



Science is free

Free basic science is a prerequisite of all further research and technology.

It is already a kind of democratic process in itself, but restricted to the scientific community.

Science debates may introduce some more transparency into this process and thus build bridges of understanding and insight in order to gain literacy – something that is rewarding in itself



Technology and Innovation are not free – Money comes in, Business, Profits, Jobs

Rationality and logic meets „religion“ of growth

A conflictual situation for lots of debates, which
make sense only before the pipe is laid out

Even more conflictual:
Can technology solve the problems
which it created?



Traditional Science Debate

End-of-Pipe Debates

Pipes are layed out =
science agenda set

..., *energy, GMO, brain research, ...*

Citizens are allowed to comment
and (sometimes)
asked to provide Ideas

Goal:

Confidence, Acceptance, Knowledge

Agenda will not change



EUSJA

European Union of Science Journalists' Associations
www.eusja.org

TELI

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Our Science Debate

Start-of-Pipe Debates

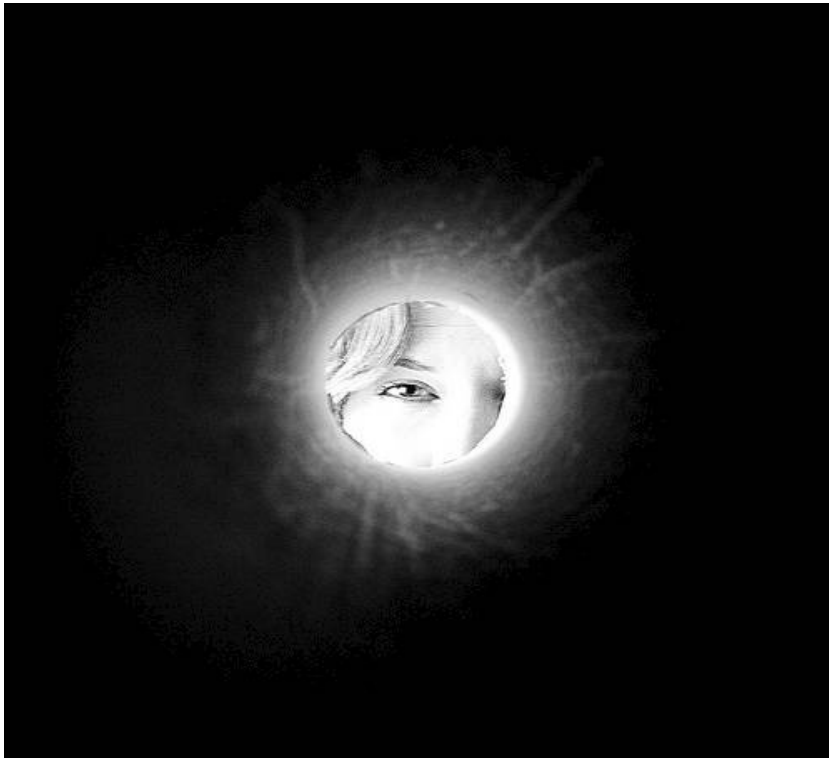
Pipes are not layed out yet =
science agenda still open

*Same issues, but in addition:
Society's issues, people's concrete problems,
life's meaning*

Citizens are involved, they are heard,
their ideas have a chance to be
realised

Goal:
Literacy, making informed decisions

Agenda may change





How to debate? – Internet-Blog

Starting with an inspiring article, promoting it throughout the social and traditional media

Asking actively for replies to speed the debate

Letting the debate run for a while

Summarising the debate, making final additions, promoting it, producing a nice story out of it for publication or for inspiring the media



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European Science Debate

People should be put into the position to ask!
(Democracy)

Scientists: What information do they need?
(BSE, asbestos have been considered as „anecdotal events“,
ESF: Science needs more input from society)

Politicians: What do they need for a better
understanding?
(What do they need for not always hiding behind experts and
delegating responsibility?)

Citizens: What do they want to know? Is there a
solution to their problems? “Who am I?”



Closing the gap

Bringing journalism back to its democratic function

Why Science Journalists?

