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*Dear MCAA members,*

We are pleased to present the fifth issue of the Marie Curie Alumni Newsletter.

In this issue, you'll find "classical" testimonies and advice from Alumni, as well as useful information for researchers. But this time, **Members of the Board and of the Association have contributed to the content**, and we really hope that more and more articles will be coming directly from **YOU** in the future!

- **Definition of the day – the SME Instrument:** an introduction to this funding method.
- **Special coverage on the MCAA's participation at ESOF 2014:** discover what we learned from this very special event and above all, learn about what the Board did for you!
- **Great archeological discoveries are not always the result of excavation – The Appian Way project:** a temple originally excavated in the 1970s and then forgotten has been rediscovered thanks to one Marie Curie researcher's work. Read all about it in her own words!
- **Call for contribution – e-book on Role Models for Women Scientists in the MCAA:** seeking MCAA women to contribute to an e-book!
- **My host country was...Norway:** tips and advice from Marie Curie Fellows who have worked or are currently working in Norway.
- **I benefited from a Marie Curie Action – International Incoming Fellowship in the spotlight:** Four Fellows share their experience of this Marie Curie Action.
- **Five top tips for starting a research career abroad:** tips and advice from an Alumnus.
- **10 minutes with...Ivana Nina Unkovic:** meet an Alumna!
- **Events that we attended for you – 16th European Congress on Biotechnology:** an Alumnus attended the Congress and shared his experience with us.
- **10 YouTube videos to help you understand European Research funding:** have a look, watch and learn!
- **MSCA Event – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the MSCA Prizes:** the next Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) event will take place in Italy on 18 and 19 November!



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- **All you need to know about the Joint Research Centre (JRC):** its mission is to provide the European Commission with independent, evidence-based scientific and technical support to enhance research.
- **Keep in touch...what's coming up in the next newsletter?** See what's in the pipeline for the next newsletter!

Yours,  
The MCAA Team

## MCAA Newsletter Disclaimer

**These articles do not legally bind the European Commission. They do not claim to be exhaustive and do not represent official interpretations of texts formulated by the European Commission. For correct information the original documents should always be consulted. The links provided can be used for such consultations.**

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## Definition of the day: the SME Instrument

*The SME instrument is a new tool to support innovation in the framework of the Horizon 2020 Programme, under the section “societal challenges”.*

**What is the purpose of the SME Instrument?** Its aim is to help high-potential SMEs to develop groundbreaking innovative ideas for products, services or processes that are ready for competition in the global market. According to their needs, SMEs can form collaborations in order to apply for funding and support.

The SME Instrument is in addition to the support provided through the participation of SMEs in collaborative projects within Horizon 2020.

**What is the budget of the SME Instrument?** Over the period 2014-2020, the instrument has a €3 billion budget.

**What opportunities does the instrument offer SMEs?** It makes the following possible:

- Business innovation grants for feasibility assessment purposes;
- Business innovation grants for innovation development and demonstration purposes;
- Free-of-charge business coaching to support and strengthen a firm's innovation capacity and help align a project to strategic business needs;
- Access to a wide range of innovation support services and facilitated access to risk finance, supporting the commercial exploitation of an innovation.

**How does the SME Instrument work?** Depending on the stage of their projects, SMEs can apply for funding for different phases (1 or 2) as follows:

#### *Phase 1: feasibility assessment*

Feasibility studies can receive funding to verify if a project has economic viability. This should cover risk assessment, market study, user involvement, Intellectual Property (IP) management, innovation strategy development, and partner search – and have a solid, high-potential innovation dimension. Funding may be provided in the form of a lump sum of €50 000.

#### *Phase 2: innovation project*

Innovation projects in the following areas may receive funding: prototyping, miniaturisation, scaling-up, design, performance verification, testing, demonstration, development of pilot lines, and validation for market replication. This can also include other activities related to bringing innovation to investment readiness and maturity for market take-up. The amount of funding would be between €500 000 and €2.5 million or more (covering up to 70% of eligible costs, in some cases up to 100%). Projects should last around one to two years.



