

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Transitions
PIC number:	941418369
Project name and acronym:	JUST EU and ME - JEaM

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP 5
Event name:	Solutions Journalism Workshop
Type:	workshop
In situ/online:	online
Location:	online
Date(s):	16-17 May 2023
Website(s) (if any):	https://transitionsmedia.org/2023/05/19/solutionsjournalismworkshop/
Participants	
Female:	77
Male:	32
Non-binary:	6
From country 1 [Bulgaria]:	14
From country 2 [Belgium]:	2
From country 3 [Bosnia]:	1
From country 4 [Czech Republic]...	5
From country 5 [France]	2
From country 6 [Germany]	1
From country 7 [Italy]	10
From country 8 [Netherlands]	7
From country 9 [Norway]	1

From country 10 [Poland]	8		
From country 11 [Portugal]	1		
From country 12 [Slovakia]	1		
From country 13 [Spain]	8		
From country 14 [Finland]	1		
From Country 15 [Ireland]	2		
From Country 16 [Romania]	1		
From non-eligible countries	28		
From Other Countries (Not specified in registration form)	22		
Total number of participants:	115	From total number of countries:	16

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

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Funded by the European Union

**THE POWER OF THE POSITIVE:
THE CASE FOR SOLUTIONS
JOURNALISM**

May 16th - May 17th

Over the course of two days, you'll learn:

- ✓ How to apply the four pillars of solutions journalism to your reporting
- ✓ Discover how climate-focused solutions reporting can pave the way for climate action
- ✓ Explore how to re-engage audiences through solutions journalism, and
- ✓ Learn about innovative multimedia formats to publish your solutions journalism stories.

Learn More

#solutionsjournalism

JUST EU and ME

Report on 2-day Solutions Journalism Workshop under the JUST EU and ME Project

Transitions, a consortium member of the JUST EU and ME project, organized a 2-day Solutions Journalism Workshop on the 16th and 17th of May. This comprehensive report provides details of the sessions, speakers, topics and various activities conducted during the workshop and highlights the positive feedback of the participants to indicate the success of the event.

“The Power of the Positive: The Case for Solutions Journalism” workshop aimed to equip participants with the necessary tools and knowledge to apply solutions journalism principles to their reporting and engage audiences effectively. Solutions or Constructive Journalism is an approach to reporting that advocates rigorous evidence-based reporting on solutions to social problems instead of just highlighting the problems. Evidence from newsrooms has shown that this kind of journalism re-engages the audience, rebuilds trust in news media and also positively impacts revenue.

Objectives of the workshop:

The event introduced participants to the principles and practice of solutions journalism and had the following objectives:

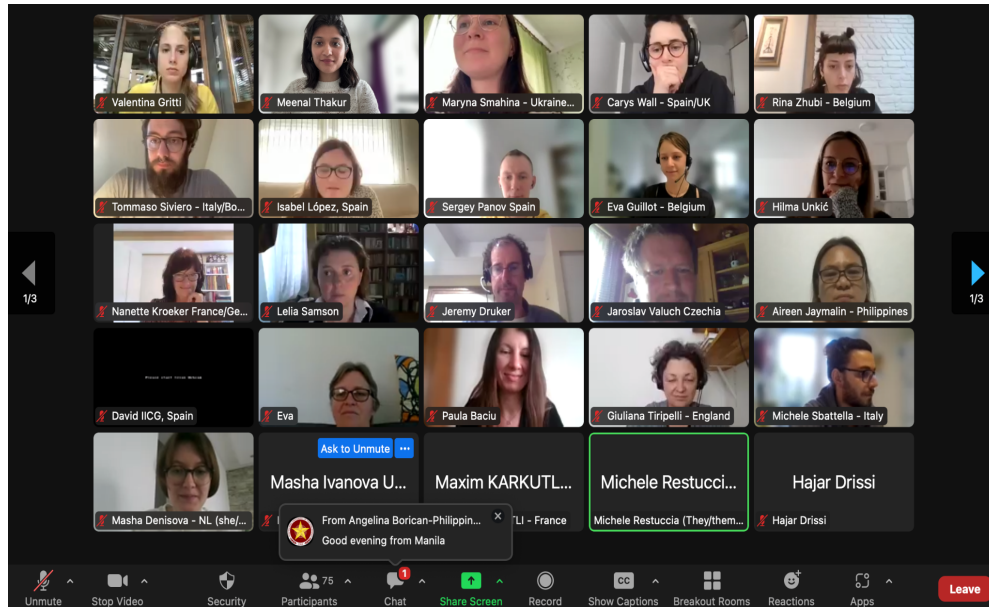
- ✓ How to apply the four pillars of solutions journalism to reporting.
- ✓ Discover how climate-focused solutions reporting can pave the way for climate action.
- ✓ Explore how to re-engage audiences through solutions journalism.
- ✓ Learn about innovative multimedia formats to publish your solutions journalism stories.

