

European Physical Society Young Minds (EPSYM) Action Committee Reporting on the year 2012

After three years, the EPS Young Minds Project (<http://www.epsyoungminds.org/>) has been connecting proactive students around the world amongst themselves and with the European Physical Society.

In science as in industry people are most effective if they not only have technical skills but also know how to lead teams and organize events and projects. For this reason, we have started to incentivize young scientists from all over Europe to form local student groups with pro-active peers. Young Minds sections typically energize their local communities by organizing seminars, by organizing educational activities for schools, and by inviting eminent scientists for talks and discussions. Furthermore, they connect to their national and international peers in order to exchange tricks and lessons learned while organizing activities, and to form a network of like-minded young scientists, which will support their future careers. Finally, since this great pool of talent and activity is created within the European Physical Society, it serves as a resource for recruiting enthusiastic people to National Societies, divisions, and groups.

Since the start of the EPS Young Minds Program, we have been connecting over 200 students and young scientists from over 20 Sections in Spain, Russia, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Scotland, Ukraine, Latvia, England, France, Switzerland, Turkey, and the USA. We support their activities with small activity grants for their activities. The main criteria for evaluating their grant applications are professional relevance and impact per Euro. Professional relevance means that we require all activities to either have a direct connection to scientific research, dissemination of science, or building a professional network. Impact per Euro is our catchphrase to emphasize the fact that we expect our members to work hard to maximize the effect that money spent has, and to focus on personal involvement and group efforts, rather than large budgets.

Supported activities 2012:

Our Young Minds Sections are extremely active and organized many scientific, networking, and outreach activities. Some highlights were:

- EPSYM Barcelona: Science workshops for Young Minds
- EPSYM Barcelona: Weekly Seminars
- EPSYM Barcelona: Facility visit
- EPSYM Barcelona: International food day
- EPSYM Calabria: EPS Young Minds for Schools
- EPSYM Calabria: Visit to nearest Young Minds Sections
- EPSYM Calabria: Seminars
- EPSYM Calabria: Essay for science divulgation

- EPSYM Catania: Transparent conductive materials and novel concepts for advanced solar cells
- EPSYM Erlangen: Seminars
- EPSYM Glasgow: Science week outreach
- EPSYM Glasgow: Company visit
- EPSYM Glasgow: Bilateral meeting with other student section
- EPSYM Galway: Inter-departmental tournament
- EPSYM Heidelberg: Meet your prof
- EPSYM Heidelberg: Excursion to DLR
- EPSYM Heidelberg: Bachelor thesis presentations
- EPSYM Heidelberg: Field trip to MPI for Nuclear Physics
- EPSYM Heidelberg: Visit of GSI Darmstadt
- EPSYM Lviv: Ising Lectures
- EPSYM Lviv: Satellite meeting of young participants at the Startphys 2012 conference.
- EPSYM Mainz: The stars close to Mainz
- EPSYM Mainz: Freshman activities
- EPSYM Mainz: Seminars
- EPSYM Maryland: Student Seminar Series
- EPSYM Maryland: Visit to NIST
- EPSYM Messina: Symposium on Nanophotonics
- EPSYM Moscow: Optical Fair
- EPSYM Moscow: Lectures at Orphan home
- EPSYM Naples: Physics on a sailing boat
- EPSYM Naples: Visit to Vesuvian Observatory
- EPSYM Naples: X-informatics: Facebook, SecondLife and scientific research
- EPSYM Naples: Physics for (very) young minds

Projected activities:

Following the great success of our 2011 leadership meeting, we are currently preparing the June 2013 leadership meeting in Mulhouse. The meeting will strengthen the ties amongst student leaders from all over Europe, and connect them with EPS and its member societies.

On top of this, we are continuing our support EPS Young Minds section activities via our grant schemes.

At present, we are in discussions with jDPG on how to best work together. In addition, we are having similar discussions with IAPS and the European Young Chemists' Network to establish ways of collaboration. We encourage anybody interested in supporting our next generation of physicists to work with us to create the strongest network for proactive young scientists in Europe and around the world.