

Marie Curie Fellows Association



Letter to Members

May-December 2015

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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Happy New Year 2016 from the board!

Life of the Association

Letter from the chair

The MCFA has had a long run. Since 1996 we have suffered many ups and downs. The first three years we got monetary support from the European Commission, afterwards only for the contact with the fellows and in the last years not support at all. We thought it was the end. There was a time we had a lot of energy with many people, spread around Europe, creating activities under our name and there were times it seemed no one cared. These seem to be the risks of an association that relies only on very busy volunteers.

We have had a long run and we are still here. We are still here due to two reasons. The first being that all fellows recognised that there is a strong need for such association. To network the fellows, to exchange experiences, to give us a voice to be heard by the European Institutions related to the Marie Curie actions, to tell research institutions that we are more than simple researchers. That we and this might be the second reason for our perseverance, are researchers of excellence ready to pursue our goals no matter in which place they are. Researchers of a different breed that will not wait for the right time or for the right conditions. We will make it the right time and we will find the right conditions. That is the Marie Curie spirit. When she moved from east to west becoming the first female Professor in Paris she had only one intention: to do the finest research. So she did, leaving all her life in Poland behind. The Marie Curie fellows across the world share her vision and they refuse to settle back.

And so we do not settle back, we had a long run, we survived and we have done some good deeds. The people that collaborated in the MCFA created numerous networking activities, helped new fellows facing the issues of mobility, gave many career workshops and, most importantly for this statement, they have created connection with decision making institutions, lobby organisations, opinion makers and other important entities across Europe. The set of connections we have created along the years is one of the most valuable aspects of the MCFA. These entities trust us, recognise our value and know what to expect from us. They are ready to collaborate with us. A kind of trust that took many years to create and would be a shame to lose. This is why I believe the MCFA can still bring many benefits to all the Marie Curie fellows and alumni. As a trustful, independent, collaborative association we can make ourselves be heard for improvements in the Marie Curie Program and we can spread the word about the excellence of the Marie Curie granted.

We had a long run, we survived, we have reached good achievements, and with your help, dear fellows and alumni, we shall do much more and do it much better. Contact us if you would like to get involved. In any case, you will soon hear more about our projects.

Rui Guimaraes

Report on the Extraordinary General Assembly and Career Workshop

Eindhoven, 29 April 2015

The MCFA board represented by gathered in Eindhoven.

The following were elected as members of the board

Rui Guimaraes

Eric Buchlin

Natalia Balcazar

Gianna Avellis

Maria Bostenaru Dan

Maria del Carmen Martinez Ballesta

Valentina Domenici

The MCFA Administrative Board

GERI application

The MCFA applied in frame of a consortium led by ICORSA for a GERI 4 project in the autumn H2020 call. Members of the team are Rui Guimaraes, Natalia Balcazar and Maria Bostenaru Dan. The consortium includes higher education institutions, research funding institutions (paired per country) as well as associations.

Gianna Avellis participated in a meeting to inform about partnership possibilities in Brussels in May 2015.

Results are expected in February 2016.

ESOF sessions

Maria Bostenaru Dan proposed two sessions for ESOF 2016, one in the science call and one in the career call, the latter as kick off meeting of the above named project. The first one did not meet the threshold while the other was not selected either.

Gender Summit Europe

6 - 7 November 2015, Berlin, Germany

A poster proposal of Maria Bostenaru Dan was accepted for the Gender Summit Europe but conflicting deadlines did not allow participation. In the meantime, a paper was written acknowledging the MCFA support in frame of the current research project which deals with women in architecture for (publication available for download)

[http://www.lifebeyondtourism.org/evento/583/7th-International-Conference-on-Contemporary-Problems-of-Architecture-and-Construction,-Florence---Italy-\(2015,-November-19th-21st\)](http://www.lifebeyondtourism.org/evento/583/7th-International-Conference-on-Contemporary-Problems-of-Architecture-and-Construction,-Florence---Italy-(2015,-November-19th-21st))

Careers, funding, and networking opportunities

New COFUND program

The DAAD (German Academic exchange service) has a new COFUND program called P.R.I.M.E. to fund a stay of one

year abroad and 6 months to return at a German host university. Deadline is 1st of February 2016.

More information:

<https://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/de/22962-postdoctoral-researchers-international-mobility-experience/>

Society in science fellowship

<http://www.society-in-science.org/eligibility.html>

EC FP7 Post-Grant Open Access Pilot

Funding is available for open access publications from recently finished FP7 projects.

<https://www.openaire.eu/post-fp7-open-access-pilot-launched>

Past meetings with MCFA participation

Eurodoc conference

27-30 April 2015, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Maria Bostenaru Dan organized with Carole Chapin a session at the Eurodoc meeting in Cluj Napoca.

Improving Gender Equality in Junior Researchers Career Development

The session took place 28 April 2015 between 14:30 and 16:00 in room B in frame of the eurodoc 2015 conference at Grand Hotel Napoca, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Attendance was about 15 persons, half male half female, which is remarkable for a gender related session, which is usually marked by more female presence. Actually this is an issue which came up also in the discussion.

The session featured two presentations, by Carole Chapin – eurodoc and Maria Bostenaru – MCFA, as well as discussion.