The 2-day online workshop was attended by a diverse group of 115 participants from over 30 countries across the world, predominantly from Europe. Prior to the event, we received 297 registrations from various countries, reflecting the global interest in solutions journalism as well its regional demand. The participants represented a wide range of backgrounds, including students, journalists, media professionals, and individuals interested in solutions-focused reporting. The diversity of the group contributed to a rich exchange of ideas and perspectives throughout the workshop.

The two-day workshop comprised various sessions and activities that focused on fostering a deep understanding of solutions journalism and its practical applications. Jeremy Druker, Executive Editor, and Meenal Thakur, SoJo programme manager led the workshop, training participants in the core principles of solutions journalism. The workshop also had two guest speakers- Jocelyn Timperley, freelance climate journalist and Jakub Górnicki, co-founder at Poland-based Outriders whose sessions on climate-oriented solutions reporting and innovative storytelling added more diversity and depth to the training material.

Below is an overview of the key topics covered over two days:

Day 1: 16th May, 14:00-17:00 CET

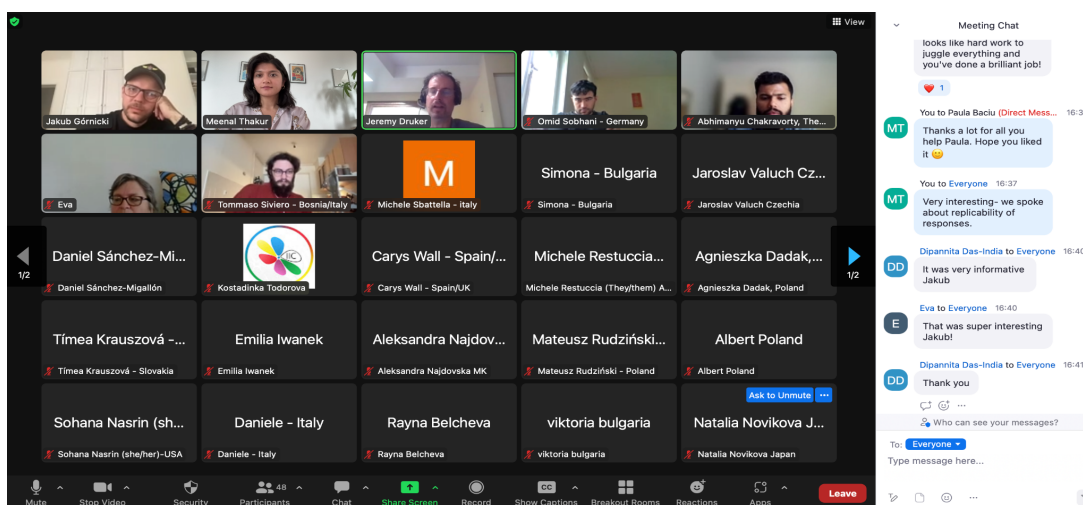


Day 1: Kickstarting the online workshop and waiting for people to join

1. **Applying the Four Pillars of Solutions Journalism:** Participants gained insights into the four pillars of solutions journalism and learned how to incorporate these pillars into their reporting. By examining case studies and engaging in interactive exercises, attendees developed a solid foundation in the principles of solutions journalism. You can find attached a sample of one of the breakout sessions where participants were asked to identify solutions journalism elements in the story. The inputs of the participants showed that they had not only understood the methodology but also had some critical questions on the methods, style of reporting etc which was very encouraging to see. It was positive feedback for the trainers as we saw the participants engage with the exercise beyond what had been taught previously.

find one example of the ideas that the participants came up with attached with the report.

