



# Letter to Members

*The Association in September and October 2006*

Welcome to another issue of the "Letters to Members". This issue contains information referring to the events and initiatives held in September and October.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Annual General Assembly (AGM)

The MCFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in Venice, Island San Servolo, October 21th. **The Assembly did not reach the quorum**, for which the participation of fifty members is required. In order to elect the new administrative board, an **Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)** will be organised.

**The EGM will take place in Toulouse (France) on December 16th. The venue will be announced in the next days.**

**::> see for more details** <http://www.mariecurie.org/index.php?frame2=/src/meet/ega/2006/>

The AGM was attended by 14 members and some 53 members submitted their votes online. Had the Assembly achieved quorum, eight out of nine candidates for the board would have been elected. For

**The call for applications to become a member of the administrative board is open again. Please post your application in the corresponding folder in the Discussion Forum, or contact us at [office@mariecurie.org](mailto:office@mariecurie.org).**

**The MCFA board is the main executive body of the Association. As a board member you will be able to collect new experiences and extend your skills, which may open you alternative career paths.**

more details about the voting results and the discussion accompanying the Assembly see the Discussion forum (<http://www.mariecurie.org/cgi-bin/discus/discus.cgi>).

A number of important issues were discussed during the Assembly, including



Photos: Alan Rival and Svetlana Baca

the MCFA activity report 2005/2006, changes to the Statutes of the Association, design of Marie Curie Actions under EC Framework Programme 7 (FP7), and the participation of the Association in the project MORE-AID for which the Association may acquire a subvention from the Commission.

## Activity report 2005/2006

The activity report is accessible from the member area. Here we include a short summary:

- In 2006 the Association was represented at a number of conferences and information events including Marie Curie Conference in Manchester (10-12 April) and Zagreb & Belgrade (7-11 October).
- Leaflets, posters and other PR material were produced and disseminated at major conferences and science policy events.
- The number of newly registered fellows exceeded one hundred.
- The Association participated at the three stakeholders meetings dedicated to the European Institute for Technology (EIT), and advised the establishment Erasmus Mundus Alumni (EMA) Association. A series of other meetings and conferences were attended by MCFA representatives.
- The board supported the establishment of a new COST scheme dedicated to young investigators. Unfortunately, the scheme was eventually not adopted.
- Internet facilities and online services were moved to new provider. A number of new IT services were developed over the year.
- The fourth edition of the Annals of the Marie Curie Fellows was released.
- Letters to the members, published monthly, summarised the recent developments in the Association. The MCFA Newsletter was re-launched.
- MCFA National Group Coordinators Workshop, attended by 15 coordinators, was organised in Munich, July 15. The meeting was attended also by George Bingen from the DG Research.
- A number of national and regional meetings were held in Manchester, Sheffield, London, Dublin, and Athens. Further meetings are planned in Bielefeld, and York.

## Changes to the statutes

The Marie Curie Actions (programme People) under the FP7 continues to evolve. A newly proposed Co-funding scheme is dedicated to national mobility programmes.

This will make less straightforward to define the eligibility criteria for become a member of the Association. The board proposed various changes to the MCFA Statutes to adapt to these changes. Most important proposals include:

- institutional membership, allowing organisations (e.g. universities, associations, networks) to join the MCFA;
- changes in eligibility rules for membership in the Association, adapting to the new concept of the Marie Curie Actions proposed for the FP7;
- simplification in some administrative rules.

**::> see for more details MCFA Discussion Forum** (<http://www.mariecurie.org/cgi-bin/discus/discus.cgi>)

## MORE-AID

The overall objective of the project MORE-AID is to assist mobile researchers and to enhance the services provided by the ERA-MORE network of mobility centres. If adopted, the project will (i) set up an experimental network of mentors/coaches, aiding the integration of mobile researchers and advising their career advancement, (ii) foster communication and exchange within the network, and (iii) organise training events.

**::> see for more details member area/internal documents**

## INFORMATIONS FROM NATIONAL GROUPS

### German MCFA National Group Meeting

is being held in Bielefeld (NRW) at 11th November 2006. The agenda of the meeting and more details, including choices of possible accommodation, are at <http://www.enviro-pro.eu/>

[MCFA\\_German\\_Meeting\\_2006\\_EN.html](http://www.mariecurie.org/MCFA_German_Meeting_2006_EN.html).

Please let us know if you will participate in this meeting. Please, send E-mail to [office@mariecurie.org](mailto:office@mariecurie.org).