Both presentations started with presenting the general context of the respective working groups (gender equity for eurodoc and m-WiSET [mobile women in science, engineering, technology] for MCFA): their history, activities and approach. Then they proceeded to the specific topic.

For Carole Chapin the specific part of the presentation included language issues in job advertisements and job descriptions,

including examples but also a eurodoc survey, the filling of which was encouraged. This leads to the issue of translation.

Discussion included issues like:

- In German(y) a lot is done in this regard. Besides including both genders, there is a look for gender neutral expressions (such as Führungskraft). There is encouragement for women to apply, even if they are not the minority, here being a need for improvement.

- In Romania women prefer to put “Ms.” in front of the job denomination instead of using the feminine version of the job denomination. Question is if this will change.

This discussion can give feedback on what the working group shall do in the future. In gender research PhD candidates are less considered as they do not have a consolidated professional position.

For both discussions it came up that gender research is an issue of policy. Language has the power of politics, but also do gender related groups start as science policy in case of MCFA.

For Maria Bostenaru the specific part of the presentation concerned the outcome of the session at the ESOF in Copenhagen on different patterns of mobility. These included apart of geographical mobility,

inter-sectorial, interdisciplinary and virtual mobility. Especially the last was an important published outcome of the workshop in Copenhagen.

If we were to connect the two presentations under the issue of language, mobility features learning a new culture, which includes different products of the cultures such as architecture, gastronomy and language. English is not sufficient to fully integrate in a host country and the local language is a first step in learning a culture, even if not sufficient to understand it totally, some holiday habits being also important. Virtual mobility is not sufficient in this regard, short visits being necessary even if mobility decreases at senior level.

As a result it has been agreed with Gordon Dalton from Icorsa and the two presenters to propose a common session at EuroScience Open Forum 2016 in Manchester about how can be investigated where gender issues in research careers stay with regard to procedures: surveys, databases, case studies (role models). This will be followed up.

Ludovic Garattini from France drew attention to genderSTE COST action to which both associations adhered for national research of the attendants by means of Short Scientific missions.





Publications

Global Mobility of Research Scientists, 1st Edition

A new publication from Elsevier looks into The Economics of Who Goes Where and Why.

More information and how to purchase here:

http://store.elsevier.com/product.jsp?isbn=9780128013960&locale=en_EU

EMBO exploring quotas in academia

An online publication.

http://www.embo.org/documents/science_policy/exploring_quotas.pdf

The Education Systems of Europe

A new book from Springer.

More information and how to purchase here:

<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319074726>

MOOCs and Open Education Around the World

A new book at Routledge.

See also the news on MOOCs.

More information and how to purchase here:

<https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138807419>

Gender and Horizon 2020

An online publication from Elisabeth Politzer, the chair of the Gender Summits.
<http://www.horizon2020publications.com/H7/index.html#16/z>

Career Tracking of Doctorate Holders - Investing in the future: are we supporting the right choices?

A publication from the partner at the ESOF 2014 session.
<http://www.esf.org/media-centre/ext-single-news/article/career-tracking-of-doctorate-holders-investing-in-the-future-are-we-supporting-the-right-choices.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 (Subject line: "Speaker's corner") to be published in this section in the next Letter to Members.

Upcoming events

MCFA-Board members meet in Venice

3rd March 2016, Venice, IT

Members of the MCFA Board will meet in Venice. You are welcome to join, we are interested to hear your opinions. Please contact natalia.balcazar@gmail.com if you are interested.

EuroScience Open Forum

22-27 July 2016, Manchester, UK

The EuroScience Open Forum will take place next in Manchester, the UK. The MCFA is thinking of preparing proposals.

More information is available at

<http://www.esof.eu/>

News in Brief

FROM EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**Independent experts present
evaluation report on the EU's 7th
Framework Programme for
Research**

http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/index_en.cfm

FROM NATURE

**Online collaboration: Scientists
and the social network**

<http://www.nature.com/news/online-collaboration-scientists-and-the-social-network-1.15711>

**MOOCs are still rising, at least
in numbers**

Some news in connection with one of the talks at the London workshop.

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20151023124052884>

**H2020 success rates slide
towards 12%**

<http://www.sciencebusiness.net/news/77103/Exclusive-Horizon-2020-success-rates-slide-towards-12-percent-#.VYwha2NxC0.linkedin>

**Reseau Art Nouveau European
Network:**

**Women and Art Nouveau photo
contest**

<http://www.artnouveau-net.eu/News/Events/Networknews/tabid/170/language/en-GB/Default.aspx?id=660>

National Groups

Call for coordinators of MCFA National Groups

After the General Assembly in London we expect to be still 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, and 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.

Due to different issues with our website in the past months, we have not been able to provide to MCFA members and affiliates the service we wanted to, please accept our apologies for this. We have now

moved the website to a different hosting service, this website is still incomplete but work is in progress. Please try to log in to <http://mcfa.eu/> and write us to webmaster@mcfa.eu for any issue you may encounter. Please also take this opportunity to review your account and contact details.

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@mcfa.eu, 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/site3/sites/default/files/flyer-bw.pdf>.

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). Director of publication: Rui Guimaraes. Please send requests about articles in this Letter and submissions for the next Letter to Members to office@mcfa.eu.