

# Marie Curie Fellows Association



## Letter to Members

*November-December 2011-January February 2012*

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Dear MCFA Member,

Welcome to a new issue of the Letter to Members with news concerning our Association!

*The MCFA Board*

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## Life of the Association

As this is the first issue of the LtM in 2012 we would like to wish all the members a

**Happy New Year!**

### MCFA Annual General Assembly and Career Workshop

03-04 December, Leuven, Belgium



**Networking  
Workshop on  
soft skills**

After two meetings in Paris, the MCFA workshop on soft skills & Annual General Assembly moved to Belgium in December 2011!

The MCFA welcomed the participants in the historical city of Leuven, a city renowned not only for its beer, but especially for its universities, culture and historical buildings. The meeting has been hosted at The Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe.

Since 2009, the MCFA offers to researchers some training on the so-called soft skills. Complementary skills are becoming more and more important in researchers' education: a broader portfolio of skills can increase the chances of landing on the desired job! This year the MCFA workshop focused on online platforms, patents, careers in industry.

Dr. Christian Prokopp, a Marie Curie Fellow actually working at Mendeley, introduced us to the Mendeley platform. Mendeley is a free academic software to manage, share, read, annotate and cite

your own research papers. It is also a research network to manage your papers online, discover research trends and statistics, and to connect with like-minded researchers. Thus, it is a key tool for online networking!

Then, Dr. Guggi Kofod, the then Chair of the Association, talked about his experience as Young Principal Investigator. He gave some hints on how to be successful in the transition from the Post-Doc stage to the YPI one. He also talked about the main challenges he had to overcome in this position.

The meeting went ahead with a discussion on patents. Again, Dr. Guggi Kofod illustrated his own experience with the whole process of patents' application and the maintenance of the patents in years. He discussed pros and cons of intellectual property rights.





We should not forget that having fun and networking is of key importance for researchers' life! That's why at 6:30 pm all the participants met downtown to start an amazing walking dinner! A guide let us discover the city of Leuven. At the beginning, the participants have been divided in three groups and the walk was studded with quizzes! We had three main "pit-stops" dedicated to the three main courses: an aperitif at the first restaurant, the main course in an old bistrot and desserts in a third one. The group who guessed the majority of quizzes was awarded... a Belgian chocolates box!

The following day, the second part of the workshop has been dedicated to scientific careers in industry. Dr. Natalia Balcàzar and Dr. Yegor Domanov shared with the audience their experience in the private sector. They pinpointed the difference between the researchers' job in Academia and industry and gave suggestions to the ones willing to engage in a career in industry. Different skills are required in industry, completing the scientific ones.

The European project DOCENT – DOCTors in ENTerprise – analysed the state of the art in Europe as for researchers' education on soft skills. They identified a need for a better development of transversal skills in order to enhance researchers' employability in industry. Thus, they proposed a model for career services especially dedicated to PhDs and Post-Docs as well as learning units that can be used in PhDs programs to plug the gap in researchers' education. The project's outcomes have been illustrated by Dr. Maria-Antonietta Buccheri.

What a better conclusion for a MCFA workshop than a walk through the Marie Curie Actions and the objectives of Horizon2020, the new European plan for 2014-2020? Dr. Mike Rogers, Senior Policy Officer at the European Commission, kindly accepted our invitation, as he did in the last years. He illustrated the Marie Curie Actions and underlined how important they have been and they are in order to promote excellence and researchers' mobility. He gave the assembly an overview of the different opportunities offered by the Marie Curie Actions. Dr. Mike Rogers then highlighted the plan Horizon 2020, pointing out the major achievements that the Commission wish to obtain through the planned actions.



*Report by Maria Antonietta Buccheri (then Vice-Chair, now Chair)*

## Outcome of the Extraordinary General Assembly

During the same day, the MCFA Annual General Assembly took place. According to the MCFA Statutes, the General Assembly has to be organised once per year. At that time, the elections of the new Administrative Board take place. Moreover, the event is a unique chance to discuss about Association's life.

If you were not present, but are now curious to learn more about the Activity Report and the Financial Report, you can find them in the private area of the website.

