



**UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
OPEN UNIVERSITY**

MASTER OF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

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**What journalistic frames are present in constructive news reports
on European migration?**

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Date of Submission

14 February 2019

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ABSTRACT

This research focused on constructive news frames used in reporting the EU migration of 2015. Three journalists who are well-known for using constructive journalism techniques in their work were interviewed to determine these frames. Cathrine Gyldensted, Ulrik Haagerup and Sean Dagan Wood discussed the elements that constitutes a Constructive Journalism story, the frames that were used in stories about European migration, whether constructive or not. Constructive frames were then summarized in HASH: History, Ability, Solution and Human story. The structure of the constructive news story focusing on European migration formed the WDIET method: What Now, Data, Impact, Empathy and Truth.

These frames and elements can help practicing journalists in their reports, whether these are about the European migration or any other phenomenon in society that includes mass movement of people, stereotypes and questions of heritage.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

This thesis focused on constructive news frames present in journalistic reporting about the European migration. The topic is important if we consider how big migration is, how it is currently affecting Europe and how long it is still going to continue as a natural phenomenon in human history.

I decided to focus my thesis on this topic because of my connection with the journalism field, my continued assumption that it can change societies and belief that if it does, it should do its work for progress and not for deterioration.

Journalism's role in shaping our society is beyond anyone's grasp. But just like what a wise man once said, "With great power comes great responsibility." Journalists should keep this in mind as they wield their pens. Especially in issues such as the European migration which can make or break our trust in humanity as we know it.

If journalists mirror society, which part of society is that exactly? And where is that reflection leading us to? By describing the frames that constitute a constructive report on European migration, I intend to supplement the current set of tools that good journalists use. As one of my interviewees mentioned, constructive journalism is not a genre but a new way of seeing things. Constructive journalism intends to give balance to the usual news reports that are negatively skewed, which drive readers away, disengaging them. How can journalism continue to play an important role in shaping society if there are not enough readers to influence?

Writing this thesis was a wonderful journey to both the known and the unknown. My interviews made me realize that journalism is truly a wonderful field

to work in. I learned new ways of reporting and re-learned journalism. I also realized how this study can be helpful in the practice of development communication giving practitioners a useful tool for structured effective communication.

They may benefit from this study as I did as this thesis changed me not only as a journalist and writer but as a person as well. I am much more aware now of how I frame what I write or what I say, much more aware of the power of words and have never been so solution-focused as now in all my life. When conducting interviews for work, I always add a future-oriented question. I even added the “what now” question in the events summary template which is part of our communication guidelines at work.

It is my hope that journalists, public relations professionals and communication specialists who will read this thesis will also think twice about how they frame their stories and take into account the potential of the future-oriented question. And that journalism schools worldwide will add constructive journalism and the power of framing into account when raising new journalists.#

Rationale And Background Of The Study

Migration news dominated European media in 2015. According to the United Nations, “worldwide displacement hit an all-time high in 2015, affecting more than 60 million people.” A little over a million of them arrived in Europe in 2015 by land and sea.

Images of full rubber boats crossing the Mediterranean, crowds rushing barbed-wire fences and crammed trains of Syrian refugees were the pictures of conflict.



The hopeless face of conflict.

At the other end of this struggle were faces of children in need of care, broken Greeks who lent a helping hand and Europeans of different colors, shapes and sizes who volunteered to ensure that the refugees who filled the rubber boats reached land safely.

In the middle of these two extremes were news reports that included both the negative and the positive sides of the issue citing possible solutions, trying to solve the largest mass migration of modern history. This middle ground is an emerging domain in journalism, a new awareness called constructive journalism.



The hopeful face of conflict.

