



## Newsletter May 2020

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*“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, ... “*

Although this quote from Charles Dickens’ ‘A Tale of Two Cities’ is more than 160 years old, we’re sure it’s strangely accurate and recognisable in one way or another to all of us. We live in unprecedented and uncertain times, and apart from hoping that you and your beloved ones are in good health, we really wish you all enough stamina, creativity and wisdom to cope with all the consequences of the corona crisis, both on personal and professional level. With this Newsletter that drops in your mailbox at the same moment we planned the EJTA AGM 2020 in Vienna, we hope to hearten all our EJTA friends and colleagues and try to provide you with some news and information about our association.

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## 1. AGM 2020

For obvious reasons the AGM 2020 in May in Vienna had to be postponed. Our Austrian colleagues have informed us that it will not be possible for them to organise a meeting later this year. The Board has decided to move the meeting in Vienna to May 2021, hoping that the world has opened again by then.

However, we will need an AGM in 2020 for decision-making.

For the AGM 2020 there are three options:

- a. having a virtual AGM
- b. having a real AGM in Zwolle (Netherlands)
- c. a combination of a. and b.

At the moment there is far too much uncertainty to make a final decision. This will be done at the end of August and you will be informed by then.

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## 2. AGM 2021 and Teachers' Conference 2021

We are planning to have our AGM 2021 in **Vienna** (probably **May20 &21, 2021**) and our Teachers' Conference 2021 in **Chelyabinsk** (probably **October 21 & 22, 2021**).

Please save the dates for 2021, but with a proviso. We will contact the institutes that were planning to organise an AGM or Conference in 2022 or later, because we might have to reshuffle the EJTA Conference Calendar.

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## 3. News about the board

The EJTA Board had an online meeting on Thursday 14 May morning (see

proof underneath).

About the formation of the new Board (Nico Drok, Maria Lukina and Nadia Vissers step down) we can only repeat what we said in the previous Newsletter: Carien Touwen, Anne Leppäjärvi and Tiko Tsomaia are candidates to be elected at the next AGM.

To refresh your memory: Nadia will continue 'serving' EJTA in the function of Director from September 2020 onwards. She will be responsible for the organisation and coordination in close cooperation with the President and Board members. The tasks of the Secretariat will remain the same.



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## 4. New members

We welcome six new EJTA-members:

1. France: Sciences Po – Ecole de Journalisme Paris
2. France: Institut de Journalisme Bordeaux Aquitaine
3. Poland: Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan
4. Russia: Far Eastern Federal University Vladivostok
5. United Kingdom: Nottingham Trent University
6. Kazachstan: Al-Farabi Kazakh National University Almaty (associate member)

We were able to visit the first three; the others will be visited when travelling will be allowed and safe again. Hopefully they can present themselves later this year, at the AGM 2020.

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## 5. EUfactcheck



The fact-checking project powered by EJTA is bustling with life, even in corona times: the number of website visitors keeps on growing (we now have a run rate of over 200 visitors a day), we're actively publishing with 13 Journalism schools during spring semester 2020 and expecting more than 20 participating schools in autumn 2020. We're communicating with all participants through Newsletters and Trackrecords and we sincerely hope that all EJTA members are proud of this project and read the students' publications on the website and like their posts on social media.

In order to reach out to the media and interested or befriended organisations, there is a new press release, describing the latest state of affairs: [Press release EUfactcheck](#)

It would be really great if all EJTA members could pay attention to the project,

even when they're not actively participating right now, and use and spread this press release (first translate it if necessary) in their country and communities.

In autumn 2020 we'll start a new 'publication season' with new ideas and initiatives and we intend to organise an online start-up meeting in September 2020. Also 'new' participants are very welcome then. If you're interested, please send a mail to [Nadia Vissers](#).

We hope to receive some structural funding to make sure the future keeps on looking bright for EUfactcheck.

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## 6. Online courses

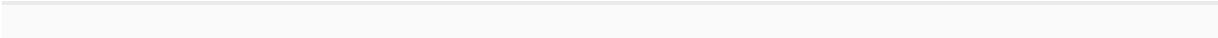
On the [EJTA website \('Recent news'\)](#) you can find interesting links to a free online course from the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas and an online project from TU Dortmund, focusing on journalism in a pandemic.

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## **\*\* Future e-mails and GDPR**

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