



EUROPEAN COLLABORATIVE JOURNALISM PROGRAMME (ECJP) 2026

23–27 MARCH 2026 GUT SIGGEN, BALTIC SEA, NORTHERN GERMANY

28–31 MAY 2026 EIJC & DATAHARVEST, MECHELEN, BELGIUM

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

The ECJP brings together a group of 16 journalists from across Europe to engage in cross-border investigations – and to form a lasting community of practice. Throughout the programme, participants receive input, collaborate on their topics of interest, and exchange ideas and work practices. The programme is offered jointly by the Toepfer Foundation and Arena for Journalism in Europe and consists of two parts.

WHY COLLABORATE?

Many of today's urgent problems – from organised crime, migration, and exploitation to human rights abuses and pollution – reach beyond national borders and are complex to research and cover. Collaboration allows to pool resources and expertise, to analyze facts and data jointly, to get a deeper understanding of a topic, and to share the often highly demanding workload of an investigation. By teaming up, you can jointly discuss how to go about, receive and provide mutual support, and increase impact by publishing in several media at the same time.

Therefore, we believe in collaboration. After six successful editions, the Toepfer Foundation and Arena for Journalism join hands again to motivate and enable journalists to collaborate across borders.

DATES

PART 1: 23–27 March 2026, Gut Siggen, Baltic Sea **A five-day residential programme:**

- Get familiar with your fellow participants
- Receive input from experts
- Present and discuss your ideas for an investigation
- Form cross-border teams and work collaboratively on your story ideas
- Reflect, exchange, and unwind
(working sessions, fireside talks, beach walks)

PART 2: 28–31 May 2026, Mechelen, Belgium **Three-day Dataharvest conference:**

- Catch-up Meeting and dinner on the pre-conference eve
- Attend a huge variety of workshops and panels according to your own interest (29–31 May)
- Meet like-minded colleagues from all over Europe
- Continue your investigations started at Gut Siggen
- Strengthen network ties with your fellows

The Toepfer Foundation covers all costs incl. your travel fees to both venues, accommodation, meals and the Dataharvest Conference ticket. Participants to attend both parts of the programme.

EUROPEAN COLLABORATIVE JOURNALISM PROGRAMME (ECJP) 2026

23–27 MARCH 2026 GUT SIGGEN, BALTIC SEA, NORTHERN GERMANY (approx. 2 hours from Hamburg)

28–31 MAY 2026 EIJC & DATAHARVEST, MECHELEN, BELGIUM (approx. 30 min from Brussels)

TARGET GROUP

The programme is developed for journalists from all over Europe, freelancers as well as staffers, from all media. Applicants need to live or work in one of the 46 member countries of the Council of Europe. The ECJP is suited for juniors as well as mid-career journalists, who have already gained some experience in collaborative journalism or are determined to work in this field. Participants are asked to apply with a story idea that they would like to collaborate on with other fellows during the programme and in the months that follow.

ECJP topics so far mainly dealt with

- Sustainability: climate issues, pollution, loss of resources
- Social & Human rights: migration, exploitation, organised crime
- Governance: corruption, extremism, disinformation

Please find a selection of **publications** that emerged from the ECJP so far.

COMMITMENT

We expect participants to attend both parts of the programme which both have a very dense schedule. This means a time commitment of nine days in total + travel time from your location. Please also be aware that there will be almost no time to work on any other duty/deadline.

APPLICATION

Please apply via our website at:

www.toepfer-stiftung.de/ecjp

(CV, letter of motivation, story idea, work samples etc.)

Deadline: 4 January 2026

The jury consists of members of the Toepfer Foundation, Arena for Journalism and an external member. You will be notified by 30 January 2026 at latest.

CONTACT

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Please get in touch in case of any questions.

PROGRAMME PARTNERS

Toepfer Foundation

Toepfer Foundation is a Hamburg-based non-profit foundation engaged in the areas of arts&culture, science, education, nature conservation and exchange among Europeans. As part of the latter, the foundation addressed the field of journalism in 2019 and aims to support networking and cross-border collaboration among European journalists. www.toepfer-stiftung.de



Arena for Journalism in Europe

The foundation's purpose is to stimulate and support cross-border collaborative and investigative journalism in Europe, including collaborations with other professions, proceeding from the belief that such journalism contributes to information exchange, critical thought, mutual understanding and democracy in Europe. www.journalismarena.eu