Organisers: Lyudmila Zinchenko and Natalia Balcazar

The **MCFA UK group** is pleased to announce that The University of York's

European Research Office is hosting the MCFA UK Meeting for Marie Curie Fellows in the North of England, on Wednesday, 6th December, 2006.

Venue: Heslington Hall, H/G015, University of York, 14:15- 16:45.

Following speakers confirmed their participation:

Welcome: *David Lauder*, The University of York's European Research Office

*Vanessa Diaz-Zuccarini*: The MCFA: Mission, scopes and organization

*Claire Jefferies*, the ERA-MORE Centres

*Felix Fernando-Alonso*, CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

*Morgan Alexander*, The University of Nottingham.

**::> see for more details** [http://www.mariecurie.org/mcfa\\_template/index.php](http://www.mariecurie.org/mcfa_template/index.php)  
Please send a confirmation e-mail to [uk.mcfa@gmail.com](mailto:uk.mcfa@gmail.com)

### **Call for participation for MCFA members: European Researchers of Tomorrow – Crossing the Borders of Academia and Industry, Stuttgart May 13-15**

In the context of the German EU presidency in the first half of next year, the German Federal Research Ministry (BMBF), together with the EU and other partners, is organising a conference on intersectoral exchange and mobility under the title "European Researchers of Tomorrow – Crossing the Borders of Academia and Industry". The conference will take place in Stuttgart from May 13-15 (with the "actual" conference day on Monday). The BMBF invites young mobile researchers to attend the conference.

**::> Please contact Natalia Balcázar ([natalia.balcazar@gmail.com](mailto:natalia.balcazar@gmail.com)) for more information.**

## **SCIENCE POLICY INITIATIVES**

### **Marie Curie Actions under the FP7**

Draft Working Programme of the programme People (Marie Curie) is available from the MCFA member area.

**::> see for more details member area/**

## **internal documents**

### **The European Research Council publishes the work programme 2007**

The Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC) has finalised the first draft of its work programme for 2007, outlining who will be eligible to apply for funding from the ERC, and how proposals will be evaluated. Two types of grant will be available, the Advanced Investigator Grant and the Starting Independent Researcher Grant. The first call for proposals, addressing the Starting Independent Researcher Grant, is expected in 2007.

**::> see for more information** [http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/erc-draftwp-2007\\_en.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/erc-draftwp-2007_en.pdf)

### **The Scientist in Science and Society Realities visions and fears: A multidisciplinary survey on the role and status of the scientist in science and society."**

by Piotr Malak, the Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun, Poland  
([piomk@uni.torun.pl](mailto:piomk@uni.torun.pl))

The aim of the study is to analyse and show the personal and professional context in which science takes place in the European research area. Inspired by Hubert Curien, former French Minister of Science and co-founder of many European research institutions (CERN, ESA, EMBL), the goal is to understand the realities under which research is conducted. In particular, the authors of the survey are interested in "sensing" researchers' life conditions, as well as their personal visions and concerns for the future.

**::> to take part in the survey, visit the following page** <http://ww.umk.pl/~piomk/survey/>  
The survey is dedicated to scientists only. This is why the survey is protected. To open the site, please use following coordinates:  
*login:* survey  
*password:* engelberg

## **FUNDING and CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **The National Scholarship Programme**

## **of the Slovak Republic for the Support of Mobility**

Applications for foreign students, PhD, university teachers and researchers interested to spend up to 12 months in Slovakia are invited.

[::> see for more information http://www.saia.sk](http://www.saia.sk)

## **German-Israeli Foundation: Young Scientists' Program**

The program provides seed money of up to € 40.000 for German and Israeli scientists up to the age of forty from all scientific areas for a one-year project. Submission deadline is November 30, 2006.

[::> see for more information http://www.gif.org.il](http://www.gif.org.il)

## **CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - Local Organising Committee and Conference Venue**

for the 17th Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) - June 2009

The European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) solicits proposals for the Local Organising Committee and for the Conference Venue for its 17th Annual Conference, tentatively to be held in late June 2009. See <http://www.eaere.org/files/2009guidelines.pdf> for more detail about how to apply. Expressions of interest should be sent by e-mail to EAERE by 15 December 2006.

## **Job announcement: Coordinator of the EU Presidency Conference in Germany, 2007**

The International Youth Exchange and Visitors' Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB) seeks applications for the job of coordinator of the German EU Presidency Conference.

