

science **POLICY** **working group**

GA workshop 2018

WG Chair: Fernanda Bajanca

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Objectives of the Policy WG

promote discussion
and awareness

elaborate **policy proposals** to
present to the European
Commission

... concerning topics of relevance for the aims of MSC actions
and in the collective interest of all MCAA members

Promoting discussion and awareness

**MCAA - EuroScientist Policy
webinar series**



All continuously available
through the **MCAA YouTube**
channel

**Epigeum courses on
Research Integrity**



Very successful pilot experience!
More courses to be offered by the
Career Development WG

**Strong
participation in the
ESOF 2018**

ESOF 2018 – the largest European scientific forum 9 – 14 July, Toulouse (France)

POLICY WG

	short ref	proponent	Session title
1	Open Science	Maja Mise	Reaching for Openness. Implementation: The next step for open science
2	Academic Refugees	Miguel Antonio Lim / Andreina Laera	Refugees and Higher Education. A discussion of best practices to integrate displaced students and academics in higher education
3	Lost generation	Sara Ricardo	The lost generation. A discussion on solutions for the overproduction of overqualified researchers without permanent positions
4	Researchers mental health	Brian Cahill	Increasing Awareness of Researcher Mental Health
5	SSH	Nina Díaz Fernández	Perspective of Humanities and Social Sciences Researchers. Challenges, Prosperity and Guidance
6	Networking	Maria-Antonietta Buccheri	Researchers Associations beyond borders: how many computations to design an interactive constellation?
7	GEMS	Giovanna Avellis	Family-Friendly Research to boost Women's Research Career – How to address work-life conflicts and balance professional and personal life in career development in research
8	BSB	Pavlo Bazilinskyy	Environmental impact of transportation on Europe: view of science and industry
9	Science slam	WiD, CRG, MCAA	European Science Slam @ESOF2018: Smart nights on stage: science in 10 minutes

+ Collaborating with the European Commission on the organisation of a MSCA satellite event (7-8 July)

Status: Upcoming from 07-07-2018 to 08-07-2018 Location: Toulouse

MSCA ESOF Satellite Event

7 - 8 July 2018
Toulouse

We are organising a satellite event for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions fellows attending **ESOF 2018 in Toulouse**.

We are offering our fellows:

- A two-day entertaining and instructive programme (7-8 July) during which we will be sharing the latest news on the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Preferential rates for the ESOF main event (9-14 July) for the MSCA fellows attending our satellite event

Save the date and stay tuned! More information to come soon.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/
mariecurieactions/events/
msca-euroscience-open-
forum-satellite-event_en](http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/events/msca-euroscience-open-forum-satellite-event_en)

Open Science

Policy Working Group

Proponent: Maja Miše

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Activities in 2017

- EURODOC “Open Science” conference, April 2017, Oslo
- panel session: **What steps can government and university leaders take to promote Open Science? (Maja Miše)**
- Blog post: **The future is Open Science! (by Maja Miše and Fernanda Bajanca)**, September 2017
- Webinar: **What does Open Science really mean? (MCAA– Euroscientist webinar series)**, October 2017
- Application for Open Science session at ESOF2018

Up-coming events 2018

- MCAA conference, Leuven , 2nd February
- **Open Science**
- **Session organiser:** WG Policy
- **Session moderator:** Maja Miše

- **Speakers:**
- **Fabienne Gautier** - Head of Unit of the European Research Area (ERA) Policy and Reform Unit in the European Commission (DG Research and Innovation)
- **Gareth O'Neill** - president of EURODOC, member of an advisory group on Science with and for Society under the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science in the Netherlands, and is a member of the expert group on Education & Skills under Open Science at the European Commission.
- **Rocio Micaela Crespo Quesada** – former chair of WG Policy (2016-2017), An Open Access coordinator at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland)
- **Ivo Grigorov** - DTU- Technical University Denmark, FOSTER

Up-coming events 2018

- ESOF (EuroScience Open Forum) 2018, Toulouse
- **“Reaching for Openness. Implementation - The Next Step for Open Science”**
- **Programme:** Scientific Programme
- **Theme:** Science policy and transformation of research practice
- **Duration:** 1h15
- **Session organiser:** Maja Miše