A key moment of the AGA is the election of the new Administrative Board. Since the quorum was not reached in Catania one month before, the elections were organised at this Extraordinary General Assembly

### New administrative board:

Following the General Assembly on December 3, 2011, and the board meeting on the January 25, 2012 (online) to elect the chair and on February 8, 2012 (online) to distribute the remaining positions the new board is composed of the following with the functions:

*Maria Antonietta Buccheri (Chair)*

*Esperança Manuel (Vice Chair & Science Policy Group Coordinator)*

*Erwan Lejeune (Secretary General)*

*Gyorgy Szekely (Vice Secretary General)*

*Eric Buchlin (Treasurer)*

*Keira Melican (Vice Treasurer)*

*Guggi Kofod (EC Liaison Officer)*

*Maria Bostenaru Dan (Editor in Chief for the Letter to Members & Women in Science Group Coordinator)*

*Anett Kiss (Co-Editor for the Letter to Members)*

*Tiago Brandao Rodrigues (Science Policy Group Coordinator)*

*Gianna Avellis (Women in Science Group Coordinator)*

*Irene Marco Rius (Young Researchers Group Coordinator) – new group*

*Natalia Balcázar (MCFA ESOF 2012 Officer)*

*Rui Pinto Guimaraes (National Groups Activities Coordinator)*

Congratulations to the new board!

### New advisory board:

So far the following confirmed participation in the advisory board:

*Pol Besenius*

*Sylvie Blangy*

*Silvia Giordani*

*Frank Heemskerk*

*Malte Rehbein*

*Alain Rival*

We thank them for their commitment!

If you are now willing to share your experience as Marie Curie Fellow or if you wish to devolve some of your time to the MCFA, please, contact us at the following address: [office@mariecurie.org](mailto:office@mariecurie.org). The more we are, the more we can do.

## Membership renewal 2012

We would like to thank all of you who already renewed their membership for 2012 and also the new Fellows who have recently joined the Association.

We would like to remind fellows who have not paid the membership fee for 2012 to do it before 31 March. After this date all non-paying members will be considered "MCFA Affiliates", with very limited access to the MCFA membership benefits. If you are currently an Affiliate, we invite you to upgrade your status to Full Member. To do so, you only have to pay the fee for the current year.

Full membership benefits include access to the database of current and former Marie Curie Fellows (including contact details, professional profile, and contract data), access to the MCFA discussion forum, and access to internal documents (including administrative and financial reports, meeting minutes, collaboration documents). Furthermore, MCFA membership entitles you to vote at the Annual General Assembly and to participate actively in decision making, policy formulation, and contribute to MCFA publications. Full membership is also required in order to candidate for a position in the Administrative or Advisory Board.

Membership fee is payable either by international bank transfer, PayPal or by credit card on our website (<http://mcfa.eu/newmcfasite/content/membership-fees>). Please keep in mind that the MCFA membership is endorsed by the European Commission and the annual membership fee can be charged to the Marie Curie project (eligible participation costs).

Finally, if you know any other Marie Curie Fellows in your institution, please invite them to join the MCFA.

MCFA membership is open to researchers who have benefited from mobility research training grants by the European Commission:

-individual Marie Curie fellows (EIF, IIF, OIF, COFUND) from the 6th and 7th Framework Programmes (FP6 and FP7);

-Marie Curie Host fellows (EST, RTN, ITN, TOK, EXT and IAPP) from FP6 and FP7;

-recipients of Marie Curie reintegration grants (IRG and ERG);

-Marie Curie fellows from FP 5 (Improving Human Potential - IHP) and FP 4 (Training and Mobility of Researchers - TMR);

-individual fellows from the Human Capital and Mobility programme of FP3;

-individual fellows within one of the programmes for Research, Training and Mobility of FP 2 or FP 1;

-fellows within a Research Training Network from one of the framework programmes up to and including FP 5 whose fellowship had a duration of at least one year;

-Considering the statutes of the MCFA "Any person not completing a Marie Curie fellowship or having held a Marie Curie fellowship for less than one year can become a full member at the discretion of the board". Therefore fellows with fellowships like IRSES are also welcome to join the association; they just have to make a request to the MCFA Board.

Thank you for your support!

*MCFA Board*

## Role Models wanted from Marie Curie women Fellows

m-WiSET (Mobile Women in Science, Engineering and Technology) (<http://mcfa.eu/site/public/workingGroups.php>) is the working group funded in 2006 inside the Marie Curie Fellows Association aiming mainly at promoting and encouraging mobility amongst women scientists.

The Working Group will help raise awareness of the different career obstacles faced by women researchers when they consider to uptake mobility programmes. Basic questions arising from our m-WiSET group are whether mobility effectively enhances the scientific career and which difficulties are envisaged and/or actually encountered at all stages of their mobility programmes. Our activities are also in the field of women participation in SET, career development, excellence, decision-making.