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### *Phase 3: commercialisation*

Funding is available for specific activities, including support for further development of investment readiness, linking with private investors and customers through brokerage activities, assistance in applying for further EU risk finance, and a range of other innovation support activities and services offered via the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN).

### **More information**

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/sme-instrument>

### **Work Programme 2014- 20120**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/pdf/SME%20Instrument%20in%20WP%202014-2015.pdf>

### **Participant portal**

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/sme\\_participation.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/sme_participation.html)

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## MCAA made a strong, visible impact at ESOF 2014

*Snežana Krstić (Chair of the MCAA), Roy Someshwar (Treasurer), Anett Kiss (Grants and Awards Working Group Lead) and Maria-Antonietta Buccheri (Secretary) represented the Marie Curie Alumni Association at ESOF 2014, in Copenhagen (Denmark). Here is a short review of the activities and events organised by MCAA Board for Fellows and young researchers.*



Anett Kiss, Roy Someshwar and Snežana Krstić

From 21 to 26 June 2014, the MCAA participated in the Euroscience Open Forum – ESOF, the largest general science meeting in Europe. This year ESOF was organised in Copenhagen under the title “Science Building Bridges”, and gathered around 4 500 participants from around the world – including prominent scientists, young researchers, students, entrepreneurs, policy makers, journalists and the general public.

MCAA achieved high visibility at ESOF by organising a range of activities throughout the six-day conference.

**1. “We Built the Bridges”** was a promotional event held on 23 June in the Exhibition Area. The event was organised to raise awareness among the general public of the association and its aims, as well as showcasing the opportunities within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) and the value of European research. The session included three speakers:

- 1) Arya-Marie Ba Trung, European Commission, MSCA;
- 2) Marco Masia, MCAA member, Boston University & Frankfurt University;
- 3) Alina Mariana Balu, MCAA member, Avantium (Belgium).

The speakers delivered talks on several thought-provoking topics: Arya-Marie Ba Trung spoke about the Marie-Skłodowska Curie programme, while the two MCAA Fellows





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shared their personal experiences of being MSCA Fellows. In particular the 'bridges' they had built (across continents, disciplines and sectors) within science and owing to the Marie Curie Fellowship. An MCAA video was introduced by Snežana Krstić towards the end of the event.

**2. MCAA Internal Meeting:** An internal meeting for MCAA members was held on 21 June. Information and practical details related to the MCAA were provided, and MCAA members were encouraged to get involved in the association's activities. The meeting was very fruitful as it provided important information on the diverse needs of members, their perceptions on certain MCAA activities, along with views and proposals on how to improve the future work of the MCAA. The meeting appeared to significantly increase interest among MCAA members in all MCAA activities, particularly in establishing Chapters and Working Groups.

**3. MCAA Young Researchers' Poster Stand:** The poster stand was organised with the kind support of the ESOF organisers. It was the first time in the history of ESOF that such an event was hosted, and it was both great opportunity and a great success for the MCAA. Our association was offered an excellent stand space in the exhibition area and this turned out to be the MCAA's most popular event at ESOF 2014. Although the number of presented posters was not high (due to only having a very short time to organise participation), it offered high quality and diversity, hosting researchers from different disciplines and parts of the world – from New Zealand and India to the USA (Harvard University). Young researchers who have not benefited from MC programmes also took part and expressed a keen interest in learning more about the MSCA Fellowships and future cooperation. The session also provided many other benefits: it provided good networking possibilities, and served as a hub for young researchers. We were frequently visited by journalists and other interested ESOF participants.

**General:** Beyond the above events, we were also fully engaged in dialogue with our current and prospective members, which resulted in high interest in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie programme and our association. Many young scientists from all over the world showed interest in becoming Fellows. The success of the MCAA's participation made the hard work during the preparation and throughout the six days of ESOF a very worthwhile effort.

