Georgia and Media, Second wave at "Maison" soon

May 2025

"Supra for Stories", Maison du MédiaLab monthly event with MEP Rasa Juknevičienė, MEP Tobias Cremer, Promote Georgia Team, Christophe Leclercq and Europe MédiaLab team, May 2025.

Dear friends in the European media community,

In May:
- The Maison du MédiaLab hosted an **evening on Georgia's media landscape**.
- We now look ahead to welcoming **six new journalists** to our programme
- We launch the **Correspondent Continuity Fund** to support those working under pressure.

Discover more in this newsletter:
- Monthly event: "*Supra for Stories*": *A Georgian Evening of Culture & Resilience*
- The launch of the *Correspondent Continuity Fund*, to support journalists under pressure.
- Get to know the new wave of Eastern journalists coming to the Maison du MédiaLab.
- Latest events Europe MédiaLab attended.
- Journalists Updates.

Warm regards,

Europe MédiaLab Team

Christophe Leclercq
Chair, Europe MédiaLab
+32 497 46 89 38
fondateur@europemedialab.eu

Thierry Leroy
Secretary General
+32 2 615 06 53
secgen@europemedialab.eu

Sharon Leclercq-Spooner
Co-initiator Maison du MédiaLab
+32 (0) 497 55 01 34
coinitiator@europemedialab.eu

Aliaksandr Babiy
Programme coordinator
+32 (0) 2 615 06 57
stars4media@europemedialab.eu

Mélie Carcenac
Communication manager
+32 (0) 2 615 06 57
communication@europemedialab.eu

And residents,

Tetyana Vysotska
European Pravda, Espreso TV

Valeriia Pashko
Suspilne Public Broadcaster

Iulia Sarivan
Jurnal TV, and Deutsche Welle

Elena Zagnat
Agora.md

Vazha Tavberidze
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Beka Beriashvili
Interpressnews, Palitra News

If you would like further details about our activities, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Stay connected with us on LinkedIn: Europe MédiaLab (Stars4Media) and Christophe Leclercq.

Monthly event:
"Supra for Stories": A Georgian Evening of Culture & Resilience

On 14 May 2025 in Brussels, Europe MediaLab and Promote Georgia organised a cultural evening centred on Georgia. MEPs Rasa Juknevičienė and Tobias Cremer led an open discussion addressing the challenges facing journalists and media in Georgia, underlining the essential role of a free press in defending democracy. Joining live from Tbilisi, Beka Beriashvili offered an insight into the mission of the Maison du MediaLab and the resilience of Georgian media under pressure, reinforcing the importance of collaboration and support for media independence. Guests were treated to an authentic Georgian culinary experience by Chez Maté, who served khachapuri, spinach and aubergine fritters on *mchadi*, and sweet *gozinaki*, while also hosting a hands-on khachapuri workshop that embodied the warmth of Georgian hospitality.

MEPs cooking during "Chez Maté" workshop.

Fresh off the press - Continuity fund a launch: help for "Maison"

Journalists in East Europe are under mounting pressure, now intensified by the suspension of USAID funding and the likely closure of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL).

In response, Europe Médialab is launching the *Maison du MédiaLab Correspondent Continuity Fund* to support journalists. This initiative aims **to ensure that Eastern journalists can come and stay in Brussels**, continuing their vital reporting for their home countries.

How can you help? You can **subscribe** (€1,000 or €500 per year to support a correspondent's salary, easy to set up annually with an opt-out anytime), **share** this on LinkedIn or your socials with a colleague, and **refer** potential subscribers or donors.

We invite all supporters of press freedom to join us in this urgent effort.
Contact: secgen@europemedialab.eu

Second wave of Eastern journalists are about to come to Maison du MédiaLab- Get to know their media!

Last month, Maison du MédiaLab programme's selection committee, made of Europe MédiaLab along with the EFJ (European Federation of Journalists) and API-IPA (International Press Association), selected six new journalists from Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. Armenian correspondents have also been selected, they await funding.

Meanwhile, the rest of residents of the first wave prepare to continue in Brussels as permanent correspondents, now staying outside the Maison.

Here is a brief presentation of the media selected: gain 2 Ukrainians, 2 Moldovans and 2 Georgians.

Luka Khachidze
Formula News

Formula News is a Georgian television network known for its critical stance towards the ruling Georgian Dream party, offering news, political commentary, and entertainment programming.

Olha Kyrylova
Telegraf UA

Telegraf UA is a Ukrainian socio-political online publication established in 2012, providing comprehensive coverage of national and international news, including politics, economy, and culture.