Cathrine Gyldensted, an investigative journalist herself, conducted the first academic research on constructive journalism. She defined it as:

“Constructive journalism recognizes that faults, failure, and abuse exist in the world; however, it maintains that simultaneously there is always development, growth, and opportunity... Constructive journalism investigates opportunities, looks at dilemmas from all sides, and indicates remedies. It does not ignore the problems and it does not trivialize them; instead it focuses on how these problems can be solved.” (Gyldensted, 2011)

As opposed to just regular news reports which focused on conflict, constructive journalism focuses on solutions and puts a high price on journalism's role in society.

The UK-based Constructive Journalism Project defined constructive journalism as “rigorous, compelling reporting that includes positive and solution-focused elements in order to empower audiences and present a fuller picture of truth, while upholding journalism’s core functions and ethics.”

Constructive journalism has its roots in Denmark and is slowly flourishing in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States where it is also known as solutions journalism. This approach, or journalism genre as called by some, believes that only reporting the negative or the positive side of a story does not show the whole story. The part that shows solutions and possibilities is half of a story and must be told too. It is believed that by telling the whole story, the public is not only properly informed but more engaged and better armed to make informed decisions. Because of its redeeming factor, this kind of storytelling is apt for crisis reporting, crises such as the big EU migration of 2015.

This research focused on how constructive journalism framed the EU migration of 2015 and looked into the motivations of journalists who used constructive journalism in their work. What frames did they use when producing a constructive story about the EU migration? What considerations did they make to frame a story as such? Previous research has claimed that there were at least five factors that influenced journalists in framing an issue: social norms and values, organizational pressures and constraints, pressures of interest groups, journalistic routines, and ideological or political orientations of journalists (e.g., Shoemaker & Reese, 1996; Tuchman, 1978). Are these the same factors that journalists who practice constructive journalism consider in carrying out their work?

The communication angle of this research lies in the fact that it focused on journalism and used framing as the working theory.

News journalism dominates our daily lives. According to one philosopher, it is an “addiction of our daily lives that which we are not aware of” (Wijnberg, 2013). The news informs us of what is happening from the place where we live to other parts of the world. Beyond information, it communicates to us cultures, beliefs and traditions of other people which we do not know yet of or we might not ever know of personally. It is our window to the world (Tuchman, 1978). To help us make sense of that world, journalists de-constructs events by focusing on details (Johnson-Cartee, 2005). With the amount of information and diversity that we gather from the news, we are able to make better decisions, are able to understand the world beyond the capacity of our sight and the grasp of our hands.

What kind of information do we really get from the news and what kind of world does journalism show us? What does it show of the world in the middle of what probably is the fastest and largest human migration to date using the constructive journalism lens? By focusing on the details that they deem important in the framework that they are used to, did journalists miss other details that were as important? Any news consumer should know this and any journalist reporting on crises such as the European migration must understand that the reporting creates a reality for the audience.

This research aimed to bring to light two development issues: that of migration, specifically European migration as it happened and heightened in 2015, and the role of journalism in society, characterized by constructive journalism in this study.

Human migration is not a new phenomenon. According to the International Organization of Migration, it “is as old as human history. In fact, in some places on

our planet there are migrant routes that have been in continuous use for over 4,000 years.” Early humans left their place of origin for reasons of survival. Since they used to hunt for food, they would move to abundant places for sustenance and where the climate is pleasant. While the modern man still migrates to satisfy hunger, this hunger translates to more than better employment. Many people our age migrate just to live in a different environment for purposes of discovery and true interest about the world. Ease of travel made this thirst for this kind of knowledge ever more accessible.

However, a natural occurrence such as migration becomes a question of development whenever people leave their places of origin not because they want to but because they have to. Current data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees suggest that about 60 million people are displaced worldwide. This displacement is caused by armed conflict, generalized violence and natural disasters. Of the 60 million mentioned, 1,046,599 arrived in Europe by land and sea in 2015 alone.

Sudden migratory flows become an issue of development due to its unforeseen nature. Receiving countries are caught unprepared and while there are usually measures in place for resettlement, this does not prove enough because of the rapid acceleration of the numbers of people who need help.

