

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



COM:LAB A CONVERSATION BETWEEN SCIENCE AND THE MEDIA

#10: Living Longer, Living Better – Sustainable Innovation in Healthcare, Environmental Research and Technology

4 – 6 September 2025, Berlin

The dream, as old as mankind itself: a long and healthy life. New AI-based medical technologies, drugs, and diets could soon make it a reality. However, the desire for longevity and the need for more sustainable living conditions are not only a question of innovation but also hinge on access to resources and knowledge. That also includes social and ethical issues – from equity in healthcare to the protection of our environments and pathways in policy action. Local systems must adapt to meet the needs of their populations, and those strategies have to be embedded in a global context as sustainable (healthy) living is no longer a national issue.

ComLab#10 provides a platform to explore new research in healthcare and medicine, food, urban planning, social sciences, agriculture, and AI – all with the goal of building sustainable livelihoods. What will a healthy life look like in the future? What are the ideas that could really drive change? How can science and the media work together to find solutions in and for our interconnected world?

We invite researchers and journalists of all fields with a keen interest in sustainable innovation to apply.

PROGRAMME

Twenty researchers, twenty journalists, three days in Berlin:

Comlab#10 is not merely a conference. It is a bootcamp for science communication and journalism that guarantees a safe environment for collaboration. As tandem teams, journalists and researchers develop stories that make a difference.

In keynotes, networking rounds, group work, training sessions and a final pitching slam, ComLab#10 focuses on research trends fostering sustainable livelihoods and novel ways to communicate longevity for all.

Collaboration is key:

- Learn how to communicate research in a clear and engaging way.
- Immerse yourself in small cross-disciplinary teams and craft a compelling story proposal together with peers from science.
- Get support from media experts and international editors.
- Gain deeper insights into the intricacies of science journalism and communication.

Pitch your projects:

ComLab#10 is a launching pad for collaborative projects at the intersection of science and media. The top four project ideas, recognised by both an international jury and your peers, will not only receive accolades but also financial support of up to 2,000 Euros to turn their ideas into media products.

REQUIREMENTS

Participation is open to twenty journalists from the IJP network and beyond.

While experience in science reporting is an asset, it is not a prerequisite. We welcome applications from journalists whose past or current work relates to the topic of ComLab#10.

The event will be held **in English**.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL COSTS

Room and board are covered by the organisers. Participants will work and stay in central Berlin.

We encourage applications from all over the world. A travel allowance of up to 150 Euros is available for participants not currently living in Berlin. Please keep in mind that the amount of the travel allowance is non-negotiable. Journalists based in Berlin are also welcome to apply.

EXPECTATIONS

- Strong commitment to take part in **all three days of the conference (start Thursday early afternoon until Saturday after lunch)** in Berlin
- Participation in **a mandatory three-hour virtual kick-off event on 22 August 2025** in the afternoon
- Strong motivation to engage with an international community of journalists and researchers
- Active participation in discussions, interactive training workshops and creative collaboration in journalist-scientist groups
- Commitment to create a compelling piece of science communication together with your team partner

HOW TO APPLY

- **CV in English** (PDF), two pages max.
- **Motivation letter** of 500 words max. (PDF)
- **Application video** (via WeTransfer, <https://wetransfer.com>), one minute max., which gives us a clear initial understanding of why you want to participate in ComLab#10 and which focal point (healthcare, medicine, food, environmental studies, urban planning etc.) interests you most and why
- Please refer to the video guidelines for more content-related and technical details
- All documents should be submitted in **ONE e-mail** to comlab@ijp.org.
Subject line: **Application ComLab#10 – [Your Name]**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 16 May 2025

For more information on the Communication Lab please visit our websites:

<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/humboldt-communication-lab>

<https://ijp.org/en/projects/comlab-10/>