Luminita Toma
Teleradio Moldova

Teleradio-Moldova is the national public broadcaster of Moldova, offering multilingual television and radio services with a focus on balanced and inclusive journalism.

Zaza Abashidze
Civil.ge / RealPolitika

Civil.ge, founded in 2001, is a Tbilisi-based trilingual platform offering independent coverage of Georgian affairs.
RealPolitika, launched in 2021, is a multimedia outlet tackling global politics and disinformation through contextual analysis in which Zaza Abashidze is the Editor-In-Chief.
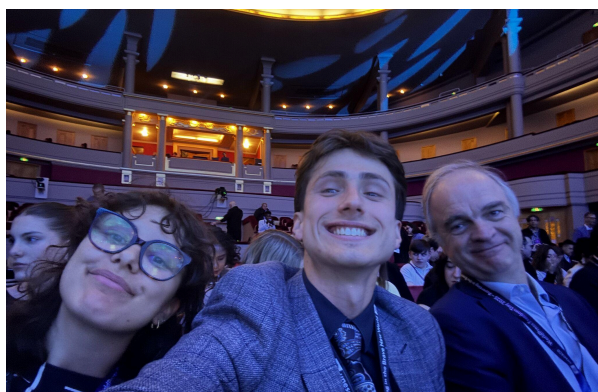
Milana Holovan
Liga.net

LIGA.net is a leading Ukrainian online media platform, providing independent news and analysis on politics, business, technology, and society, with a strong commitment to journalistic standards.

Felicia Ganev
Ziarul de Garda

Ziarul de Gardă is Moldova's leading investigative newspaper, renowned for exposing corruption and human rights violations since its founding in 2004.

World Press Freedom Day

In May, Europe MédiaLab team had the opportunity to join UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day. This year, the conference focused on **"Reporting in the Brave New World: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media."** It highlighted how AI is transforming journalism—offering benefits such as improved content creation and access to information, while also posing risks. Europe MédiaLab met with several stakeholders, advocating for safeguard freedom of expression, and foster inclusive, informed, and democratic digital societies.

Europe Dialogues House European History

Europe MédiaLab had the opportunity to attend the Europe Dialogues at the House of European History on 22–23 May 2025. Organised by the French Embassy in Belgium, the French Permanent Representation to the EU, and the Institut Français, the event brought together young European citizens, experts, academics, and policymakers to explore youth aspirations and the future of the European project. Held across two key venues—the House of European History and Bozar—it featured three panel discussions focused on European memory policies, European symbols, and youth engagement in times of war. Inga Yakymenko, founder of the Ukrainian Cultural Space and a partner of Europe MédiaLab, participated as a speaker in the roundtable "European memory policies: which way forward?" She gave a poignant testimony on the civilian and military victims of the war and on the need for justice based on many statements collected from the people affected.

Journalists updates

Tetyana Vysotska
European Pravda (Ukraine)

Iulia Sarivan
Jurnal TV (Moldova)

In May, Tetyana focused on Ukraine's integration with the EU and NATO. She reported on the creation of the EU–Ukraine defence task force and a €900 million EU support package for Ukraine's defence, funded by frozen Russian assets. Trade continuity was addressed through new transitional measures. Her key article explored the [EU's "Plan B" for Ukraine's accession](EU's "Plan B")—enabling deeper integration without full membership—highlighting Brussels' determination to keep Ukraine closely aligned despite potential delays. Tetyana also covered strong backing from EU and NATO leaders for Ukraine's long-term security and membership aspirations.

In May, Iulia focused on EU policies in relation to the Black Sea region, Moldova, and Hungary. She reported on the European Commission's new strategy for the Black Sea, which aims to bolster regional security and cooperation with partners including Moldova and Ukraine. In Brussels, she covered a key hearing on Hungary's controversial transparency law, highlighting the risk of sanctions under Article 7. Iulia also reported on growing momentum for Moldova's EU accession, with Commissioner Marta Kos expressing optimism about opening key negotiation clusters. Her coverage underscored the EU's broader efforts to strengthen ties with Eastern partners amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

Elena Zagnat
Agora.md (Moldova)

Valeriia Pashko
Suspilne Media (Ukraine)

Vazha Tavberidze
Radio Free Europe/ Georgia Today

Now reporting from Tbilisi due to RFE issues and visa questions

Beka Beriashvili
Interpressnews/ Palitra News

Now reporting from Tbilisi due to media revenues and visa questions