had already paid their congress fee for Timisoara 2021 received their money back totaling 2,040 euros. The account fees amounted to 57,75 euros. For the

registration in Luxembourg, 72,94 euros were spent. Finally, 15.939,70 euros were spent for the successful 2019 Congress in Prague.

- The financial years 2019 to 2021 of our association were closed with a surplus of 604,70 euros. Thanks to our reserves and savings from previous years, our account showed a surplus of 14.490,70 euros on December 31, 2021.

Top 5: Member of the Auditors' Committee András Radetzky presented the Auditors' report on behalf of the committee, confirming that all the documentation presented by the Treasurer highlights a very sound management of the administration and expresses thanks and appreciation for his work.

Top 6: Reports and financial accounting are approved by unanimity.

Top 7: Executive Committee's Disclaimer: approval by unanimity.

Top 8a: Election of the Executive Committee. The ballot papers containing the name of the fifteen candidates are distributed also taking into consideration the proxies that were previously checked and Luciano Kogoj and Rolf von Hohenhau are appointed as Scrutineers. The voting took place in a secret way. The vote count gave the following result, listed according to the votes attributed:

1. Paolo Magagnotti (I)
2. Francesca Cristoforetti (I)
3. Felicia Ristea (RO)
4. Mikhail Jaeger (D)
5. Gines Llorca (E)
6. Luida Pace (F)
7. Ralf Schneider (D)
8. Marc Willère (L)
9. Tinatin Dvalishvili (GE)
10. Georgeta Petrovici (RO)
11. Vassil Sotirov (BG)
12. Jacques Campé (B)
13. András Radetzky (H)
14. Rotger Kindermann (D)
15. Jusuf Kanli (TR)

Top 8b: Auditors' Committee. On the President's proposal, voting by show of hands, the following members are unanimously elected: Dagmar Kaysermann-Passman, Lucian Ionica, René Nour El Din.

Top 8c: Conciliation and Arbitration Committee. On the President's proposal, voting by show of hands, the following members are unanimously elected: Ludmila Rakušanová, Lyudmila Videnova, Alberto Comuzzi.

Top 9-10: The ExCom that will be elected the day after tomorrow will elaborate a more detailed program. However, it is considered useful to continue meeting online on the subject of European interests. Regarding the congress, we can consider the meeting on the war in Ukraine and the new geopolitics a main EJ event 2022, substituting the yearly congress. Vice-president Rotger Kindermann, speaking on behalf of the Executive Committee thanks Paolo for the "wonderful cooperation during 16 years at the helm of the Association, being always present and strongly engaged and committed to support freedom and independence of the European media. And he adds: "We faced sometimes difficulties but with Paolo always at the helm we always managed to get successful results. Under his helm we have organized pioneering congresses from Bozen to Prague. Working with Paolo has been for all of us -- especially for me -- a pleasure connected with a nice friendship. Thanks Paolo for the many years during which you have committed yourself with passion and cleverness for our common aims".

Kindermann expressed further his concern for the threats to media freedom in Europe from Berlusconi to Orban, underlying the risks deriving from totalitarian regimes undermining democracy and freedom of expression. We have the terrible situation in Russia; since the killing of Anna Politkovskaja EJ has always been committed with determination in contributing to press freedom.

Rotger also reports that our member in Ulm Sabine Geller, editor-in-chief of "danube connects" has expressed the desire and availability to organize the 2023 EJ congress in Ulm; the congress could focus on questions related to the "Danube region", promoted by the European Union. Kindermann also notice that the EJ statute there is a max limit for membership fee and we should also consider a minimal.

The VEJ president Ralf Schneider suggest the opportunity of promoting the EJ aims with the contribution of influencers.

Vice-president Vassil Sotirov considers opportune to evaluate also other options for the congress and the region Trentino-South Tyrol came to the discussion. Communication for the final decision will be communicated asap.

Top 11: The outgoing president Paolo Magagnotti is elected EJ honorary President by acclamation. He gratefully thanks all colleagues for the honor and considers it as a further motivation to dedicate himself to EJ.

The General Assembly closes at 12.35 pm.

Paolo Magagnotti
EJ President

Francesca Cristoforetti
EJ Secretary-General