[::> see for more information](http://www.ijab.de/cgi-bin/showcontent.asp?ThemaID=942) (in German) under <http://www.ijab.de/cgi-bin/showcontent.asp?ThemaID=942>

## **Finland Distinguished Professor Programme**

The Finland Distinguished Professor Programme (FiDiPro) is a funding programme jointly launched by the

Academy of Finland and Tekes, Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation to recruit foreign professor-level top researchers to Finland for a fixed period of time. Finnish top researchers who permanently work abroad are also eligible. Within the framework of the funding programme, Finnish universities and research institutes can hire foreign researchers or professor-level Finnish researchers who permanently work abroad for 2-5 years to conduct research together with Finnish researchers and research groups. The researchers shall be internationally highly merited and have strong experience of researcher training. The first call for applications was opened in December 2005 and expired on 31 January 2006. The calls of the programme will be opened at regular intervals.

[::> see for more information http://www.fidipro.fi/](http://www.fidipro.fi/)

The **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)** has published a call for expressions of interest from scientific experts. The ECDC is searching for support for the following tasks (non-exhaustive list) in a number of fields:

- helping to prepare scientific opinions;
- compiling reports on the basis of information provided by the Centre and its network partners;
- supporting the functioning of ECDC scientific panels;
- collecting scientific evidence to support the Centre in its activities.

To see the full details of the call, please consult the following web address:

[::> see for more information http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:170948-2006:TEXT:EN:HTML](http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:170948-2006:TEXT:EN:HTML)

## **RECENT CONFERENCES WITH MCFA PARTICIPATION**

### **Workshop on Evolutionary Design, September 25 - 28, Obninsk, Russia**

The event was dedicated to the latest developments related to application of evolutionary computation to computer aided design. Lyudmila Zinchenko, a MCFA

German National Coordinator, organized and chaired this workshop.

**::> see for more information** <http://qai.narod.ru/Workshop/cai2006.html>

### **5. Workshop of ERA-MORE Germany, 2-3 November, Bonn, Germany**

The event was dedicated to the latest issues related to mobility of researchers. Lyudmila Zinchenko, a German National Coordinator attended the event as a MCFA representative.

The MCFA promotional materials were distributed to International Offices of German Universities and German Research Institutes. The current and coming MCFA activities in Germany were discussed with the National Contact Point for Human Resources and Mobility and Section Marketing and Mobility Centre of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Different opportunities how Marie Curie Fellows could effectively manage their fellowship in Germany have been considered as well.

### **EPWS Launch Event, Brussels, 20 October 2006**

The European Platform of Women Scientists (EPWS) organised its first Network Event last October, in Brussels. More than 80 networks of women scientists participated from 28 countries in preparation of the first General Assembly, which will be held in April 2007. The MCFA was represented by Dr Raffaella Di Sante, who is also involved with other female fellows from the Association in developing a Women in Science and Technology (WiST) working group.

### **Marie Curie – Nicola Tesla Conference, 7-11 October Zagreb and Belgrade**

At the MC conference in Zagreb and Belgrade, commemorating the 150th anniversary from the birth of Nicola Tesla, almost a hundred researchers, among whom many MC fellows from all over Europe gathered to discuss and present their scientific work. Christos Christoglou, Sec.Gen. of the MCFA had the opportunity to give a presentation of our association twice, in Zagreb and Belgrade, reaching this

way a maximum of audience. A stand next to the poster session with leaflets containing information material concerning the MCFA was most helpful in the direction of reaching many people who showed interested in joining the association.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Online Educa Berlin conference 29 November – December 1**

<http://www.online-educa.com/>

Educa Berlin is the largest gathering of e-learning and distance education professionals in Europe, enabling participants to develop multinational and cross-industry contacts & partnerships, as well as to enhance their knowledge, expertise, and abilities. The conference features the work of more than 480 speakers from 53 countries, addressing all forms of technology enhanced learning and includes a rich mix of themes, topics and a variety of session formats.

### **Science Policies Meet Reality: Gender, Women and Youth in Science in Central and Eastern Europe**

Place: Masarykova kolej, Thákurova 1, Prague 6, Czech Republic

Date: 01/12/2006 - 02/12/2006

URL: <http://www.cec-wys.org/html/index.php?s1=1&s2=15&s3=1&lng=13>

### **FEAST Conference 2006: Research without borders**

Place: Shine Dome, Australian Academy of Science, Canberra, Australia

Date: 28/11/2006 - 29/11/2006

URL: <http://www.feast.org/conference2006/>

### **Marie Curie Day**

Place: Canberra, Australia

Date: 27/11/2006 - 27/11/2006

URL: <http://www.feast.org>

Many thanks for your constant interest in the Association,

Jaroslav Mysiak