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# Table of Contents

Plenary Sessions	2
Special Sessions	3
Audience and Reception Studies	9
Children, Youth and Media	54
Communication and Democracy	98
Communication History	164
Communication Law and Policy	186
Crisis Communication	209
Diaspora, Migration and the Media	236
Digital Culture and Communication	260
Digital Games Research	316
Film Studies	332
Gender, Sexuality and Communication	343
Health Communication	382
International and Intercultural Communication	414
Interpersonal Communication and Social Interaction	429
Journalism Studies	451
Media Industries and Cultural Production	559
Media, Cities and Space	582
Mediatization	594
Organisational and Strategic Communication	609
Philosophy of Communication	633
Political Communication	646
Radio and Sound	738
Science and Environment Communication	749
Television Studies	795
Visual Cultures	811
Affect, Emotion and Media (TWG)	826
Aging and Communication (TWG)	829
Communication and Sport (TWG)	832
Ethics of Mediated Suffering (TWG)	840
Media Literacies and Communication Competencies (TWG)	846
Central and East-European Network	850
Women's Network	853
Authors' index	855

journalism has a long tradition in Europe and especially Latin America: collaboration addresses the weakness of small newsrooms and increases their visibility and protection (Mesquita, 2023; Alfter, 2019; Heft, 2021; Deméneck, 2016). Wikileaks initiative led to the uncovering of the Afgan files, followed by the War logs and Cablegate cases -with participation of *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, *El País* and *Der Spiegel*. Projects such as Farm subsidies, Forbidden Stories, EU4J, EDJNet or The Daphne Project (Hindman & Thomas, 2013; Becket, 2011; Alfter, 2019; Konow-Lund, 2022). Collaboration has also produced outstanding results in solutions journalism and digital storytelling within the US (Porter & Shapiro, 2022). Our paper aims to deepen the knowledge of European collaborative practices: in spite of an outstanding development and popular awareness of collaboration practices, the scientific community has yet to give an answer to relevant questions such as RQ1 was: What were the drivers of collaboration in the European news landscape? RQ2 What obstacles need to be surmounted to strengthen collaboration in today's European news ecosystem? In order provide the answers, 20 interviews were carried out from June to September 2023 with leading partners and members of collaborative European consortia "Cross-Border Local", "Stars4media NEWS", "Pix.T for News & Photojournalism", "The Circle", "European excellence exchange in journalism (E3J)", "CIJ12" "Collaborative journalism Europe in a global context", "European Focus" and "Media Innovation Europe" as well as initiatives IJ4EU, European Data Journalism Network and Crossborder Journalism Campus Erasmus+. Findings pointed to the challenging environment of the news sector and the globalization brought about by the new European sphere as two of the main reasons for collaboration and financial resources, networks and training -mainly consultancy- as the means to reinforce it.

## JOS08 News reporting I

### PP 0124 News coverage of euthanasia in Portugal and United Kingdom: A comparative study of public issues and argument structures between 2016 and 2024

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As artefacts of mediation, economic activity, and social organisation, newspapers provide individuals with ways of experiencing the lives of others and seeing themselves represented (Deuze, 2014). It is up to journalistic publics to decide how intensely and in what ways they connect to the (hyper)mediation of the shared world (Pasquali et al., 2022). In the new social reality of public death in the media (Sumiala, 2022), the hegemonic values associated with suffering and the politics of mercy are summoned to public negotiations.

The desire for a change in the law to allow access to euthanasia has seen growing public acceptance. Polls carried out in Portugal (Coutinho, 2023) and the UK (Booth, 2023) revealed that 72.5% and 65% of citizens, respectively, are in favour of legalising euthanasia. The Portuguese context is particularly relevant in this regard, given the ongoing process of regulating euthanasia. In 2023, the euthanasia law was passed by confirmation to circumvent the fifth veto by the President of the Portuguese Republic (Lusa and SIC Notícias, 2023). The United Kingdom is still debating the decriminalisation of euthanasia (Booth, 2023).

Although previous studies have examined the issue of euthanasia in the news media, there are currently gaps in the literature that we have attempted to fill with this study. There is no specific focus on the Portuguese context and therefore no comparison with the British scenario, despite both countries having a history of public debate about euthanasia in the media. Furthermore, the existing studies on the British media are mostly from before 2011 and do not consider the evolution of public discussion over the last decade.

The aims of this study were to identify the similarities and differences that characterise the news coverage of euthanasia between 2016 and 2024 in Portugal and the United Kingdom; to analyse how newspapers frame the political, legal, religious, and medical dimensions of the public debate; and to compare the argumentative structures of these nations. To apply a longitudinal comparative statistical analysis, our sample includes journalistic texts published in the digital media of the newspapers Público, Expresso, The Guardian, and The Telegraph.

Quantitative content analysis (Krippendorff, 2019/1980) and argumentative discourse analysis (Hajer, 2006) are combined to obtain the observable patterns of the representations of euthanasia in the texts and to examine the associated argumentative structure. The variables in this study are as follows: (a) date; (b) country; (c) media; (d) author; (e) journalistic genre; (f) length; (g) theme; (h) geographical scope; (i) number of voices; (j) occupation of voices; (k) role played; (l) position adopted in relation to euthanasia; (m) arguments mobilised in favour of euthanasia; (n) arguments mobilised against euthanasia; (o) degree of manifestation of the argument; (p) origin of the argument; (q) level of the argument; (r) scale of evaluation in relation to the argument; (s) who evaluated the argument; (t) specific terminology used; (u) decoding and explanation of the terms; (v) presence of context or background information on the topic. This communication presents the results of this ongoing study.



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