Our strong impression is that the MCAA participation in ESOF was a great success. Although it is not possible to measure all the positive effects, some benefits are visible already. Within the two following months, we have seen a large number of new members joining the association as a result of our promotional activities at the ESOF. We have had several Chapters and one Working Group created as a result of our activities. There has also been interest from our members (whom we met at the ESOF) in establishing new Chapters.

Special thanks go to:

#### 1) ESOF 2014 organisers for providing:

- space for the MCAA Young Researchers' poster stand free of charge;
- space for the "We Built the Bridges" promotional event free of charge;
- room for the MCAA internal meeting free of charge;



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- registration fees and travel grants for three MCAA members who organised the poster stand;
- excellent promotion of our events through ESOF communication channels: newsletters, website, social media;

- 2) **MCAA Events Working Group** for a small financial contribution to expenses related to the organisation of our events and poster stand (promotional material, posters, and similar). This support significantly contributed to the visibility and attractiveness of our sessions and association;
- 3) **European Commission, MSCA (DG EAC)** for taking part in our promotional event and kind help in establishing communication between MCAA event organisers and MSCA ESOF satellite event participants;
- 4) **MCAA members** who attended our events and contributed to their success!

Authors of the article:

**Snežana Krstić, Roy Someshwar and Anett Kiss**

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## Interview Snežana Krstić – Chair of the Marie Curie Alumni Association



Snežana Krstić

### 1. Ms Krstić, you represented the Marie Curie Alumni Association as its Chair at ESOF 2014 in Copenhagen. What were your expectations for this special event?

ESOF conferences have a special meaning for the research community in Europe. They have played an important role in building bridges between scientists, disciplines and different parties, including policy-makers, the industrial sector, journalists and society at large. I believe it is very important for the MCAA, because it has similar goals to our association: in promoting the values of science; in enhancing international cooperation; and particularly in boosting the careers of younger researchers. At the same time, I was aware that it represented a great opportunity to meet our members, to promote our association, and to be of value to the Marie Skłodowska Curie programmes, and to the large and influential audience.

### 2. In the greeting message from the 'ESOF2014 Champion' Klaus Bock, he describes Denmark as having a “*deep-rooted scientific tradition and a strong commitment to scientific and technological innovation*”. Is this what you felt in Copenhagen?

It is. Within the context of deep-rooted scientific tradition, it was interesting to note the attention paid to the human resources and the good conditions within science and career development. Another interesting feature was having good communication with society, followed by raising awareness and public engagement activities.

### 3. How did you promote the association as the Chair?

I promoted it by organising promotional events and sessions at the main ESOF event and by presenting MCAA at the MSCA Satellite event (organised by the European Commission), which was held before the main ESOF event. The MCAA is a very young association and we could not organise a session within the Science and Career





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programme, because the deadlines for these applications had already passed before the MCAA was established. Therefore, we decided to take a proactive approach, and owing to great enthusiasm and the kind support of ESOF organisers, we succeeded in organising several sessions beyond these programmes. I invite the readers to read the article that we wrote about what we did at ESOF. Our activities and participating at the ESOF brought many important benefits and the visibility of the association was significantly increased. I am particularly happy that it contributed to the development of the association and its vibrant life, as many of our members were inspired to take an active role in our activities.

#### **4. You gave a speech at the MSCA satellite event (19 to 20 June) about the topic "Why join the Marie Curie Alumni Association?". How did you encourage the audience to join?**

In the first place I would like to say that the MSCA satellite event was a very interesting and useful event and within such an inspiring atmosphere, so it was not difficult to establish contacts with MSCA Fellows and our members. In my speech I presented the benefits of joining the MCAA, our goals, motivation and the opportunities that the association offers to boost the career of researchers. I was particularly glad that I had the opportunity to personally meet our members and other MSCA Fellows. I enjoyed the discussions we had during the breaks. I am happy to say that, as a result, we have many new members who are actively participating in the work of the MCAA.