This is what is currently happening to Europe. As migrant arrivals advanced in the summer of 2015, Europe did not know how to react. There were financial and spatial questions to consider and according to the media, not many European countries were actually welcoming of refugees.

Research Problem

Central to this thesis is news journalism’s role in the ongoing debate of the

European migrant crisis, or in constructive journalism fashion: the big EU migration. As public perception is important in any issue that grips society and news affects public perception, it is important for journalists to know and note that whatever news they produce about migrants, refugees and asylum seekers can drive the issue to finding a solution or further deepen the conflict. An emerging domain in journalism called constructive journalism in Europe and solutions journalism in the United States hopes to focus on solutions as opposed to conflict which has been the guiding light of journalists in their daily news gathering.

This thesis looked into examples of constructive journalism as it is applied on the issue of the European migration and answered the following questions –

Main research question:

What journalistic frames are present in constructive news reports on European migration?

Sub-questions:

1. How is constructive news on European migration structured?
2. How do constructive journalism practitioners generate these frames on European migration news?
3. What constructive journalistic frames are most present in constructive news reports on European migration?
4. What constructive journalistic frames are least present in constructive news reports on European migration?
5. What other constructive journalistic frames on European migration can be explored?

Objectives Of The Study

The topic for this study is the constructive news framing of European migration.

The objectives of this study were to find out:

1. how constructive news on European migration is structured,
2. how constructive journalism practitioners generate these frames on European migration news,
3. what constructive journalistic frames are most present in constructive news reports on European migration,
4. what constructive journalistic frames are least present in constructive news reports on European migration, and
5. what other constructive journalistic frames on European migration can be explored.

Significance Of The Study

The world is a big and complex place. To make sense of it, journalists help us understand the world of public affairs beyond our direct experience (Patterson, 2013). They help us fathom challenges that societies face. An example of a challenge is the unforeseen migration of more than a million people to Europe in 2015. It raised many questions regarding migrant settlement and resettlement, is presently causing division and remains unresolved.

This study is significant because of journalism's role in public service. In times of crises, there is more demand for trustworthy and balanced news. By exploring how constructive journalism is applied on the issue of European migration, I brought to light examples of balanced reporting that is solutions-based instead of conflict-based. These examples will help journalists better understand what

constructive journalism is.

As well, the identification of constructive journalistic frames present in European migration news will be beneficial for journalists as they will understand which issues to focus on when producing stories on migration or any other issue inundated with negativity and hate.

Discovering the considerations constructive journalists make when choosing these frames and their reasons behind it would strengthen a previous research made on what influences journalists in their choice of news frames (Tuchman, 1978). If additional considerations are detected, it will supplement said research.

Finally, being able to describe how constructive news on European migration is structured will make it easy for journalists to produce constructive stories. In deconstructing constructive news, journalists who would like to add a constructive layer in their reporting will learn how to construct their own, whether it be about the European migration or any crisis.

This study will help journalists better understand what constructive journalism is, how it is structured and why it is a good approach when applied to social issues perceived to be filled with conflicts such as that of the European migration. With the growing division amongst EU states on this issue, it is important to explore how journalism can play a more impactful role by using solutions-based frames. This study will benefit journalists, news consumers and the society as a whole.

Furthermore, this study is significant for the development communication practitioner who seeks a structure for communication materials. The knowledge

gathered in this research will make e.g. writing feature articles so much easier making the development communication practitioner more effective and agile.

Scope And Limitations Of The Study

Scope.

This study investigated constructive news framing of European migration. It explored how constructive journalism was applied on the issue of European migration, identified what journalistic frames were present in constructive news on European migration, discovered what considerations constructive journalists made when choosing these frames and why and described how constructive news on European migration was structured.

The scope of the study is constructive news framing as applied to the issue of European migration. This means that no other news frames were examined except for constructive news frames. Moreover, no other news event was considered besides European migration.