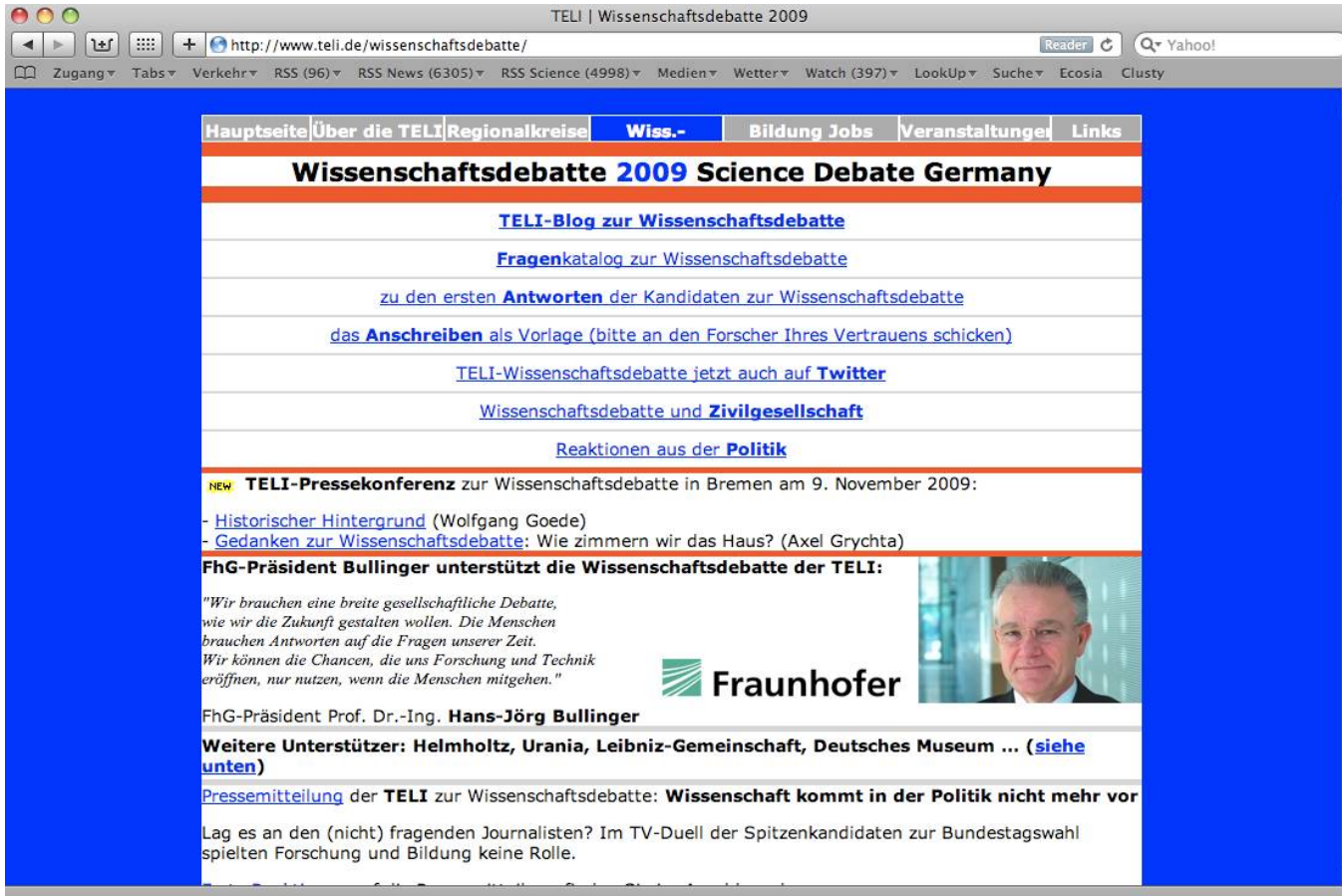
They are used to

- researching, interviewing
- writing, producing
 - publishing
 - interacting
- having some insight in science
- keeping the distance of an observer

They try to be as impartial as possible

Why EUSJA?

26 members associations in 24 countries



Quotes and support from the mayor
German science organisations
(However, no funding – everything is done pro bono)



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duz

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ZEITUNG ONLINE

natur+kosmos

P.M.
BLOG
SPHÄRE

BerliNews®

And as we are journalists, it was naturally, that very soon the media became inspired by the debate.

Suddenly we had stories, and we wrote stories.



And then we had this on 17th September 2009:

TELI - Wissenschaftsjournalismus und die Wissenschaftsdebatte 2010

Was uns bewegt (oder bewegen sollte)

« Nicht nur im Kanzlerduell: Wissenschaft kein Thema in Partei-
Wortwolken

~~Piraten: Kostenloser Zugang zu Forschungsergebnissen! »~~

Wissenschaft kommt in der Politik nicht mehr vor

Wissenschaft, Forschung und Technologie werden offenbar in der
nächsten Legislaturperiode keine große Rolle spielen. Deshalb ist
eine Wissenschaftsdebatte nötig.

Science does not exist in politics any more

During the TV duel of the candidates before the German elections in
2009 science was not a topic at all.

And we made a big story including all the comments and opinions
which reached our debate during the pre-election times