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### Institution / Date of event

National Association of French Journalism Schools (Conférence des Écoles de Journalisme de France)

Thursday September 30th 2021, Round table discussion organized during the Journalism Forum in Tours, France.

### Event Overview

#### Topic

#### **Journalism schools face the pandemic.**

The impact of COVID-19 on journalism education in France: recruitment competitions, teaching methods, student support, professional integration, relations with media companies and the supervisory authorities.

#### Speakers

Pascal GUÉNÉE, President of the Conference of Schools of Journalism (CEJ), Dean of Paris-Dauphine Journalism School

Arnaud SCHWARTZ, Secretary General of the Conference of Schools of Journalism (CEJ), Dean of Journalism Institute of Bordeaux.

Laure COLMANT, Journalism Professor, Public Journalism School of Tours.

Sandy MONTAÑOLA, Senior Lecturer, journalism & gender, Journalism School of Lannion

Rayya ROUMANOS, Journalism Professor, Journalism Institute of Bordeaux

Valérie JEANNE-PERRIER, Journalism Professor, CELSA Paris Sorbonne Journalism School

Corinne VANMERRIS, Deputy Dean, ESJ, Journalism School of Lille.

Roselyne RINGOOT, Journalism Professor, EJDG, Journalism School of Grenoble

Pierre GINABAT, Director, Toulouse Journalism School

Eric NAHON, Journalism Ethics Professor, IPJ Dauphine.

#### Guests

Journalism Students, journalists, Media professionals, Journalism Professors, Trade unions members, general public.

On site and broadcasted live + replay

### Summary of discussions

With the colleagues of the 14 accredited courses we wished, after the almost 2 years that we have just gone through, not to make an exhaustive assessment of the period, because it was still a bit early to do that, but rather through very concrete examples from our different establishments, to bear witness to the situations that we had to face, individually and also collectively.

We also have, perhaps rather immodestly, the idea that the testimonies we presented will be of interest, in a few years, when our future colleagues will wonder how this strange period in journalism schools unfolded.

We have articulated from the various talks to tell the story of those 18 months, what they changed in journalism school, and also what it changed in us among ourselves. And if, each time, it is a particular school that spoke, it was on behalf of all of us, because we have encountered the same situation in our 14 programs, we have shared the same moments of doubt and hope, the same difficulties, and we have realized, even more than



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usual, why our institutions were so special in the French higher education landscape, and why we were so attached to the specificity of our programs.

**Discussion outcomes/recommendations**

**Constantly share your best practices:** during the pandemic, the French journalism met weekly via Zoom. It was a key factor of success

**Be agile and adapt constantly:** facing difficulty, use the input of the faculty and the student to adapt the teaching methods.

**Adapt your evaluation methods and learn from it:** academic evaluation and professional skill evaluation should be different after the pandemic, benefiting from the innovations of the pandemic period.

**Train the trainers to deal with student mental health issues:** The situations that had to be dealt with in an emergency will leave their mark for years to come. We must learn to detect them and then refer them to the appropriate specialists.

**Do not underestimate the weight of the higher education administration and trusteeship:** maintaining the opportunity to attend as many practical classes as possible and to go out into the field is a priority that must be negotiated relentlessly.

**Maintain a constant link with media companies:** adapting the conditions of internships and dialoguing with HR managers and editorial managers is essential to maintain a quality professional insertion.

**Promotional/Visibility Actions**

Press announcements

Promotion on social networks

Mailing list of the 14<sup>th</sup> Main French Journalism Schools

The session was recorded and broadcasted live

Announcements on the web site of the National Journalism Forum

Program Leaflets (print promotion)

**Further comments**

Encouraged by the public present, who underlined the interest of these round tables, we envisage the publication of a book which would include the contributions of the day.