- **Speakers:**
- **Jean-Claude Burgelman** - European Commission DG Research & Innovation, A6, Head of Unit Science Policy, Foresight and Data
- **Pandelis Perakakis** - Centre of Mind, Brain and Behaviour (CIMCYC) in the University of Granada, OpenScholar
- **Ivo Grigorov** - DTU- Technical University Denmark, FOSTER
- **Bernd Pulverer** - Scientific Publications. EMBO The EMBO Journal
- **Sarah Jones** - Digital Curation Centre (DCC), HATII, 11 University Gardens, University of Glasgow

Up-coming activities 2018

- Webinar series Open Science,
- List of prominent speakers,
- Different topics of Open Science, Open Access, data management, open peer-review,...
- Promoting Open Science on blog posts.

The 'Lost Generation' of European scientists: how to make the system more sustainable?

Proponent: Sara Ricardo

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ESOF2018 Career Development Session

Title:

The 'Lost Generation' of European scientists: how to make the system more sustainable?

Proponent: Sara Ricardo

Speakers:

Rolf Tarrach

Renée Schroeder

Amaya Moro-Martin

Co-leader of proposal- Gilles Mirambeau

Moderators:

Luc Van Dyck

Maria Gorná

Maria-Antonietta Buccheri

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Perspective of Humanities and Social Sciences Researchers. Challenges, Prosperity and Guidance.

Proponent: assist. PhD Nina Díaz Fernández

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session in: CAREER PROGRAMME

- **Nina Díaz Fernández**, MCAA, Where after PhD/postdoc in Social Sciences and Humanities?
- **Gabi Lombardo**, European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities, **An Alliance for Research NOT a Research Alliance**
- **Justine Seran**, Edinburgh Global, University of Edinburgh, **Enhancing humanities PhDs employability in the globalised neoliberal academy**
- **Silvana Collela**, **University of Macerata**, **ECHIC**, Effective international and intra-European networking in defence of the humanities
- **Dario Pellizzon**, Research Area of Ca' Foscari University, **A human resources strategy for researchers: how host institutions can play a role**

Increasing Awareness of Researcher Mental Health

Brian Cahill
Gábor Kismihók
Francisco Valente Gonçalves

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Increasing Awareness of Researcher Mental Health

AIM:

- raise awareness
- stress the timeliness of this issue,
- involvement of major opinion leaders, researchers, service providers, and researcher community representatives

FORMAT:

- brief overview on the topic present key problems
- split the audience in groups to discuss the key problems, pick at least 1 issue and discuss recommendations in terms of
 - suggest means of financial (internal, external) support
 - suggest a policy/legislation
 - suggest knowledge sharing/knowledge generation activities

Name	Organisation
Brian Cahill	Marie Curie Alumni Association
Gábor Kismihók	TIB Hannover / TranSkills
Francisco Valente Gonçalves	University of Leicester / rumo Platform
Sara Cameron	University of Strathclyde
Mark Robinson	Trinity College Dublin
Susan Guthrie	RAND Europe
Katia Levecque	University of Ghent

A study on displaced academics and students in higher education

An initiative promoted by the Policy Working group of MCAA

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Objective of the survey

To collect data in order to understand and support academics and students who have experienced forced displacement



Key points of the survey

1. Institutional initiatives regarding Forced Migrants
2. Support initiatives regarding Forced Migrants
3. Barriers facing Forced Migrants
4. Examples of best practices

Where will the results be presented?

The results will be presented at:

- Euroscience Open Forum (2018) in Toulouse, France
- Marie Curie Alumni Association Annual Conference (2019)



www.esof.eu



About Euroscience Open Forum 2018...