To achieve solid results for this study, it took the form of qualitative research using semistructured qualitative interviewing. The study population for this research were practitioners of constructive journalism located in Europe and involved with the production of news stories on the European migration using the constructive journalism approach. This population is chosen due to the location of circumstance (European migration) and the researcher.

Limitations.

To fulfil the needs of the scope of this study, data gathering was done through qualitative interviews with journalists who practiced constructive journalism and who were involved in the production of news stories on the

European migration.

In qualitative interviewing, the quality of data depends on the quality of the interviewer and interviewee, hence, rapport building; the skill of the interviewer in asking questions and the ability of the interviewees to express themselves openly are of primary importance. If the rapport between the interviewer and interviewee is unpleasant, there could be information neglected. If the interviewer is not skilled in conducting interviews, the research questions may not be answered properly. If the interviewee cannot express him/herself thoroughly, answers may be interpreted incorrectly. However, these limitations are at a minimum as the interviewer is an experienced journalist herself and is aware of rapport-building and proper preparation.

Another limitation is the time that qualitative interviewing takes. The interviewer had to make appointments that fit with the schedule of the interviewee and the school year when the study should be conducted and finished.

CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS

To stay true to the goal of this master's thesis of presenting answers to research questions, I would like to present my findings by answering the following:

Main research question:

What journalistic frames are present in constructive news reports on European migration?

Sub-questions:

1. How is constructive news on European migration structured?
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5. What other constructive journalistic frames on European migration can be explored?

What journalistic frames are present in constructive news reports on European migration?

The journalistic frames present in constructive news reports can be summarized into HASH – Human story, Ability, Solution and Historical:

HUMAN STORY – this frame touches on the fact that migrants are human beings, this frame delves heavily on empathy.

Sean Dagan Wood defined it as:

Framing things in a way where we are reminded that this is an issue involving human beings.

ABILITY – can also be called the resource frame where constructive news stories do not see migrants as victims but people with resources and try to answer the following questions:

- How can migrants strengthen the (destination) country's societal structure?
- How can they be a positive addition to our society?
- Do we see migrants as people who lost everything or people that bring skills or resources or inspiration or anything else?

As Cathrine Gyldensted put it,

expanding our view on these human beings, sources, is the first step... it's gonna inform and inspire the questions you ask, so the interviewing. Try to not see them as one big group. Try to make individual distinctions.

SOLUTION – this frame informs the 'what now' question that is characteristic of every constructive news story.

Cathrine Gyldensted explained it as,

This is reality, what do we do about it? What now? Be critical around it. Is it

easy? If it's not easy, what needs to be done to secure the success of migration and does it have anything to do with how one culture meets another?

HISTORICAL – this frame uses historical facts to put the situation into perspective. Stories on European migration using this frame will use a previous situation that is similar to the current situation.

Ulrik Haagerup made the perfect example of using this frame for a story on European migration shown on DR TV:

One story was during the big migration crisis or refugee crisis last fall, where everybody, including politicians were completely in panic over what to do about all these. We thought it was interesting to go down history to see if we can learn from this. We went to Senegal and did a story about a refugee crisis in 2006 which most people had forgotten about but in 2006, a lot, thousands of people from West Africa, went to the Canary Islands on small boats in order to get into Europe via Spain. We did the story of “how did they solve that crisis” and they did it where the Spanish government and the Senegalese government started cooperating. The Spanish government gave a lot of money to Senegal in order to prevent people from fleeing because there was development aid and they were helping in the villages so that's about money but it was also by the joint effort controlling the waters between the Canary Islands of the West African coast and Senegal. And actually, within about a year, they succeeded in stopping all immigrant routes from West Africa to Spain and Europe. Not to say that this is the way to cope with the present crisis but just to say, “we have in history experienced something that looks like this somewhere else and how did they solve it?” So in that way, we raise the quality of the public debate.