Aims of m-WiSET:

1. Promoting mobility among women scientists
2. Empowering women scientists in Europe and discouraging discrimination and marginalisation
3. Fostering gender equality and scientific excellence in set
4. Encouraging the promotion of equality policies at national and European level

This year the m-WiSET WiS working group intends to investigate on the issue of Role Models inside MCFA, taking into account the relationship with glass ceiling issue, to publish a booklet of MC women Fellows, starting from the biography of Marie Curie herself. The aim of this booklet is to mention and promote the knowledge of the large heritage of

scientific culture that women have built up during these years since the foundation of Marie Curie Fellows Association. Last but not least the aim is also to raise awareness especially in young researchers on the career paths that could be taken and see success stories encouragements for their current research.

In 2011 a first version of the Role models booklet was published, and presented at a booth during the Marie Curie conference in Warsaw.

[http://itu-se.academia.edu/ReiaChmielowski/Papers/1410323/Role\\_Models\\_for\\_mobility\\_of\\_MCFA\\_women\\_scientists](http://itu-se.academia.edu/ReiaChmielowski/Papers/1410323/Role_Models_for_mobility_of_MCFA_women_scientists)

We welcome MC women Fellows to participate to the m-WiSET WiS working group and to send one page of their achievements of the current CV to be included in an updated version of the booklet published in 2011.

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### **Signatures following the European Gender Summit**

Following the European Gender Summit, November 8-9, 2011, in Brussels, organised by organised by genSET - gender in science, the European Science Foundation (ESF) – research conferences unit – and the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), a petition for the “Manifesto for Integrated Action on the Gender Dimension in Research and Innovation”

[http://www.gender-summit.eu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=278&Itemid=42](http://www.gender-summit.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=278&Itemid=42)

has been launched, which is now at over 2020 signatures. This activity is in line with the m-WiSeT activities. Sign the petition!

### **Position towards funds reduction for Marie Curie Fellowships in Horizon 2020**

MCFA has partnered, at the initiative of the chair, Gugli Kofod, with Eurodoc and to protest against the reduction of

funds for Marie Curie Fellowships in Horizon 2020, which are reaching a historical low in %, while demand is increasing, especially in Southern Europe. Marie Curie Fellowships are needed as much as the European Research Council grants. Along with representatives of the other organizations Maria Bostenaru Dan has been interviewed by a journalist from Nature. You can see the subsequent published article here [Young researchers lose out in European funding programme](#)

### **Petition against cutting funding for Cultural Heritage in Horizon 2020**

A further petition, initiated by the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers Organisations, exists against cuts of Cultural Heritage, which has been addressed in FP5 and FP6 as specific priority, and given priority in specific programmes in FP7.

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/horizon-2020-cultural-heritage-research/>

## **Careers, funding, and networking opportunities**

### **Marie Curie Fellowships for Career Development**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March the European Commission announced the call for 2012 for Intra-European, International Incoming and International Outgoing Fellowships. These Fellowships are aimed at experienced researchers, either holding a PhD or having 4 years of research experience after obtaining the degree which allows them to embark doctoral studies. Who are willing to spend a period

of mobility outside the country where they were active at most 24 months in the last 3 years, or for a career restart. Intra-European Fellowships allow mobility among EU and associated countries, international incoming fellowships allow coming or returning or researchers who were working in third countries (read the call to see which special conditions apply according to the activity in the past years which might make a researcher eligible for both IEF and IIF), while international outgoing fellowships allow European

researchers to go to a third country and return a period equal to the half of that spent outside. Marie Curie Fellowships for Career Development are individual fellowships, where the fellow, in most cases as proposal coordinator, applies jointly with the host institution where (s)he wants to move, and which will act as coordinator after acceptance. The last min. 12 and max. 24 months.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/understanding/marie-curieinbrief/research-development\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/understanding/marie-curieinbrief/research-development_en.html)

### Marie Curie COFUND Fellowships

Within approved COFUND schemes the following calls for a mobility stay are currently open:

ETH Fellows – for researchers within 2 years from obtaining a doctorate, to spend time at the ETH Zürich. Researchers apply jointly with a professor, who submits the application. Eligibility condition is to have apart of the doctorate an award for the doctorate or a publication in a peer reviewed journal. The doctorate certificate must be available before start of the fellowship, but the defense date must be fixed when the application is submitted.

Deadlines 2012: 1. March and 1. September

<http://www.ethfellows.ethz.ch/>

EURIAS – for researchers, both early stage and senior, in Humanities, at one Institute of Advanced Study in Europe – scheduled to be announced in February, together with eligibility criteria.

