

Arena

for
journalism
in Europe

‘Stronger together’ or ‘Hell is other people’?

How to plan and launch collaborative investigations

Jose Miguel Calatayud
freelance journalist / project director
Arena for Journalism in Europe
jose@journalismarena.eu

This session

'Stronger together' or 'Hell is other people'?
How to plan and launch collaborative investigations

- 1. To collaborate or not to collaborate_ **that's the question**
- 2. What type of collaboration?_ **there are quite a few**
- 3. Designing a collaborative investigation_ **setting up the foundations**
- 4. Managing a collaborative investigation_ **the workflow**
- 5. Interdisciplinary collaborations_ **even stronger or more hellish?**
- 6. Collaborative investigations_ **in three lines**
- 7. Online resources_ **about collaborative investigations**

1. To collaborate or not to collaborate_ that's the question

'Stronger together' or 'Hell is other people'?
How to plan and launch collaborative investigations

- Collaborating is the answer_ **sometimes**
- First, what topic_ **and then what kind of collaboration**
- Advantages and benefits_ **against risks and costs**
- Capacity to launch or join **a collaborative investigation?**
- Do I have enough support **from my team or organisation?**
- Then try to think **of anything else**

2. What type of collaboration?_

there are quite a few

'Stronger together' or 'Hell is other people'?
How to plan and launch collaborative investigations

- Sharing data, information or other resources
- Sharing and distributing each other's content
- Sharing editing and fact-checking and other skills and expertise
- Contributing an article / outcome to a particular project
- Coordinating the publication of articles / outcomes on the same topic
- Launching or joining a collaborative investigation
- ...

3. Designing a collaborative investigation_ setting up the foundations

'Stronger together' or 'Hell is other people'?
How to plan and launch collaborative investigations

- Vision, description, scope and goals_ and the right partners
- Preliminary calendar_ research, analysis, coding, writing... publishing
- If external funding or support is needed_ who is in charge of getting it?
- Who is going to coordinate_ one person, a core team?
- Managing expectations_ and being aware of capacities
- Online collaborative environment and communication_ what software?
- How to respond to the obstacles_ that you will encounter?
- ▶ **Governance documents_ MoU, workflow, calendar, others?**

4. Managing a collaborative investigation_ the workflow

'Stronger together' or 'Hell is other people'?
How to plan and launch collaborative investigations

- Communications_ meetings, calls, internal newsletters...
- Decision-making_ quorum, majorities...
- Using the collaborative software_ what do we do with it and how?
- Centralisation and cleaning up the data_ who is in charge?
- Documenting the project_ who is in charge?
- Promoting the outcomes of the investigation_ who is in charge?
- 'Post-mortem' analysis_ who is in charge?
- Is there anything else?

5. Interdisciplinary collaborations_ even stronger or more hellish?

'Stronger together' or 'Hell is other people'?
How to plan and launch collaborative investigations

- Different languages_ are we talking about the same thing?
- Different visions_ are we informing the public or changing the world?
- Different pace of work_ can we agree on the calendar?
- Different independence norms_ risk of research being compromised?
- Different publication standards_ can we publish each other's work?
- ▶ **Huge potential benefits_ and huge potential for trouble**
- ▶ **Likely need for particular governance points or whole documents**
- ▶ **Possible need for an (independent) facilitator / mediator**

6. Collaborative investigations_ in three lines

'Stronger together' or 'Hell is other people'?
How to plan and launch collaborative investigations

- Trust and transparency **between all partners**
- Expectations and goals **clearly defined since the beginning**
- Realistic workload **and good coordination**

- Collaborative investigations_ **in three words**
 - Planning
 - **Planning**
 - Planning

7. Online resources_ about collaborative investigations

'Stronger together' or 'Hell is other people'?
How to plan and launch collaborative investigations

- [Tactical Tech & Exposing the Invisible](#)
- [Arena for Journalism in Europe & Dataharvest conference](#)
- [SEEK Initiative](#)
- [Center for Cooperative Media](#)
- [Project Facet](#)
- [Global Investigative Journalism Network Help Desk](#)
- [The Bureau Local's Open Resources](#)
- [ProPublica's Collaborative Data Journalism Guide](#)

'Stronger together' or 'Hell is other people'?
How to plan and launch collaborative investigations



Image source: <https://www.handz.design>

Now go and start planning a
collaborative investigation!

'Stronger together' or 'Hell is other people'?
How to plan and launch collaborative investigations

Arena

for
journalism
in Europe

Thank you for your time
and attention!

Jose Miguel Calatayud
freelance journalist / project director
Arena for Journalism in Europe
jose@journalismarena.eu