How is constructive news on European migration structured?

All interviewees argued that constructive news reports do not differ in the structure of regular news reports. Therefore, we can conclude that constructive news reports can also use the inverted pyramid style like a normal news report. It should answer all the Ws and Hs as in a normal news report as well.

The revealing factors in constructive news reports on European migration though can be summarized in the following characteristics (the WDIET method):

WHAT NOW – the additional W that adds to the usual Who, What, When, Where and Why questions of traditional journalism. It is a future-oriented way of asking questions with the idea of not only presenting what has happened but what we can do about it afterwards. The goal of this question is to facilitate debates to understand the topic better and co-create solutions.

Cathrine Gyldensted's idea on how to do it is:

The best way to do it is of course to start the conversation with the problem as we talked about but then move it to what lies ahead... Use data better and then facilitate a more future-oriented discussion and debate around it... What now? What kind of visions could we have for society in this situation? How can it be achieved? What steps should be taken? Will you do it? When will you do it? Those kinds of questions that drive the thinking and the answers to the future in a productive way.

Ulrik Haagerup is passionate about the idea that it is journalism's role to state the facts and facilitate debates:

Focus news journalism also about tomorrow... try to come up with a solution together, facilitate debates about what to do with it. Constructive news is

basically the idea that we have to take journalism back to journalism. Help people make up their own minds by providing facts.

See the world with both eyes and in doing so, we should see the good, we should definitely also see the bad and you can say, traditional news like breaking news as we see it today unfolding, will mainly try to answer the questions of what, where, when. Ask the what now question: It's saying, we are here but what do we do tomorrow? How do we cope with this? What have other people done? What are the best practices? We frame the answers by asking new questions.

DATA – The use of data in infographic form helps provide an overview of the story. Cathrine Gyldensted pointed to this as a strong ingredient for constructive news stories. She described it more extensively so:

In the data use of the coverage of the migrant crisis, there's a lot of constructivity to be gained. Back to the example of The Economist and then you came with the idea of putting it into an even bigger context. Why not give me an infographic about the level of education? What is the real picture here? Where are these people education-wise? What countries are they coming from? What is the context between them? So I get a more clear overview as a reader. The sincerity of the problem. Or the potential of the migrant so-called crisis. Use data better and then facilitate a more future-oriented discussion and debate around it.

Data puts things in perspective. Infographic, use big data on something to create a graphic or interactive overview of a story. So you click on that and you see the connections and you see the Dutch problem here, the Dutch situation here, European here, Global here. That way of storytelling has a lot of constructivity in it because it shows you connections, it shows that things are interacting with each other and it shows nuances and gives citizens better

information to act on something... The use of data in infographics is a very strong constructive element.

IMPACT – for a news story to be constructive, the journalist must think of the effect of his/her story on the general public. In this context, we call it 'impact'. A constructive journalist thinks about the impact he/she has on the reader.

Sean Dagan Wood described this perfectly:

Realizing the impact of journalism, the impact of framing and the power of story, how we use story to give meaning to our lives, to connect with others, understand our world and so we have to go beyond that idea where we are just reflecting back society in journalism because we're not.

We're fact-based, but because we use language, we can't escape the fact that language is not neutral so things are always framed and in creating stories, no one writes an entirely dry story that's purely a list of facts.

So inevitably there is framing, there are storylines, there are emotional picks and drops. They are a means of engaging people. And every choice we make in how we do that has an impact. An important thing is to just be aware of that because it's inescapable so I think, be aware of values... be aware that it has an impact so just be conscious of how you're doing it. That kind of self-awareness.

It's really about strengthening journalism, it's about taking the wonderful expertise, skills and potential of journalism and the valuable role of journalism in a democratic society and with bringing in more constructive journalism to strengthen its ability to serve that fundamental role in the purpose of democracy of still holding power to account, finding, reporting truth and by showing the full picture and empowering people.