Deadline: 7<sup>th</sup> of June.

<http://www.2012-2013.eurias-fp.eu/>

Also the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation increased the number of their

postdoctoral fellowships with the COFUND scheme

<http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/humboldt-fellowship-postdoc.html>

More COFUND fellowship schemes can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people&cofund=true;e fp7\\_SESSION\\_ID=QYG8PM3FrJPDTNXCTYCfGVyF4f48nhsCJ9VsWZpGwfWlpkqTsGPZ!-697169953#List](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people&cofund=true;e fp7_SESSION_ID=QYG8PM3FrJPDTNXCTYCfGVyF4f48nhsCJ9VsWZpGwfWlpkqTsGPZ!-697169953#List)

and

<http://www.kowi.de/Portaldata/2/Resources/fp7/marie-curie/FP7-MC-COFUND-projects.pdf>

### Marie Curie Career Integration Grants (CIG)

[Marie Curie Career Integration Grants](#) are intended to improve considerably the prospects for the permanent integration of researchers who are offered a stable research post in Europe after a mobility period in a country different from the country where the researcher has been active during the past years. The duration of these grants is between 2 and 4 years.

Experienced researchers (with at least 4 years full-time postgraduate research experience or a doctoral degree) of any nationality can apply who, at the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals, have not resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference deadline. A researcher who has benefited or is benefiting from a FP6 or FP7 Reintegration Grant is ineligible for funding under this call.

Next deadline:  
06 September 2012



## European Research Council Advanced Grants

Experienced researchers with more than 10 years from obtaining the PhD can apply for the most competitive grants.

Funding: up to € 2.5 million per grant (in some circumstances up to € 3.5 million per grant)

Duration: up to 5 years

Also researchers from outside the EU can apply, provided they dedicate more than half of their time for the research at the European institution.

Next deadline: Social Sciences and the Humanities: 11 April 2012

There are also calls for accompanying actions, such as proof of concept for industrial transfer.

<http://erc.europa.eu/advanced-grants>

On that page you can consult also the statistics about ERC Grants.

## Mellon/Newton Interdisciplinary Post-doctoral Research Fellowships

The Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities ([CRASSH](#)) at the University of Cambridge is delighted to announce the first year of a five-year programme of interdisciplinary postdoctoral research fellowships funded jointly by the Mellon Foundation and the Isaac Newton Trust.

Applications are invited for two 2-year interdisciplinary Post-doctoral Research Fellowships aimed at researchers working in any field of the arts, social sciences or humanities, starting in October 2011. The fellowships will enable post-doctoral

fellows to consolidate their research and publication record while developing a related project or initiative at CRASSH during their two-year fellowship.

### *Essential criteria:*

- A good first degree and a doctorate in a relevant subject area of the arts, social sciences, or humanities, the doctorate being awarded not more than three years before 1 October 2011;
- Evidence of ability to engage in high-level research in an interdisciplinary context, with publications and participation in scholarly activity commensurate with stage of career;
- Evidence of ability and/or aptitude for organising and participating in collaborative research initiatives/projects;
- Native or near native competence in English.

Application deadline: 2 March 2012

Further information:

<http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1084/mellonnewton-fellowships-2012.htm>

## Newton International Fellowships

Are you at the beginning of your research career - with the potential to be world-class? Is your research in the physical, natural or social sciences or humanities? Do you want to build and maintain links with leading researchers in the UK? Then apply for a Newton International Fellowship.

The Newton International Fellowship scheme is run by The British Academy and the Royal Society and will select the very best early stage post-doctoral researchers from all over the world, and offer support for two years at UK

research institutions. The long-term aim of the scheme is to build a global pool of research leaders and encourage long-term international collaboration with the UK. The Fellowships cover the broad range of physical, natural and social sciences and the humanities.

They provide grants of £24,000 per annum to cover subsistence and up to £8,000 per annum to cover research expenses, plus a one-off relocation allowance of up to £2,000. In addition, Newton Fellows may be eligible for follow-up funding of up to £6,000 per annum for up to 10 years following the completion of the Fellowship.

The closing date for applications is 16 April 2012.