The panel session will present the perspectives of

- Amir Al Oustah, a scientist with ex-status of refugee
- Rebecca Murray, the representative of Helena Kennedy Foundation, UK
- Renata Suter, the head of research of Kiron Open Higher Education, Berlin, Germany
- Kitty Fehringer, the coordinator of the EURAXESS Services Network of the European Commission
- Sophie-Adelaide Magnier, the director of international partnerships of Université Grenoble Alpes, France

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Policy papers / recommendations

- **Summaries of ESOF 2018 discussions**
 - Open Science: Maja Mise
 - Academic Refugees: Miguel Antonio Lim and Andreina Laera
 - Lost generation: Sara Ricardo
 - Researchers mental health: Brian Cahill, Francisco Gonçalves, Gábor Kismihók
 - SSH: Nina Díaz Fernández
- **Public consultation on EU funds in the area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market.**
 - https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-eu-funds-area-investment-research-innovation-smes-and-single-market_en
 - Deadline 8 March 2018 ***All members invited to participate!!***
- **Current long-term perspectives of researchers in Europe**
 - Federico Aletti , Mario Bonato, Anna Menyhért, Xoana Troncoso

Policy Working group

*Current long-term perspectives of
researchers in Europe*

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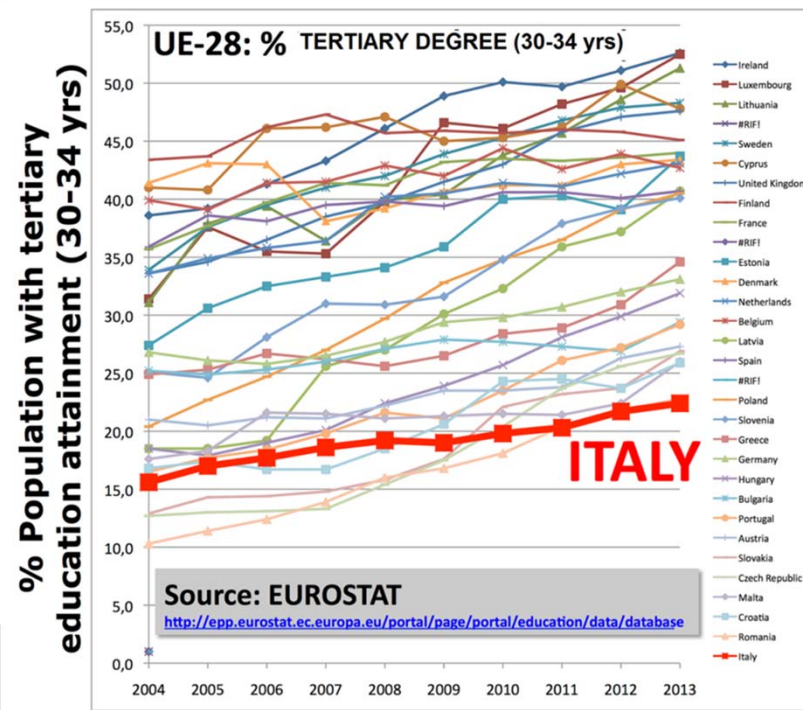
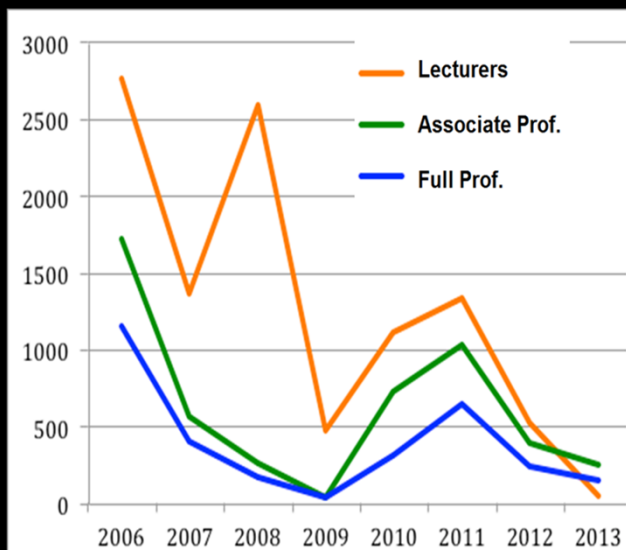
Mario Bonato, University of
Padova,
mario.bonato@unipd.it





Italy: drop in permanent positions

Italy: openings/year 2006-2013

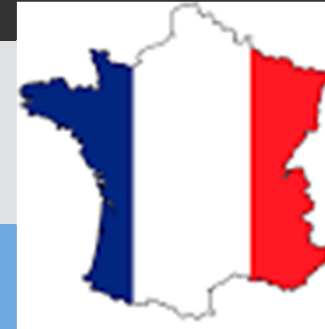


Sources: Eurostat, www.roars.it

Spain

Similar problems (e.g. very high number of researchers going abroad, limited number of incoming researchers)





France

The number of entry-level permanent positions in France (Maître de conférences) decreased from a rather stable average of 2000/year (2004-2010), to 1444 in 2014 and to 1299 in 2015, the minimum number of new openings of the last 15 years.