#### **5. Did the satellite event fulfil all your aspirations?**

Yes, it did, and it exceeded my expectations. It was very well organised, featured high quality sessions, and had a positive atmosphere – which is very important in conducting fruitful cooperation.

#### **6. Will you represent the Association at future events? Which?**

For the moment I do not have accurate information, but I will be happy to meet our Fellows at future events and to represent the Association, continuing the important momentum that we started with ESOF in Copenhagen.

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## Seven things we learnt at the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Satellite event at ESOF 2014



MSCA Satellite event © Arya-Marie BA TRUNG

*If you weren't present at the MSCA Satellite, you are probably wondering what happened... Here's a round-up of six things that we learnt that we think you might want to know too.*

### 1. What do "transferable skills" mean?

Transferable skills were in the spotlight over the two days. The concept can be defined as "skills learned in one context (for example research) that are useful in another (for example future employment whether that is in research, business etc.). They enable subject- and research-related skills to be applied and developed effectively. Transferable skills may be acquired through training or through work experience" (Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions unit, European Commission).

These skills can also be considered as "professional skills" to the extent that these competences may also be used within industry and academia.

### 2. Why should the EU invest more in its researchers?

According to the Innovation Union Competitiveness report 2013, the share of researchers working in the EU's private sector (45%) is much lower than the share in competitor countries, like the United States (79%), Japan (68%) or China (61%). While seeking to encourage more private sector engagement in research, the EU is also investing itself



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in European researchers, through Horizon 2020 which aims at:

- Responding to the economic crisis to invest in future jobs and growth;
- Addressing people's concerns about their livelihoods, safety and environment;
- Strengthening the EU's global position in research, innovation and technology.

Cross-sector mobility is also strongly promoted.

### 3. What are the benefits of joining the MCAA?

Snezana Krstic, the MCAA chair, presented the Marie Curie Alumni Association and the benefits of joining. So far, nearly 65 000 Fellows have benefited from the Marie Curie Actions (MCA) and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). The MCAA – which held its first general assembly in November 2014 – is open to all current MSCA Fellows and those who have benefited from these actions in the past.

On joining the Association, members will benefit from numerous advantages: micro-grants, job announcements, call announcements, services, events and awards. Above all, joining the Association will help build a community spirit.

### 4. How to identify your transferrable skills and present them to a potential employer

The session "Deciphering a job description: which skills are needed?" aimed at helping participants to identify their transferrable skills and then present them in the context of a job interview. How? By telling a story, structured as follows:

- Start with a challenge that you had to overcome;
- What you did to overcome it;
- What the outcome was.

Telling these stories helped researchers to identify their numerous transferrable skills, which can include, for example, organisation, time-management, team-work, leadership, independence, analytical thinking, understanding organisational structures, writing, grant-writing, communication, perseverance, coordination, diplomacy.

### 5. How to work within a team

The session "Working within a team: giving and receiving feedback" identified the characteristics of an efficient team as follows:

- Clear unity and purpose;
- Plenty of discussions, in which everyone participates;
- People are free to express their feelings and ideas.



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The session identified positive feedback (reinforcement purpose) and negative feedback (constructive purpose). In both cases, it is important for the person who gives the feedback to be understanding and supportive, and to encourage self-assessment.

Feedback techniques can be classified in three categories: "ask-tell-ask", "sandwich technique" and "bridge technique".

## 6. How are ERC proposals assessed?

The European Research Centre (ERC) is an independent agency which was set up in 2007, and is led by scientists. There are three ERC core funding schemes and two additional schemes:

- Stating Grants;
- Consolidator Grants;
- Advanced Grants;
- Proof of concept;
- Synergy Grants.

The ERC funds individual scientists in all fields of fundamental research.

The evaluation of proposals is based on excellence and follows a peer-review process structured into 25 panels (ten in physical sciences, nine in life sciences and six in social sciences and humanities). Demand is very high, which has an inevitable impact on proposal success rates.