Please refer to the Scheme Notes for more information:

<http://www.newtonfellowships.org/>

### **Scientific Exchange Programme New Member States -Switzerland**

[Crus.ch](http://www.crus.ch) the Rectors' Conference of Swiss Universities, is promoting a mobility programme between New Member States of the EU (EU-12) and Switzerland. Doctoral researchers can apply for fellowships between 6 months and 2 years, provided they are enrolled in an institution in a NMS. Postdoctoral researchers can apply for fellowships between 6 and 18 months, provided they are employed as researchers at an institution in an NMS deemed eligible by the respective country. In both cases there are two mentors, one from the NMS and one from the Swiss side, and funds are provided also for the exchange of the mentors. The programme will have open calls also in the following years, ending 2016.

Deadlines (depending on country) 2012:  
1. April and 1. November.

<http://www.sciex.ch/>

### **European Cultural Foundation Grants**

The European Cultural Foundation funds collaborative research projects (small grants).

Deadline: 2. May 2012.

It awards also travel grants and exchange with Balkan countries.

<http://www.eurocult.org/grants>

### **European Science Foundation research networks**

Nature dedicated a voice to other concerns of threatened funding: the European Science Foundation Research Networking Programmes, as a consequence of the establishment of Science Europe.

[Funding policy: Europe needs research networks](#)

Calls for Research Networking Programmes are currently closed. It is possible to adhere to running networks up to the last year, if the research organization in your country is co-funding the participation.

However, calls for organization of closed [exploratory workshops](#) (closed for 2011 for workshops taking place in 2012) and competitive [research conferences](#) (closed for those to be held in 2013) continue to be organised.

An example of ESF research network with MCFA participation is NeDiMAH <http://www.nedimah.eu/> in which former administrative board member and current advisory board member Dr. Malte Rehbein is coordinator and administrative board member Maria Bostenaru Dan is steering committee member from the side of Romania. As in 2003-2004 we used to have a group in the MCFA for "scientific exchange", led by Maria Bostenaru Dan and Vincenzo Guerriero from the advisory board – maybe somebody would be interested to revive it?

### Mendeley

If you were not at the EGM to see the presentation, you might be still interested to join Mendeley, a reference manager and research network.

<http://www.mendeley.com/>

### COSIS network

<http://cosis.net/members/login.php> is a network which has grown out of the knowledge and management system of the European Geosciences Union (formerly European Geophysical Society) General Assemblies. "COSIS.net is an online community for scientists and their affiliated organizations for the exchange of information and the discussion of ideas and results, while providing, at the same time, a number of important services. Any researcher and any affiliated organization can become a member and thereby a user of COSIS.net." Scientists can create a profile on the network, which links to their social media accounts, messenger accounts, and imports from blogs with RSS. They can network with fellow scientists with a profile, and their location is mapped. Also, a publication list can be uploaded.

### Guardian science blogs

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science-blogs> is a network of science blogs of researchers in the UK and Ireland, following an open call

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/blog/2012/jan/27/guardian-science-blog-network>

We look forward for having it open also for another countries.

### Services from CORDIS

The [Technology Marketplace](#) provides an overview of promising results from FP7 projects.

There is also a beta version of a [CORDIS search service](#) which includes projects from current and past Framework Programmes of the European Commission, including individual and host driven Marie Curie Actions.

### Funding for conference organization

Apart of the already mentioned conference funding proposals of the ESF, the European Commission also funds them in frame of so-called "coordination and support actions"

FP7 "Coordination and support actions". ["Science in Society"](#) – deadline passed, 22. February

Available also (along with funding for research proposals) for Information and Communication Technologies, [FP7 ICT](#), deadline 17. April 2012.

[Culture 2007 programme](#) (which also issued a call for experts) funds a series of multiannual conferences in the cultural field (co-funding for activities 50%).

Life long learning programmes such as [Grundtvig: practical learning for adults](#) may also apply.

There are also country specific conference funds schemes, including the structural funds available for each country (ex. Romania: POS CCE).

### List of funding programmes

Maria Bostenaru Dan compiled a list for funding for collaborative research projects and mobility, available at: [http://bostenaru.natkat.org/project\\_results/grants.html](http://bostenaru.natkat.org/project_results/grants.html)

## Past meetings with MCFA participation

### WHIST final conference

#### November 7, Brussels

Antonella di Trapani participated from the side of the MCFA to the “Women’s careers hitting the target: gender management in scientific and technological research” final conference, with the title “Gendering Science and Technology, Experimental Horizons of Structural Change”, November 7, 2011, in Brussels.

The [FP7 project WHIST, coordinated by the Department of Equal Opportunities \(Italy\)](#) included experimental activities at the partners for the management of gender diversity

- at the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft-Institute for Industrial Engineering (IAO), as the applied industrial research center,
- at the European Space Agency (ESA), as the international research public body,

- at the Danish Centre for Studies in Research and Research policies, of the Aarhus University as the University research center.

