

## European Physical Society Young Minds (EPSYM) Action Committee Reporting on the year 2016

The 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.

In 2016 the YM growing trend continued. Nowadays, the project includes 400 young scientists from over 40 Sections in 22 countries: Spain, Italy, Russia, Germany, United Kingdom, Ukraine, France, Switzerland, Turkey, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Denmark, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, Austria, Belgium, Morocco, Finland and Egypt.

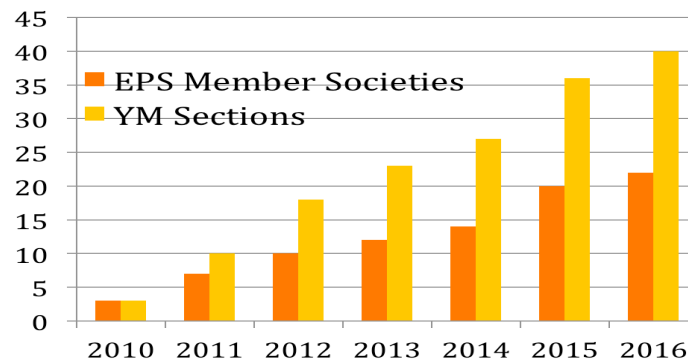


Figure 1 – YM growth from 2010 to 2016.

The YM project supports their activities with small grants. The main criteria for evaluating their activity grant applications are professional relevance, cultural outcome, visibility for EPS and impact per Euro. For the following years, apart of increasing the number of sections, the visibility of activities performed should increase. This can be done using socials, and sharing the most relevant content of each section. For that reason, on July a Facebook public page was created for Young Minds:

<https://www.facebook.com/EPSYM>

Since its creation the page has 190 likes and it has reached more than 1000 people with its publications. Moreover, in November it was linked with Twitter so everything is published in the two socials at the same time.

In the next paragraphs the key points the project had to face in 2016 are described.



Figure 2 – Number of likes of YM Facebook page.

## YM Granted Activities

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

During 2016, the project funded 67 activities, submitted from 29 Sections: 62% outreach activities, 28% professional development ones, and the 10% networking activities.

What worries up is that 10 sections did not apply for grants what can be due to last year their grants were rejected. A goal is to contact those sections and try to involve them again in the project. However, as the budget for Young Minds did not increase, many activities have to be rejected or accepted with less budget.

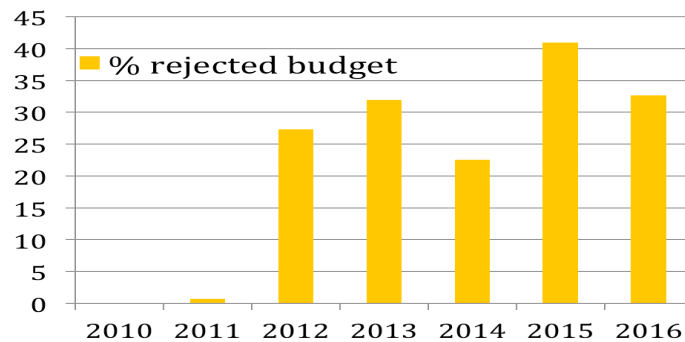


Figure 3 – Percentage of declined budget.

A list of the granted activities and their outcomes are reported on the YM website: <http://www.epsyoungminds.org/activities/>

## YM Action Committee

The YM Action Committee is composed from senior scientists, young scientists, and people from the EPS staff. This year has been a year of changes in the Action Committee.

The senior part is composed from Christophe Rossel, EPS President, and Fülöp Zsolt, member of the ExCom. This year, Sylvie Jacquemot joined the Action Committee as representative of the ExCom while Fülöp Zsolt left. Moreover, Rudiger Vos joined the Action Committee as the next EPS President. 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 also modified. Antigone Marino (Italy) left Young Minds so Eva Salvador took its place as the new chair. Ulrike Ritzmann (Germany), Enrique Sanchez (Spain), Bence Godo (Hungary), Roberta Caruso (Italy) and Jonas Berzinš (Lithuania) continue in the committee. Finally, Araceli Venegas (UK) joined at the end of the year.

The action committee met twice in 2016. On July 14<sup>th</sup> in Budapest (Hungary) during the 5<sup>th</sup> YM Meeting, and on October 28<sup>th</sup> in London (UK), just after the V Forum Physics and Society.

## 5<sup>th</sup> YM Leadership Meeting

The 5<sup>th</sup> Young Minds Meeting took place at the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) on 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in Budapest, Hungary.

The European Physical Society, in collaboration with the Roland Eötvös Physical Society (ELFT) and the Institute for Nuclear Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (ATOMKI), with the help of the Budapest and the Debrecen YM Section organized the annual YM meeting, aimed to bring together the representative of each YM Section.

As in previous editions, the meeting started with a general overview of the EPS YM project, its growing success and expansion over the past 6 years. After it, the Leadership Meeting started with the talk of Professor Imre Janosi (ELTE). Then there were two other invited speakers, Dr. István Rajta (Debrecen), and Dr. Csaba Böde (Morgan Stanley). Of course section presentations and posters were the central part of the meeting, and as a new activity this year it was short scientific talks modeled on the FameLab contest. The meeting culminated in the EPL Best YM Activity 2016 award assigned to the PONYS Naples Section (Italy) and the best scientific talk given to Araceli Venegas, from SCOPE (Glasgow).

As a new this year there was a workshop during which YM members asked their doubts and proposed new ideas for the future of Young Minds Project. One of their proposals was to be able to apply for the organization of the Leadership Meeting. For that reason, the next Leadership Meeting will be organized with the winner of the 4 applications received (Naples YM section) with some members of the Committee. This is also a way to involve more some sections with the YM project.

### **YM and EPS**

In 2016 YM was invited to join the Executive Committee Meeting on 30 September and 1 October in San Sebastian, Spain. During the meeting there was a talk about Young Minds project aims and challenges. It was highlighted the importance of strengthen collaborations and it was agreed to collaborate again with the Quantum Electronics and Optics Division (QEOD). As in 2015, there will be offered a limited number of travel grants for PhD Students who wish to attend CLEO@/Europe-EQEC 2016.

YM was also invited to the Europhysics letters Editorial Board Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> of October in Como, Italy. In this case, not only the YM project was presented but also the Section who won the best activity award was invited. Then, EPL committee could see the kind of activities organized by YM sections, as EPL is the sponsor of the award.

YM has also being co-working with EPS Equal Opportunities Committee (EOC) for the publication in e-EPS of short portraits of young women researchers in physics. Also, Enrique Sanchez from YM joined the EOC and Historic Sites Committees.

As usual, YM publishes regularly on e-EPS, but this year there have also been published three editorials from YM action committee members. Finally, in the August issue of EPN, YM project wrote an article about the YM project and its challenges.

### **YM and Collaborations**

During the second week of November 2016, the Young Minds project, in close cooperation with the associations Liter of light France, Migrations Co-developpement Alsace and the University of Beni Mellal, developed solar kits for being distributed in places where the normal usage of light is limited. This project was presented at the UN Climate Change Conference – COP22 held in Marrakech, Morocco from the 7<sup>th</sup> till 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2016, with a poster along all the duration of the conference, as well as a talk on 10<sup>th</sup> of November.