

## **European Physical Society Young Minds (EPSYM) Action Committee Reporting on the year 2014**

The first aim of the YM project is to encourage and support professional skills of the next generations of physicist in Europe. The first tool that we identified in 2010, the year of launch of the project, was the creation of local student groups, called Sections.

YM Sections, once joined the project, direct their efforts a) to organize seminars, workshops and schools, b) to carry out educational activities for schools and in general outreach activities, c) to join and enrich the scientific community through the implementation of national and international network collaborations, between them, with the local communities and with other societies.

Nowadays, the project includes 400 young scientists from over 31 Sections in 15 countries: Spain, Italy, Russia, Ireland, Germany, United Kingdom, Ukraine, France, Switzerland, Turkey, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and USA. The YM project supports their activities with small activity grants for their activities. The main criteria for evaluating their grant applications are professional relevance, cultural outcome, visibility impact for EPS, and impact per Euro. Professional relevance means the activity potential to bring new skills to the Section members to improve their own professional development. Cultural outcome is ensured requiring all activities to either have a direct connection to scientific research, dissemination of science, or building a professional network. Visibility impact for EPS is required to obtain another goal of the project, which is to make EPS and the National Physical Societies better known among young people, who often do not know the benefits that these Societies reserve them. Finally 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, issue that a young scientist will always have to face in the world of scientific.

For 2014 the main goal was fixed to arrive at 30 Sections, starting from the 22 registered at the end of 2013. The focus, in the goals search, was also pointed on the need to involve more the national societies. Nowadays we have one section more of the fixed goal, 31.

A new process, approved from the action committee in October 2014, provides the identification of an YM National Coordinator in each country where the project is running. This new figure is responsible for the communication between EPS-YM and the National Society. We suggest finding him/her between the national YM members. Anyway, even a person suggested from the National Society is fine.

Another interesting data in the 2014 analysis is the opening to the East countries. This year Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland joined YM.

In the next paragraphs the key points of the project, had to face in 2013 are described.

### **YM Action Committee**

The YM Action Committee is composed from senior scientists, young scientists, and people from the EPS staff, for a total of 10 members.

The senior part is composed from John Dudley, EPS President, and Fülöp Zsolt, member of the ExCom. This year the project invited Christophe Rossel, as next EPS President, to join the committee. The EPS staff members ensure the best connection between the project and EPS: the Secretary General EPS, David Lee; and the Conference Manager assistant, Ophélie Fornari. The young scientists part this year was considerably increased. A part Antigone Marino (Italy) and Ulrike Ritzmann (Germany), three new members joined the group: Enriquer

Sanchez from the Barcelona YM Section (Spain), Eva Salvador Balaguer from the Catello de La Plana YM Section (Spain), and Bence Godo from the Debrecen YM Section (Hungary). The action committee met just one time in 2014, on October the 4<sup>th</sup>, in Belgrade just after the VI EPS Forum Physics and Society, in Serbia.

### **YM Granted Activities**

During 2014, the project funded 51 activities, submitted from 22 Sections: 40% outreach activities, 20% networking activities, 40% seminars.

For each year 2 dates, fixed for the 15<sup>th</sup> of January and the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, are set as deadlines for the grants request submission.

In 2014, only the 10% of the requests has been rejected, as not considered relevant in terms of the main criteria described above. The total budget for YM granted activities has been 15k€. A list of the granted activities and their outcomes are reported from the Section on the YM website.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> YM Leadership Meeting**

In June 2014, representatives of the EPS Young Minds sections were invited to present and discuss their activities at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Young Minds Leadership Meeting. These activities range from colloquia presenting research in physics to visits of local industry to a variety of activities sharing the fascination for physics with the public.

The meeting started with a general overview over the project and a series of talks presenting the activities of the sections. In line with these talks Prof. Pierre Lena, President of the well known association for physics outreach “La main à la Pâte”, gave an overview about “Science education: a challenge for the young scientists”. Prof. Bart Van Tiggelen from the EPJ Editorial Board followed with an introduction to “Publishing your research: why, how, where, who and what is behind”.

In the presentation of the various activities of the sections the highlights for most of the sections were outreach activities for the public and especially with children in the kindergarten or in primary school. For example the members of the Debrecen section shared their fascination for physics with pupils in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade with a series of simple experiments. This event, which will be continued during the next semester, also won the award for the best activity for the EPS Young Minds sections in 2014.

To widen network of young scientists in Europe additional collaborations were discussed, for example with the International Association of Physics Student. Also shared activities for the International Year of Light were discussed.

### **YM and EPS**

A couple of years ago YM was asked to integrate more in the EPS structure. Several decisions were taken from the YM AC to succeed in this goal.

The only action committee meeting we had this year was held in Belgrade, one day after the VI EPS Forum Physics and Society. All the YM AC members participated to the Forum. And after it, a couple of them decided to join the Forum Physics and Society committee.

Other two decisions were planted in 2014 and we will reap the rewards in 2015.

The former is collaboration with the EPS-QEOD division. For the International Year of Light, the Quantum Electronics and Optics Division and Young Minds Action Committee offer a limited number of travel grants for PhD Students who wish to attend CLEO®/Europe-EQEC 2015.

The latter is a collaboration with the Nuclear Physics Board of the EPS, aimed to organize a parallel session at the 2015 European Nuclear Physics Conference (EUNPC) where the young scientists can listen to talks about article writing, CV-managements, and job hunting.

### **YM and Collaborations**

All the collaborations set in 2013 are going on, in particular the one with the COST Target Network TN1301, *Next Generation of Young Scientist: Towards a Contemporary Spirit of R&I (Sci-GENERATION)*. Sci-GENERATION is a new COST initiative that aims at elaborating contemporary scientific thought and thereby disseminating a new Spirit of Research and Innovation in Europe. These aims will be developed through the creation of a bottom-up and pan-European platform for young outstanding European next generation researchers in order to share and transmit their visions on emergent research paths and research policy as well as their respective experience and ideas. In the Belgrade Action Committee meeting was decided to write a position paper on young scientist policies. This will be the first statement from YM, hopefully will be presented at EPS in spring 2015.

The collaboration with the International Association of Physics Students (IAPS) is getting stronger. YM was invited to give a talk at the International Conference for Physics Students (ICPS), held in Heidelberg in August 2014.