

## **Young Minds Annual Report 2018**

Young Minds is an EPS project launched in 2010 with the aim of bringing together students and early career researchers in Physics and foster the excellence among them by encouraging the creation of local groups called sections and ensuring the possibility to access an annual budget to carry on student-led activities falling in three main categories: outreach, networking and professional development.

Young Minds has now reached eight years of activity with 57 sections in 30 countries. Given these numbers, the focus of the program for 2018 has been to strengthen the links between the sections and between Young Minds and the EPS Divisions and Groups.

### ***Project Management and Action Committee***

In May 2018, the full Young Minds Action Committee, composed by EPS President Rudiger Voss, EPS Secretary General David Lee, Executive Committee member Sylvie Jacquemot, EPS Conference manager Ophelia Fornari, Eva Salvador Balaguer (Spain), Araceli Venegas Gomes (UK), Roberta Caruso (Italy), Enrique Sanchez Bautista (Spain), Giorgio Nocerino (UK) and Imran Khan (Germany), elected Roberta Caruso as the new chair of the project. In November 2018, the Action Committee selected two new members, Richard Zeltner (Germany) and Daryna Pesina (Ukraine), to replace the former chair Eva Salvador Balaguer (Spain) and Enrique Sanchez Bautista (Spain). The new members have been selected among Young Minds members proposing their candidatures in an open call.

To ensure proper communication with the sections several actions have been undertaken. Since last year, each Action Committee member is directly in charge of the communications with a certain number of sections. To this extent, it is important that Action Committee members have a solid experience in section management. The table below shows the distribution of the sections among the Action Committee members.

<b>Araceli Venegas Gomez</b>	<b>Imran Khan</b>	<b>Daryna Pesina</b>	<b>Richard Zeltner</b>	<b>Giorgio Nocerino</b>
SCOPE (UK)	Konstanz (D)	Kharkiv (UA)	Helsinki (FIN)	Trieste (IT)
Durham (UK)	Erlangen (D)	Kyiv (UA)	DTU (DK)	Catania (IT)
Imperial College London (UK)	OPG Wien (A)	ICMP Lviv (UA)	Swedish YM (S)	Cosenza (IT)
Queen Mary London (UK)	Delft (NL)	University of Warsaw (PL)	Lund (S)	Messina (IT)
Madrid (ES)	Leiden RINO (NL)	Warsaw WUT (PL)	Malmo (S)	Naples (IT)
ICFO (ES)	Antwerp (B)	Wroclaw WrUT (PL)	Riga (LV)	Rome (IT)
GOC-Castellon (ES)	Liege (B)	Minsk (BY)	Vilnius (LT)	Milan (IT)
Tenerife (ES)	EPFL Lausanne (CH)	Moscow Pedagogical State University (RUS)	Tours (F)	HUJI (IL)
USC Santiago (ES)	Zurich (CH)	ITMO St Petersburg (RUS)	SCOP Paris (F)	Cairo (ET)
Valladolid (ES)		Prague (CZ)	INFLPR - Bucharest (RO)	Bethlem (PS)
Aveiro (PT)		Zagreb (HR)	Budapest (HU)	Yerevan (ARM)
Beni Mellal (MA)		Skopje (MK)	Debrecen (HU)	Artsakh (ARM)

To ensure continuity when Action Committee members are replaced, a Customer Relationship Management platform has been introduced, while the document storage is currently done using standard cloud platforms. The Action Committee is working to find a comprehensive and affordable solution to manage the sections and all the related issues.

The Action Committee met in May 2018 in Prague, right before the Leadership Meeting, and in Trieste in November 2018, hosted by the local Young Minds section. During both meetings there were special feedback sessions with the sections, to discuss issues and strengths of the Young Minds project from their perspective.

Further, following the Leadership Meeting in Prague, the Action Committee started to develop a strategy to increase the visibility of the project as a whole and the sections and their activities in social media. As a first measure, a number of guidelines for the efficient presentation of the EPS YM Project were established and forwarded to the sections.

### **Section Development**

In 2018 the Young Minds project established 8 new sections, 3 of them in countries that were not represented in the project yet (Armenia, Macedonia, Israel), for a total of 57 sections in 30 countries. Each section is entitled to apply for a maximum of 1000€ for funding to support activities falling in at least one of the three categories: outreach, networking and professional development. There are two deadlines per year – January 15<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>. The table below summarizes the number of activity grant requests, the number of activity grants approved, the total amount of funding requested, and the total amount of funding granted for each deadline.

	<b>Requests</b>	<b>Approved with full amount</b>	<b>Approved with reduced amount</b>	<b>Total amount requested</b>	<b>Total amount granted</b>
<b>January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline</b>	41	26 (63%)	15 (36%)	18883.30	12105.00
<b>July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline</b>	32	18 (56%)	12 (37.5%)	13668.30	9738.00

The high activity approval rate can be attributed to the improved communication strategy between the Action Committee and the sections, including assistance during the grant application process.

Besides the Activity Grant, a new type of grant has been introduced. The Young Minds Conference Award (YMCA) replaces the previous IONS grant and it is specifically devoted to support conferences, workshops and schools where YM section members are part of the organizing committee. The YMCA will be open for applications from January 2019 on. As the establishment of a new grant is a major change in the funding system, the AC will carefully review the first applications for the YMCA and check whether modifications of the application guidelines and review criteria are required to meet the needs of the sections as well as the expectations of the Action Committee.

### **Young Minds and EPS**

The organization of Young Minds sessions during EPS sponsored and recognized conferences started in 2018 to increase the synergy between Young Minds and other EPS Divisions and Groups. The first session, devoted to outreach and career opportunities, was organized in March during Joint EPS CMD27-DPG Spring meeting in Berlin. After the presentation of the initiative during the Executive Committee meeting in London in November, other sessions are foreseen in 2019. Young Minds has been presented also during EPL Board meeting in Lyon in July.

Young Minds also regularly publishes on e-EPS, the online magazine of EPS.

The representative of Young Minds sitting in the Historic Sites Committee and in the Equal Opportunity Committee has changed. Currently, Araceli Venegas Gomez sits in the former and Giorgio Nocerino in the latter.

Young Minds was part of the EPS50 celebrations in Geneva in September, with an exhibit of posters collecting the activities from all sections in 2018, and contributions to the EPS50 photo-contest. Moreover, 10 Young Minds members supported the EPS staff in organizing the ceremony on-site and further attended the celebrations.

### ***7<sup>th</sup> Leadership Meeting***

Every year, one representative per section is invited to attend the Leadership Meeting, an event where they can present and discuss their section's activities. The 2018 Leadership Meeting was organized at the Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, by the local YM section. The meeting started with an overview of the project given by the Action Committee, followed by talks of the invited representatives outlining their section's activities. The local invited speakers were Dr. Jana Bielčíková and Prof. Igor Jex, while EPL Editor-in-chief Bart Van Tiggelen presented the journal and gave an overview of the current problems of the editorial world. The best activity award, sponsored by EPL, was awarded to the Kharkiv YM Section for their '2017 IEEE International Young Scientists Forum on Applied Physics and Engineering (YSF-2017)'. The second prize was awarded to Trieste YM Section for their 'Science concert'. Besides the Action Committee, the invited speakers and the local representatives, the meeting was attended by 31 section representatives and 13 local section members.