Who tells the science stories in Spain? A survey among the members of associations of science communicators

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What is your educational training?

Half of the science communicators have studied scientific-technical degrees

- Scientific-technical degrees: 51%
- Journalism and communication: 32%
- Others: 17%

BASE: 317

Universo: The total number of members of different associations is 1,489. Total communicators associated with AECC: 329

Sample error: 317 journalists surveyed: (with a confidence level of 95.5% (two Sigmamas), and P = Q) would be: ± 4.99%. The margins of error are sufficient for the general data of the simple frequencies to be representative and reliable over the total universe of associated journalists.


Methodology: The online study was carried out during May 2017. The questionnaire had 29 questions about the professional activity of science communicators in Spain. The survey was sent to a universe of 1,489 associates, and it was answered by 317 (self-selected sample).

Results: Among the main results of the survey, we can highlight that: more than half of the science communicators (56%) live in two autonomous communities: Catalonia (29%) and Madrid (26.8%). Added to those living in Galicia (19.6%), they represent 75%. Three-quarters of all the science communicators in Spain develop their professional activity in these three autonomous regions. When we look at gender division, 55% are men and 45%, women. The average age of all respondents is 44. The 46.88%, are men, and 40.57%, women.

Regarding academic training, 29.7% are graduates; 33.4% are postgraduates, and 29.7% are doctors. 41% of the respondents have studied a degree in mathematics, physics, chemistry or biology; 27%, journalism or communication; and the main areas in which they developed their profession are: journalism (33.60%), digital communication (30.20%) and organization of outreach activities (22.10%).

Conclusions: The profile of the member of a science communication association in Spain is a male in his 40s, living in Barcelona, who has studied a scientific degree, and works as a science journalist.

Social Sciences, Policies, Behavior and Education (Journalism) 29.3%

- Biology 15.5%
- Maths and physics 12.6%
- Chemistry 9.5%
- Others 9.1%
- Biomedical sciences 6.0%
- Engineering and Architecture 5.7%
- Philosophy, Philology and Linguistics 2.8%
- Social Sciences, Policies, Behavior and Education (Audiosvisual Communication) 2.5%
- Natural Sciences 2.2%
- Law and Jurisprudence 1.6%
- Economic and Business 1.3%
- Social Sciences, Policies, Behavior and Education (Other) 0.9%
- History, Geography and Arts 0.9%

How have you been trained to communicate science?

- I have learned the trade by working on it in a professional manner 35%
- My initial training is in communication / journalism 32%
- I have received general training in journalism/communication 34.7%
- My initial training is scientific-technical 51%
- I have received specialized training in journalism/science communication 72.3%
- I have not been trained to practice professionally 0%

BASE: 317

Men 52% Women 47%

Average age 44 years old

Professional field:

- 66% Digital communication
- 62% Popularization
- 53% Journalism

Communicate science:

- 83% by social networks
- 79% by articles

Demand training in:

- 46% popularizing science
- 45% new tools in journalism
- 33% digital narratives

42% employed workers

- 29% freelance
- 46% 40-49 hours per week
- 18% receive between € 18,000- € 25,000 per year

Half earn more than € 24,000 per year

87% Twitter
86% Facebook

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