4. **Innovative Multimedia Formats for Solutions Journalism:** The workshop introduced participants to innovative multimedia formats for publishing solutions journalism stories. Jakub Górnicki, who has been using innovative formats like comics and graphic illustrations guided participants through practical examples of using multimedia formats to effectively share solutions-focused content. The attendees gained insights into leveraging multimedia platforms and how they can incorporate this in their work, especially when it comes to reporting on vulnerable subjects and complex topics.



The guest session of Day 2 on using multimedia formats for solution journalism was well received by participants. As you can see in the chat box, the session got positive feedback and people were happy to share their ideas and thoughts on this topic. (Source: Zoom chat Day 2)

Attendance

The workshop brought together a diverse gathering of 115 participants from various countries worldwide which was a very encouraging sign for the organizers of the workshop and the JUST EU and ME team. A further breakdown of the attendance reveals the following statistics:

26 people from eligible countries attended the workshop for 70% of the time (about thirteen of them attended the 100% of it).

30 people from eligible countries attended the workshop for 50% of the time.

12 people from ineligible countries attended the workshop for 70% of the time.

8 people from ineligible countries attended the workshop for 50% of the time.

39 people overall attended the workshop for less than 50% of the time.

Despite the varying attendance durations, the workshop proved to be a useful upskilling experience for the participants. This can be gauged from their feedback and interaction during the workshop as well as the feedback received after the workshop. It must be noted that the organizers of the workshop tried their best to mitigate “zoom fatigue” by keeping the workshop very engaging and interactive, but holding people’s attention

(especially when they are joining from different time zones) can be a big challenge. The impact of the workshop extended beyond the event, as participants acquired new skills and knowledge, formed meaningful connections, and gained a broader global perspective. The workshop's international scope provided a unique platform for participants to gain exposure to different cultures, perspectives, and approaches to problem-solving. As the workshop's reach continues to ripple outward through the efforts of its attendees, we hope that the transformative impact will be felt within their communities, organizations, and beyond.

Overall audience engagement and feedback:

Over the course of two days, the participants engaged in an immersive learning experience, gaining valuable insights into the application solutions journalism in their reporting. The feedback received from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. They found the workshop to be highly informative, engaging, and relevant to their professional goals. Many expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn from renowned experts in the field and appreciated the interactive nature of the sessions. Towards the end of the workshop, not only did the participants appreciate the sessions, we also received queries if we will be conducting similar workshops in the future and people wanted to know more about our work, if we have a newsletter and how can they stay in touch to learn more. The workshop fostered an environment conducive to collaboration and networking, enabling participants to forge connections with like-minded individuals and potentially form partnerships for future projects.

The workshop was carefully designed to balance theory and practical aspects of solutions-oriented reporting while keeping in mind the need to cater to a diverse group of participants. The passion, knowledge, and expertise of the trainers and guest speakers was evident throughout the sessions, inspiring participants to embrace this approach to reporting. The strength of the content and the expertise of trainers led to a successful workshop. The positive feedback from participants as well as the organizers (especially our partners in the consortium) and the level of engagement showed that we had managed to deliver a comprehensive workshop for all.

The success of the workshop extended beyond the immediate event. We have received follow-up emails from participants expressing their enthusiasm and requesting further sessions in the future. This positive response reflects the impact the workshop had on the attendees and their desire to continue building their skills and knowledge in solutions journalism.

The overwhelming positive response and engagement from the participants are a testament to the importance of solutions journalism in today's media landscape. We believe that this workshop has empowered a new generation of reporters and storytellers who will go on to create meaningful change through their work. We have also shared additional resources as well as information about a free, certified [online course](#) run by Transitions on Solutions journalism to continue the conversation and sustain participants' interest in this approach to reporting.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	30.06.2023	TRANSITIONS SDRUZENI