

## **Young Minds Annual Report 2019**

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 nine years of activity with 73 sections in 34 countries. For the first time this year, we established the criteria to declare a section as 'inactive'. As a result, we count 52 active sections in 28 countries. Given these numbers, the focus of the program for 2020 will be to find new ways to ensure active participation of existing YM sections. In 2019 we have undertaken several actions to strengthen the connection between the sections and the sections and EPS.

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

The full Young Minds Action Committee is composed by EPS President Petra Rudolf, EPS Secretary General David Lee, Executive Committee member Sylvie Jacquemot, EPS Conference manager Ophelia Fornari, Roberta Caruso (chair, Italy), Daryna Pesina (Ukraine), Araceli Venegas Gomes (UK), Richard Zeltner (Germany), Giorgio Nocerino (UK) and Imran Khan (Germany). In November 2019, R. Caruso and A. Venegas Gomez announced that they will leave their role as committee members in May 2020, after the celebrations for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of YM. The new YM chair will be elected in May 2020, while the new committee members have been selected in December with an open call for all the members of the YM network. The new committee members will be Hripsime Mkrytchan (Armenia) and Tanausu Hernandez (Spain).

The Action Committee met in May 2019 in Erlangen, right before the Leadership Meeting, and in Warsaw in October 2019, 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.

Following the discussion with section representatives in 2018, the YM Action Committee presented a proposal for reduced EPS membership fee for YM members. The EPS Executive Committee granted free membership for all undergraduate students that are part of the YM project and together with EPS headquarters, YM Action Committee introduced a new platform to manage YM membership and activities.

The Action Committee also drafted a Memorandum of Understanding with the Grupo de Estudiantes of the Royal Spanish Physical Society, in order to encourage the creation of new YM sections within the Grupo de Estudiantes and vicevers.

### ***Section Development***

In 2019 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>.

Starting from January 2019, the YM Action Committee introduced the Young Minds Conference Grant (YMCA), designed as a specific support for conferences or sessions organized by Young Minds sections. YM Conference Grants have been introduced to guarantee high visibility to EPS YM during large events involving the scientific community. The applicants are requested to guarantee a timeslot to present the YM project during the event, or alternatively to distribute YM promo material.

Each section can apply for a maximum of 1000€ for the YM Conference Grant and up to 1000€ for the regular Activity Grant. The tables below summarize 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.

2019	Requests	Approved with full amount	Approved with reduced amount	Total amount requested (€)	Total amount granted (€)
<b>January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline</b>	48	34 (71%)	11 (23%)	15789	12708
<b>July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline</b>	36	25 (70%)	9 (25%)	11955	10940

2019	Requests	Approved with full amount	Approved upon condition	Total amount requested (€)	Total amount granted (€)
<b>January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline</b>	3	1	1	3000	1000
<b>April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline</b>	3	2	1	2800	1800
<b>July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline</b>	5	3	2	4800	4050
<b>October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline</b>	1	-	-	1000	-

Sections are assisted during the grant submission process, and especially for the YM Conference Grant the Action Committee provides feedback and the possibility to resubmit the grant twice, in a sort of peer review process that helps both parties.

### ***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. This year, two sessions have been organized, one during the Condensed Matter Physics National Conference (CMPNC) of the Portuguese Physical Society (8-12 May 2019) in Portugal and the other during CLEO conference (23 – 27 June 2019) in Munich. The first, “Boost your career through public engagement!” has been organized by Roberta Caruso of the YM Action Committee, Joaquim Moreira from the EPS Condensed Matter Division and Margarida Ribeiro, president of the Aveiro YM Section. After the talk from Roberta Caruso on science communication techniques that can turn out useful for a career in science, there has been an extended Q&A time with attendees from all over Portugal. It is worth mentioning that the event led to the creation of two new sections in Portugal, Lisbon YM Section and Porto YM section. The other session, “Options after your PhD”, has been organized by Araceli Venegas-Gomez from the YM Action Committee and Chiara Trovatiello from Milan YM Section. In the form of a panel discussion, the attendees have been engaged in a discussion with six invited speakers coming from industry and academia, regarding their career choices and the processes that led them to their decision.

YM in collaboration with the Statistical and Non-Linear Physics Division has assigned three scholarships for YM members to attend the Statistical Physics of Complex Systems conference in Stockholm, 7-11 May 2019,

while in collaboration with the Quantum Electronics and Optics, the YM project has assigned 5 Student Travel Grants to attend the CLEO conference in Munich.

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.

Roberta Caruso, as chair of the YM project, attended the celebrations for the International Day of Light in Trieste, at SISSA institute, on May 15<sup>th</sup>, participating in a round table on the importance of student associations for young scientists, together with representatives from OSA, SPIE and IAPS.

### ***8<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 2019 Leadership Meeting was organized at the Max Planck Institute in Erlangen by the local YM section. The meeting started with an overview of the institute from MPL director Prof. Dr. Philip Russel, followed by an overview of the scientific highlights of the host institution. A large part of the meeting has been devoted to professional development, with two talks from industry representatives (Dr. Bettina Heim, OHB System and Dr. Michael Fortsch, Q.ant) and two perspective talks, one from Araceli Venegas Gomez, recipient of the first the Milton and Rosalind Chang Pivoting Fellowship from OSA Foundation and one from Prof. Dr. Petra Rudolf, EPS President. The second part of the meeting has been devoted to the project itself, with an overview of the current state of YM given by Roberta Caruso, followed by presentations of the activities by the section representatives. Besides the Action Committee, the invited speakers and the local representatives, the meeting was attended by 30 section representatives and 12 local section members.