The first half of the conference was dedicated to present and discuss the final results of the WHIST Project, including the three experimentations and the “Guidelines for promoting gender diversity in scientific and technological research organizations” and the afternoon to future strategies on “Structural change” policies of Universities and research institutes in order to improve gender equality in science.

Conference webpage:

<http://www.retepariopportunita.it/defaultdesktop.aspx?page=3872>

## Publications

### Call for special feature articles on “Science Careers” in RESB Journal

In Collaboration with MCFA, the journal Reviews in Environmental Science and/Biotechnology ([RESB](#)) has started a section having feature articles on “science careers” from 2009. The articles describing the career and research topic of the Marie Curie grant of the MCFA member should be within 2-4 printed pages. The article should not have any

original results but a form of feature article, a mini review of the project description aiming at a broader range of readers. The feature article on ‘science career’ starts with a short abstract, a short introduction about the project and how you or your network aims at achieving it, the working principle and application fields (use of Illustrations and figures are encouraged in this section), the detail of the network (if it is a Marie Curie Network) followed by a small paragraph highlighting how this particular project or

network influences the career of the fellows. The article may include 5-6 references under the heading 'further reading'. Further, while preparing their manuscript the authors are encouraged to have a look at the published articles in this category which can be found in the links below:

Nusrat J. M. Sanghamitra: [FluRox based biosensors](#)

Philippe Zinck: [One-step synthesis of polyesters specialties for biomedical applications](#)

We thereby invite articles from our members which would not only be a source of inspiration and valuable for the readers but also strengthen our alliance with RESB.

*Philippe Zinck*  
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*Science Career Editor in RESB for MCFA*

### Marie Curie Actions Publications

The "Marie Curie Actions - Inspiring Researchers" publication (2010) is available again in print.

An overview of all publications on Marie Curie actions can be found [here](#) (new page), a new one being "Practical Guide to EU funding opportunities for Research and Innovation".

### Mapping mobility in European higher education

The Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) has published a study on "Mapping mobility in European higher education". It was produced for the European Commission, which published it [online](#). Print copies can be ordered free of charge directly from the printers, by writing to [info@ditgesprintplusmore.de](mailto:info@ditgesprintplusmore.de).

Please mention the following information:  
Subject line: ORDER - Dok&Mat series (issues 69 and 70) - "Mapping mobility"  
Content email: Name, postal address, telephone number

<http://www.aca-secretariat.be/index.php?id=593>

### This new edition of the "Practical Guide to EU Funding Opportunities for Research and Innovation"

includes a full up-to-date picture of the sources of funding described in the initial Guide, published in 2008.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=5784&lang=en&tpa\\_id=135](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=5784&lang=en&tpa_id=135)

### European Union Support Programmes for SMEs

An overview of the main funding opportunities available to European SMEs

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/getdocument.cfm?doc\\_id=7264](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/getdocument.cfm?doc_id=7264)

### Evaluation of academic research EEA grants

<http://eeagrants.org/id/2949.0>

Evaluation of academic research grants now published.

### New Modes of Training – Different Careers?

Education and training paths followed by graduates of the DFG's Research Training Groups

An evaluation of the Research Training Groups for doctoral education of the German Research Foundation, a study where also board member Maria Bostenaru Dan participated.

[http://www.dfg.de/dfg\\_profil/evaluation\\_statistik/programm\\_evaluation/studien/studie\\_ausbildungsformen/index.html](http://www.dfg.de/dfg_profil/evaluation_statistik/programm_evaluation/studien/studie_ausbildungsformen/index.html)

## The Speaker's Corner



We would like you to share with us your experience as a Fellow, good or bad: has your funding been taken away by someone else in the lab? Were the conditions of the contracts different than promised? Did you feel a lack of support from your lab or the EC

management? Or on the contrary everything went fine and the MC fellowship helped you start a successful career. More generally, we also welcome articles about your views on European Science policy. Please send an email to [office@mariecurie.org](mailto:office@mariecurie.org) (Subject line: "Speaker's corner") to be published in this section in the next Letter to Members.

## Upcoming events

### **e-skills week**

**26-30 March 2012**

The European e-Skills Week 2012 is a European campaign of DG for Enterprise and Industry and DIGITAL EUROPE on promoting employment finding in the digital age. So far it has been a biannual event.