## 7. Is it worth applying for an ERC Grant?

Before applying, the potential applicant should be aware that obtaining this type of grant is a long-term, strategic project – and time consuming. He/She should ask him/herself:

- Do I have a project?
- Do I fit the profile?
- Do I have the time to do it?

To present his/her project in the best way, the applicant must find the right balance between a "personal narrative" and the identity of his/her field, keeping in mind that he/she will have to convince a panel of 15 members plus external reviewers. The choice of the host institution is also crucial.

According to professor Kjaer, ERC grantee, Department of Business and Politics, CBS at the Copenhagen Business School – also ERC Grant Leader and chair of this session – an ERC grant brings resources, scientific freedom and, above all, recognition.



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## What did the MCAA members learn during ESOF 2014?



Marie Mardal, Vesna Prchkovska, Martin Nielsen, Katryna Cisek and Maria Bostenaru Dan.

Marie Mardal, Vesna Prchkovska, Martin Nielsen, Katryna Cisek and Maria Bostenaru Dan attended ESOF 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark. They all enjoyed the experience and agreed to share with us what they learnt during the event.

### Marie Mardal: "My three words to sum up ESOF 2014 are: networking, outreach and inspiration"

Originally from Denmark, Mardal benefited from an Initial Training Network (ITN) to work in Germany on a project aiming to determine illicit drug use trends at community level via the analysis of urinary biomarkers in sewage.

**Mardal decided to attend ESOF 2014 in Copenhagen mainly to get a better understanding of the European Union (EU) funding system** but also to network with researchers working in different fields so as to broaden her horizons. She therefore attended several sessions ("What is a PhD for", "What the Higgs do we do now", "The billion-dollar big brain projects: where are we going with our brains?", "The future of science communication", "How much do you want to know about yourself", "Ageing as a way of life", etc.) and particularly enjoyed the session about how to communicate research to children at school. She also particularly enjoyed the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) session and especially the overall theme "Transferable skills", which she considers "very useful for PhD students".

Mardal's experience of ESOF 2014 was very positive. It gave her a feeling of belonging to a very special community: "There is something beautiful about scientists' common passion for science, independently of any area of research".

**Vesna Prchkovska: "I attended ESOF to improve myself as a researcher"**





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Prchovska comes from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). After having benefited from an Intra-European Fellowship for Career Development (IEF), she moved to Spain to work on a project studying multiple sclerosis to develop new models for studying brain connectivity.

**Interested in developing transferrable skills and curious about her future opportunities within and outside academia**, Prchovska attended numerous ESOF sessions ("What's up with peer review?", "What environment is required to fulfil the role of a scientist?", "The ERC and beyond: impact on career paths", etc.). "All of the sessions were great" she says, adding that "I have learned more about how the Horizon 2020 programme works, more about the bridges between academia and business, and about different scientific disciplines which are not per-se from my research area but which were explained in a way that I could understand". She had also the opportunity to present her project during the MSCA poster session.

When we asked Prchovska if she would be willing to attend ESOF again, she replied with enthusiasm – having met a lot of people and been inspired by hearing their success stories, she would definitely go again.

**Martin Nielsen: "I appreciated the broad interdisciplinary aspect of the conference"**

Originally from Denmark, Nielsen was awarded an International Outgoing Fellowship for Career Development (IOF) to work in the United States on biomass valorisation and its transformation into commercially useful commodities.

Even though initially he found "The information on what ESOF is wasn't very good or easily accessible in my opinion", Nielsen admits that he learned a lot during the different sessions that he attended (the opening ceremony, "Science to Business", "Science Policy", etc.), and especially about other disciplines. He had also the opportunity to attend the MSCA event and some workshops.

**If he could sum up in three words his ESOF experience, Nielsen would say "Inter-disciplinarity, science in the future, networking"**, showing that he would be happy to repeat the experience!

