



My climate story is your climate story

Lessons from running a cross-border 'climate' community

Investigation is Collaboration - Exposing the Invisible Together
(August 2021)

Arena for Journalism in Europe



#non-profit

#collaborative

#cross-border

#knowledge-sharing/training/education

#networking (Arena Housing Project, Arena Climate Network)

Dataharvest – The European Investigative Journalism Conference

Dataharvest Digital

#EIJC20 | Where Europe's
investigative journalists meet
September–November 2020



What I could have benefited from?

- Getting a clearer cross-border perspective on the issue;
- Identifying the EU potential of the story (and exploring the EU angle of the story);
- Finding expertise and getting insights from the countries that were not on my radar (because I don't speak the language/don't have contacts there);
- Pursuing other potential stories with colleagues from other countries.

Benefits of networking

- Connecting the dots: Stories don't stop at borders (and journalism shouldn't either);
- Teaming up: Useful to know where to find colleagues (by skill, location, language or expertise);
- Learning from others: Knowledge-sharing should go beyond our national borders, media outlet or the language we are working in;
- Having a community also keeps us sane!

How it started

How it's going



Arena Housing Project (2019)

Arena Climate Network (2020)

Our networks are:

- Topical
- Cross-border
- Open and non-profit
- Community-led

Arena Climate Network

What we built

Arena Climate Network Discussion group (Discourse)

Arena Climate Network Twitter account

Arena Climate Knowledge Base

What is planned

Secure leak infrastructure

Secure collaborative space

Trainings and knowledge-sharing events on climate

How does it work? Let's take a tour...

Arena Climate Network

Category: Journalists' Arena Topics: 18 Latest

Here you can ask for advice, share your expertise, share useful links to grants, jobs, training and reporting opportunities, but also search for potential collaborators!

Looking for collaborators, partners and sources
Grants and Opportunities

Climate Network

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In this category, you're welcome to share knowledge about specific topics related to climate - links, databases, updates about your work, open questions you might have, calls for collaboration etc...

- Fossil fuels/coal
- Carbon credits, finance & offset schemes
- Miscellaneous
- Heavy industry
- Climate adaptation
- Aviation, shipping and road transport
- Mining in Europe
- Construction and Housing
- Hydropower and nuclear
- Renewables

[Contact database] CLEW 0 9h
Looking for collaborators, partners and sources

[Expertise/advice needed] Waste import/export in Europe 0 5d
Looking for collaborators, partners and sources

[Big investors] Institutional investors commit to net zero by 2050 or earlier: open databases? 0 6d
Fossil fuels/coal #european-investment-

Hello network - let's get to know each other! 8 6d
Community

[Grant] European cross-border grants (looking for partners) 5

How to get involved?

- Join our Arena Climate Network forum (everyone is welcome, it is free, and the registration takes a couple of minutes);
- Introduce yourself to the network;
- Are you an expert on a specific topic? Get in touch if you want to curate a section on the forum!
- Get in touch on Twitter: https://twitter.com/Arena__Climate

Challenges

- How to engage people (and keep the community engaged);
- How to define/limit the topic of climate (the environment/energy/other);
- How to bridge differences between climate coverage/interest in these topics between EU countries;
- How to create a sense of community in online...
- ...and how to keep growing as a network without becoming a public forum?
- How to make a local story global, and how to make a cross-border story local?

Opportunities

Besides networking, learning and exchanging...

- Our 'one-on-one' climate mentorships;
- 'Learning by doing' climate training (the call will be published in late August)

Thank you - and get in touch!

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Tweet at me: [@yellena_p](https://twitter.com/yellena_p)

Message me on Keybase: http://keybase.io/yellena_p

P.S. Story ideas and follow-ups (based on Dataharvest 2020/2021)

- Use of transitional fuels - i.e. hydrogen used in transportation, and housing (how will the use of hydrogen impact our energy bills);
- Aviation --- still a lot of (data?) research to do about the subsidies given to the industry, jet fuel tax exemptions and carbon offsetting mechanisms;
- Industry emissions and decarbonisation of the heavy industry (cement, steel, plastics);
- Shipping - riches of the industry (tax evasion, influence peddling through the principle of revolving doors), pollution in ports;
- Hydropower's impact on the biodiversity
- ...