

European Physical Society Young Minds (EPSYM) Action Committee Reporting on the year 2011

Since its start in 2010, the EPS Young Minds Project (<http://www.epsyoungminds.org/>) keeps expanding the reach of the European Physical Society amongst the new generation of physicists in Europe and around the world.

Two core objectives of the EPS Young Minds Project are to support self-organized student groups, and to create a network of pro-active young scientists within Europe. In the course of 2011, we were further able to establish 10 new sections from all over Europe and the world. Today, 18 sections in Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the Ukraine, Russia and the United States of America connect well over 200 young scientists. This constitutes a valuable pool of talent available to EPS member societies and divisions. Also, EPS Young Minds serves as a powerful tool to multiply the impact of activities organized by EPS and its member societies.

Early on in 2011, the first yearly Young Minds Leadership Meeting took place at CERN (Geneva, Switzerland). About 30 representatives from 10 local sections from 6 countries were drawn together and had the possibility of interacting with senior scientists, journal editors and industry leaders. It represented a great opportunity for career building and networking, and also spurred the growth of the EPSYM project.

Supported activities:

Apart from the EPSYM leadership meeting in Geneva and the European IONS conferences, the EPS Young Minds Project supported the following activities:

- EPSYM SCOPE Glasgow, UK: Outreach
- EPSYM ICONS Barcelona: Weekly seminar; International food festival; Social Friday; Questions and answers blog; Industry facility visits
- EPSYM Salamanca: Outreach
- EPSYM Messina: Visit to the Planetarium Pythagoras in Reggio Calabria
- EPSYM Naples: Young Minds in Jazz; Science and experiments for high school students
- EPSYM Rome: Open Day
- EPSYM Calabria: EPS Young Minds for Schools: Creation of a network of local secondary schools for sharing simple and nice Physics experiments; Open Day; Seminars; Visit to nearest YM section and nearest research lab
- EPSYM Catania: Renewable energies and energy storage; Nanomaterials for electronics and photonics
- EPSYM BSTU Moscow: Excursion to the Large Moscow Planetarium; Optics Day; GeoSystems
- EPSYM MPL Erlangen: Outreach

Projected activities:

For 2012, we plan to continue supporting high impact activities that raise awareness of physics in and support local communities. "Impact per euro" has always been one of the key factors in our evaluation of grant applications. In this way, our members learn to assess their own activities through their own cost benefit analysis.

Also, since the EPSYM Leadership Meeting was such a great success, we plan another meeting this year. Details remain to be decided.