EMPATHY – the Merriam-Webster dictionary describes empathy as “ the

feeling that you understand and share another person's experiences and emotions: the ability to share someone else's feelings." This is also true in constructive journalism when reporting about European migration. The empathy element gives life to the Human story frame.

Sean Dagan Wood made an example of this element as used in the said frame:

We're planning a story on our next issue and we're speaking to a number of refugees who have settled in London, talking to them about their experience of being a refugee and the way we frame it is we photograph them in the place where they first felt at home. So the story is built around that feeling of being at home again, which of course is a huge thing for them to have lost that and it is a big personal journey to get started where you feel at home again somewhere else.

We also ran a story a while ago about an initiative in Berlin where some young people just started offering their spare rooms to refugees and this scheme group and of course, it's not just about supporting the refugees but people with spare rooms. They really benefit as well. They make friends, they learn, it's cultural integration and they say it's a great thing

TRUE – Truth is one of the basic tenets of journalism. Journalists are obsessed in their search for the truth. Traditional journalism's truth however is negatively skewed while in constructive journalism, truth is balanced. Ulrik Haagerup described it perfectly as 'the best obtainable version of the truth':

Our job is to give people the best obtainable version of the truth. Try to see the world with both eyes and be accurate in and honest in what we try to do and we don't try to move society in a certain direction, we believe in the democracy, which is trying to help people to understand the world better but in doing so, we have to use not only one eye but both of them. Your job is to

help people make up their own minds by providing facts. By providing both sides of the story. And yes, you're right, there's no such thing as being objective, because, who can be that? But you can try. That's the core of journalism. That is to try. To give people the best obtainable version of the truth.

How do constructive journalism practitioners generate these frames on European migration news?

Constructive journalism practitioners generate constructive frames through the application of a constructive mindset. All interviewees challenged the fact that constructive journalism is a genre. Gyldensted, Haagerup and Wood all said that to engage in constructive reporting, one has to have the mindset for it.

According to Cathrine Gyldensted:

It's just journalism. It's not a genre but a mindset. It's the fundamental outlook on the world that you want to be more comprehensive. You want it to be more complete. It should be all on the overall fundamental thinking of the journalist.

Ulrik Haagerup called it an old-fashioned mindset:

It's a mindset. You can say that it's a very old-fashioned mindset. It is trying to take journalism back to where it belongs, which is to publishers.

Publishers publish their stories because they want to do good, they want to serve the community, they don't want to lead the community. They don't want to manipulate the community. They strongly believe that it's important that people make up their own minds. It takes time. It's about culture.

Sean Dagan Wood called the mindset a crucial thing and connected the idea with reflection:

The mindset's the crucial thing. The tools of journalism, they're not different from constructive journalism, it's really the core in how they're applied.

Rethink what it is to be a journalist and to come back to what's really driving why you want to be a journalist.

We want to inform people in a way that empowers them to use that information constructively whichever way they choose and leave people feeling informed and inspired and not left feeling cynical.

What constructive journalistic frames are most present in constructive news reports on European migration?

I have earlier listed down the following frames used in constructive news reports as:

- Human story
- Ability
- Solution
- Historical

Of these frames, only one is most present in constructive news reports: the 'ability frame'. All interviewees mentioned this and is best described by Cathrine Gyldensted as:

Do we see them as someone who's lost everything or someone that brings skills or resources or inspiration or anything else? So expanding our view on these human beings, sources, is the first step. And if you expand that, it's gonna inform and inspire the questions you ask, so the interviewing.

Since it is mostly used, it can also slowly turn to a negative frame when misused. Sean Dagan Wood called it the economic frame:

That's making certain values more important than others. It's all about the economy, that that means exchange is the best of one thing when actually it's about human beings. So I think it's important to not allow that to automatically be the framing... Because then the assumption there is that

refugees need to benefit the destination country and the economy.