<http://eskills-week.ec.europa.eu/>

### **Invitation to FP6 Marie Curie Fellows to attend the final conference**

**2-5 July 2012, Brussels, Belgium**

If you are one of the more than 14.000 fellows who got a fellowship during the Marie Curie Programme of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technology Development (FP6), please go to the website and fill in the

questionnaire. You might be one of the 50 FP6 Marie Curie fellows selected to participate in a final FP6 conference organised in Brussels in the first week of July 2012, with the objective to present a selected number of success stories. You may be interested in sharing with the scientific community, the policy makers and other stakeholders the output of your project.

This questionnaire will be available until 17th of March 2012.

Among the candidates coming to Brussels, 10-12 fellows will be offered the opportunity to provide a lively presentation, in the format of TED-style conferences.

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=conferences&eventcode=A567E38E-EE52-7E3D-83A27394A8A22493>



**ESOF2012**  
EUROSCIENCE OPEN FORUM

## ESOF 2012 and Marie Curie Conference

**(10)11-15 July 2012,  
Dublin**

Natalia Balcazar from the MCFA administrative board is member of the Programme Committee of the session.

MCFA participates in the Career Programme of the ESOF with one organised session and one session participation.

Gianna Avellis organises the session “Role Models for Mobility : Portraits of Women from the Marie Curie Fellows Association” promoting the m-WiSeT booklet. Participants are Antonella Di Trapani, Maria Bostenaru, Natalia Balcazar, Silvia Giordani and Gianna Avellis. The session will take place on Friday the 13th of July at 13:15 and will last 90 minutes.

The Marie Curie Fellows Association was invited to be part of a session on Researcher Staff Organisations.

The Career Programme is still expected to be published.

There will be a **Marie Curie conference** before the ESOF on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of July and Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of July, the programme of which you can consult [here](#).

There will be a [Marie Curie dinner](#) Tuesday 10th July in The Royal Dublin Society. The Marie Curie Actions conference is only available to current Marie Curie Fellows. For further information on the Marie Curie Actions conference programme please contact:

Arya-Marie BA Trung, European Commission, Communication Officer, EAC.C.3 – People Programme; Marie

Curie Actions, MADO 10/77, 1049 Brussels, Belgium. EMail: [Arya-Marie.BA-TRUNG@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Arya-Marie.BA-TRUNG@ec.europa.eu), Tel : + +32 2 29 55319

Conference website:  
<http://esof2012.org/>

### [The call for the European Young Researchers' Award 2012](#)

The European Young Researchers' Award (EYRA), coordinated by Euroscience in collaboration with The European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers “Eurodoc” and Marie Curie Fellows Association “MCFA” grants Certificate and a grant to cover travel and accommodation for the stay in the ESOF city.

Deadline:19<sup>th</sup> of April.

### [Call for travel grants to attend ESOF 2012](#)

Various organisations, including the Swiss Embassy in Ireland, the Swedish Research Council (VR), the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (DASTI) and the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) offer travel grants to help young researchers who wish to attend ESOF2012. See the Euroscience website for more information on the current open calls.

The CALL for Early-Stage Researcher (ESR) travel grants to ESOF2012 is now OPEN

The Swiss Embassy in Ireland and the Swedish Research Council in collaboration with Euroscience have opened a call for young researchers.

Please be aware of the following criteria:

1. Who can apply?

o All “Early-Stage Researchers (ESR)” as defined by the Marie Curie Actions under the European Commission.

o Open to all nationalities, however, the ESR needs to work in a European country.

## 2. Application

To submit an application, please follow the link to:

[http://www.esof.eu/hub/user\\_session/new](http://www.esof.eu/hub/user_session/new)

Grantees can also be asked to do a photo/video report of their stay.

The travel and accommodation expenses concerning the ESOF2012 “European Early-Stage Researchers” will be reimbursed by Euroscience on presentation of receipts up to a maximum total of 800€ each.

Deadline: 10<sup>th</sup> of May

## Women's International Research Engineering Summit 3

12-14 September 2012, Athens

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Women’s International Research Engineering Summit is going to be held in Athens in September. Aim of the Summit is to promote international collaboration. The conference is mainly aimed at associate professors, since international cooperation is required to become full professor, but welcomes also full professors to present their international experience, and junior researchers starting with postgraduate students. Maria Bostenaru Dan has been invited to apply.

Application initial deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Still open.