Candidates for the positions are increasing: only in 2016 the number of researchers with a PhD who qualified for participating was as high as 6000

Why this is relevant for MCAA

- 1 For many candidates MC is the last option before leaving Academia
- 2 The MC role makes sense only if complemented by a stable, sufficiently high number of secure positions



Thank you!

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EVENT ABSTRACT [« Back to Event](#)

A lack of new permanent positions threatens the future of neuroscience

Mario Bonato^{1*} and Esperanza Jubera-Garcia²

¹ Ghent University, Belgium
² Free University of Brussels, (ULB), Belgium

In this contribution we will discuss the drop in the number of new permanent positions available in academia and public research centers which is affecting several European countries. Our reasoning builds upon the data we mentioned in a recent letter to a leading neuroscientific journal [1]. While this problem is very well known by young researchers we have the feeling that, overall, the scientific and political communities are not fully aware of the current situation and of the dramatic long-term consequences this "downsizing" in the recruitment process will have. The duration of this severe recruitment freeze has been so long that we think it is posing a serious threat to young neuroscientists: those who are the future of neuroscience.

The sharp drop in the number of faculty positions is compromising the future of neuroscience

As young European neuroscientists, we want to bring attention to the dramatic absence of professional long-term opportunities that researchers are facing mostly, although not exclusively, in the south of Europe. In the past few years, young scientists from several European countries have been forced to move to other countries, or to quit research altogether, because the chances for them to secure a permanent position in academia are very low. While European institutions are regularly funding the best research projects in Europe, some countries have started to neglect their responsibility in hiring new researchers. The funding for research projects in the absence of new permanent positions is resulting in a perfect storm, which is especially worrisome for the domain

www.thelancet.com/neurology Vol 15 October 2016

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Emerging activities / task forces

- **ITN: taxation and other inequalities**
 - Angela Meggiolaro
- ***“Science policy in a post-fact world: can we make the MCAA a reference?”***
 - Stavros Skouras

A role for MCAA in the post-fact era

Stavros Skouras, PhD
for the **Policy WG** post-fact task-force

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The challenge: Policy-making in a post-fact world



“Post-fact” world (aka “post-truth” world)

- a world where facts/truth do not matter for policy-making (e.g. the case of the US climate change data)
- a world where “facts” & “truth” are too ubiquitous (e.g. publication overflow)

The challenge: Policy-making in a post-fact world



In a world where facts/truth do not matter ...

- It is our duty as MCAA to inform and guide public opinion ...

... until we make truth relevant again!

The challenge: Policy-making in a post-fact world



In a world where facts/truth are too ubiquitous ...

- It is our duty as MCAA to inform and guide public opinion ...
... by performing “truth-mining” & “fact-filtering”
- It is the policy-maker’s duty to recruit data science in decision-making and to recruit expert scientific opinions

The challenge: Policy-making in a post-fact world



EU efforts for evidence-informed policy-making

- Joint Research Center (JRC) of European Commission
 - EU 4 facts: annual conference of the JRC
- Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA) of European Parliament
 - annual MEP-scientist pairing scheme
- MCAA
 - post-fact task-force of the Policy WG (2018) . . .

The challenge: Policy-making in a post-fact world



MCAA Policy WG 2018 appoints new task-force

- Aim:
 - to leverage our pool of 10,000 experts worldwide, as and when appropriate, and promote the most relevant independent opinions, interpretations and insights, to:
 - the public
 - the European Commission
 - the European Parliament

Task forces actively calling for new collaborators

- **MCAA - EuroScientist Policy webinar series** (two people)
- **Public consultation on EU funds** (task force leader + all those who want to participate)
- **ITN: taxation and other inequalities** (all those who want to participate)
- **Science policy in a post-fact world** (all those who want to participate)
- Interested in any other task? Feel free to join!
- Have novel ideas? Do propose them and maybe lead a task force!

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Thank you!

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