What constructive journalistic frames are least present in constructive news reports on European migration?

Of all the interviewees, only Ulrik Haagerup referred to the Historical frame which is my basis for concluding that this is the least used constructive frame in European migration. He stated a story that was broadcast over DR TV which uses this frame:

One story was during the big migration crisis or refugee crisis last fall, where everybody, including politicians were completely in panic over what to do about all these. We thought it was interesting to go down history to see if we can learn from this. We went to Senegal and did a story about a refugee crisis in 2006 which most people had forgotten about but in 2006, a lot, thousands of people from West Africa, went to the Canary Islands on small boats in order to get into Europe via Spain. We did the story of “how did they solve that crisis” and they did it where the Spanish government and the Senegalese government started cooperating. The Spanish government gave a lot of money to Senegal in order to prevent people from fleeing because there was development aid and they were helping in the villages so that's about money but it was also by the joint effort controlling the waters between the Canary Islands of the West African coast and Senegal. And actually, within about a year, they succeeded in stopping all immigrant routes from West Africa to Spain and Europe. Not to say that this is the way to cope with the present crisis but just to say, “we have in history experienced something that looks like this somewhere else and how did they solve it?” So in that way, we raise the quality of the public debate.

What other constructive journalistic frames on European migration can be explored?

Of the four constructive frames, the Human story frame seems to be waiting to be explored.

Sean Dagan Wood explained the need for more human stories, There's a lot of underreported stories in terms of how migrants are integrating into society, what that journey means for their lives and third, people in the destination countries, in terms of their integrating, what they're bringing to their cultures of where they now live and to the economy and how that impacts people.

If we would have a more, a broader kind of framing of the issue, to really get the human stories out there as well and again challenge the assumptions around it that they kind of set the narratives that migration is generally dangerous by claim, to challenge that and to really keep it the core of the story, the human story which it should really be about.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSIONS

This research led to the following findings:

1. The journalistic frames found in constructive news framing of the European migration can be summarized in HASH: Human story, Ability, Solution and Historical.
2. The elements found in constructive news framing of the European migration which support its structure can be summarized in the WDIET method: WHAT NOW, DATA, IMPACT, EMPATHY, TRUE.
3. Constructive journalists generate these frames through a constructive mindset which is solution-focused and impact-oriented.
4. The constructive journalistic frame most present in constructive news reports is the 'ability frame'.
5. The constructive journalistic frame least present in constructive news reports is the 'historical frame'.
6. The other constructive journalistic frames that can be explored are the 'human story frame' and 'solution frame.'

Chapter 6: RECOMMENDATIONS

Journalists covering European migration and would like to learn how to use constructive journalism approaches can use the WDIET system in their stories. The following checklist can help them to produce not only constructive but impactful and interesting stories as well:

WHAT NOW

- Ask future-oriented questions: What now? What does it mean? How can we move forward?
- Take into account the importance of forward-looking debates. There are always different actors in a story and they might disagree on many things but they can also agree on a few things.

DATA

- Present facts using infographics to make it more understandable. Infographics allow readers to understand the issue better.
- Make sure that your story is fact-based, not opinion-based. Properly informed readers make informed choices.

IMPACT

- Think of the impact you are making while writing your story. What is your goal? Is it to create tension or to find a solution?
- Language is not neutral and has an effect on your readers. Would you use negative language or constructive language?

EMPATHY

- Migrants are human beings and are part of our common history. Take this into account when writing your story. Do not judge a group, treat them as individuals.

TRUE

- It is a journalist's job to present 'the best obtainable version of the truth' (Ulrik Haagerup, 2016) and to be able to do this, think full picture – does your story present all sides? All sides mean the negative, the positive and those in the middle. Everyone has a fair point to share. Make sure that your story carries all points.

*You have reached the end of the condensed version of the full research.
Interested in the full research? Please send a message to **chared@goodcomms.nl**.*