Conference website:

<http://wires.womenandtechnology.eu>

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Young Scientists Forum (YSF) on Central and South East Europe “(In-)Equality - Political, Economic, Social, Spatial and Gender Aspects”

6 - 8 December, 2012 in Vienna

The Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM), Vienna, is organizing The 3<sup>rd</sup> Young Scientists Forum (YSF) on Central and South East Europe and invites young researchers in the fields of cultural studies, history, European ethnology, media studies, political sciences, geography and sociology to apply. Costs for travel expenses and accommodation will be reimbursed by the IDM.

Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2012.

[http://www.idm.at/projekte/young\\_scientists\\_forum\\_ysf/III-Young-Scientists-Forum-YSF-2012--a1050.html](http://www.idm.at/projekte/young_scientists_forum_ysf/III-Young-Scientists-Forum-YSF-2012--a1050.html)

## Grants for young researchers to participate at 2012 ESF research conferences

A list of upcoming events in 2012 of the European Science Foundation is available:

<http://www.esf.org/activities/esf-conferences/2012-upcoming-events.html?year=2012>

Junior researchers may apply for a grant to participate at a conference. Maria Bostenaru Dan was awarded a grant at such an ESF conference on [Understanding Extreme Geohazards: The Science of the Disaster Risk Management Cycle](#) in Saint Feliu de Guixols, Spain, following which the application for the above named Research Networking Programme of the ESF has been made.

## News in Brief

### Award for Marie Curie researcher

Marian-Daniel Iordache, former Marie Curie fellow with a Doctoral Fellowship at Instituto Superior Tecnico, Lisboa, Portugal & Universidad de Extremadura, Caceres, Spain within the project [HYPER-I-NET](#), an FP6 Marie Curie Research Training Network along hyperspectral imaging activities, got the graduate student of the year – Europe prize from the Liga Studenților Români din Străinătate (Romanian Students Abroad League) at the 2012 Gala, in presence of the president of the state and many other high rank personalities from academic and political life. He is currently researcher at VITO (Flemish Institute for Technological Research).

<http://www.lsr.ro/web/Noutati/The-Gala---3rd-Edition-1813>

### Romania sets up new ministry for European Affairs

Romanian Ministry of European Affairs-is Mr. Leonard Orban. His aim will be to enhance the absorption of EU funds.



### FROM SCIENCE CAREERS

**Science in the Community - from research subjects to research partners**

[http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career\\_magazine/previous\\_issues/articles/2012\\_03\\_09/caredit.a1200027](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2012_03_09/caredit.a1200027)

**A "Shocking Disproportion" in Funding of Young and Older Scientists**

<http://blogs.sciencemag.org/sciencecareers/2012/03/that-young-biom.html>

## National Groups and Mailing Lists

### Call for coordinators of MCFA National Groups

We are looking for MCFA members who are willing to become MCFA National Group coordinators in their country, or to participate in organizing the activities in their own country. National Group coordinators can be current or past MC

fellows who are currently resident in the given country.

The National Groups can help the current Fellows meet each other to exchange experiences. This is very simple: a Coordinator announces that s/he would like to organize a meeting, then we announce it on the website, and help you write to all the current members in your country. The meeting can be in a cafe, at a

university or wherever you think it is practical. If you organize a meeting, we can help you also with some funds. We would also like your help in maintaining the Welcome Packs for your country. These can be found in [mcfa.eu](http://mcfa.eu) homepage. If you go there and find the Welcome Pack for your country is out of date, please help us improve it.

Help us organize your NG, so we can build a strong and supportive effort for younger researchers. With your efforts, we can help researchers everywhere. For more information please get in contact with us by email: [office@mariecurie.org](mailto:office@mariecurie.org), with the text [National groups] in the subject.

Please feel free to forward this Letter to Members to your colleagues and friends, even if they are not Marie Curie Fellows!

We also remind you that you are encouraged to use the MCFA flyers, available from the Internal Documents: <http://mcfa.eu/site/memberArea/internalDocuments.php>.

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This Letter is edited by the Association des Boursiers Marie Curie a.i.s.b.l. (Marie Curie Fellows Association), <http://mcfa.eu/>. Editors: Maria Bostenaru Dan ([Maria.Bostenaru-Dan@alumni.uni-karlsruhe.de](mailto:Maria.Bostenaru-Dan@alumni.uni-karlsruhe.de)) Anett Kiss ([anett.kiss@gmail.com](mailto:anett.kiss@gmail.com)) and Samer Zaky ([shz33@pitt.edu](mailto:shz33@pitt.edu)) Director of publication: M.-A. Buccheri. Please send requests about articles in this Letter and submissions for the next Letter to Members to [office@mariecurie.org](mailto:office@mariecurie.org).