**Katryna Cisek: "I understood how I can transition from academia to industry"**

With joint Polish and American citizenship, Cisek works on a project which characterises protein complexes that have been linked to various neurodegenerative disorders and depression. She conducts research in Finland thanks to an Initial Training Network (ITN).

**Cisek attended ESOF 2014 as she wanted to participate in the MSCA event as well as in the career development workshops, wanting to learn how to transition from academia to industry**, especially in the framework of small biotech companies. According to her, "Both the MSCA and ESOF career sessions were excellent". She received practical information about on-line resources and portals, as well as an idea of the "the true value of non-technical skills learned during doctorate studies".

For Cisek, the experience was definitely "fun, fruitful and insightful" as she met and networked with a lot MSCA Fellows and learned about career development.



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## Maria Bostenaru Dan: *"It was worth it!"*

Bostenaru Dan has joint Romanian and Hungarian citizenship and has been lucky enough to benefit from three Marie Curie Actions so far (under FP5, FP6 and FP7). Her field is housing from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (first seismic response, then decision making for preservation, and finally study of the architectural layout).

Bostenaru Dan has a lot of experience of ESOF, having been present in Stockholm in 2004, in Munich in 2006 and in Dublin in 2012. At ESOF 2014, she had the opportunity to work behind the scenes as she was involved in the preparation of some of the sessions.

She definitely recommends Fellows attend ESOF: *"Career sessions are unique at ESOF"* and adds that it's worth it *"If you want to make your voice heard in science policy"*.

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## Interview with Alessandra Treviso – Member of the 'Communication' and 'Networking & Events' MCAA working groups



Alessandra Treviso

### 1. Ms Treviso, you participated at the MSCA event during ESOF 2014 in Copenhagen. How inspirational was this?

The most inspirational thing was being there with so many MC Fellows from different research areas, but sharing the same experience. I felt part of a community of excellent researchers. We are most of the time focused on our research and I think we tend to forget how ambitious the MSC Action is, and the role we have in pushing knowledge and economic development forward. I found it very motivating.

### 2. Which workshops did you attend? Which themes and keynotes interested you at this event?

I attended the "Working within a team: giving and receiving feedback" workshop, which is an important part of our work. We are constantly communicating with our supervisors and team, so it is important to understand how to do it in a positive way.

I also found the plenary session about Transferrable skills and CVs very useful. It is amazing how many skills we use daily and develop during our research path without even knowing!

### 3. Do you have a few words to say about the poster session?

The poster session during the satellite event was very interesting. Because I did not present a poster myself, I had the opportunity to go around and see what research looks like outside of my field. I could feel the passion of all these young researchers and commitment to their work. Interaction among different fields was very evident. There was a genuine interest and many interesting conversations started.



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## 4. How do you think the MCAA benefits from being represented at ESOF 2014?

ESOF provided more visibility for the association. I think that being an active part of the event gave an important message: the MCAA is truly a lively association and as such, it wants to be part of relevant events for the community of Marie Curie Fellows.

## 5. In three words, could you sum up your experience?

Inspiration – Networking – Commitment

## 6. Do you think that the visibility of the association will be increased after ESOF 2014? How?

It definitely will. Many fellows asked questions about the association and were really interested in being part of it. I am quite confident that the number of members will increase following the conference.

## 7. Will you represent the Association at future events? Which?

I hope so! The Communication Working Group met in July and defined our agenda for the upcoming months.



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## Exciting moments: the MCAA at ESOF 2014 – by Roy Someshwar, MCAA Executive Committee



The MCAA poster stand



The speaker here is explaining her research project in Spanish. Surprisingly, it turned out to be the most-visited poster :-)



The hard-working MCAA Board in action. Proud to be a Marie Curie Fellow!



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## Great archaeological discoveries are not always the result of excavation: the Appian Way project

*A temple originally excavated in the 1970s and then forgotten has been rediscovered thanks to one Marie Curie researcher's work in the Italian State archives. Rachele Dubbini tells us more about this exceptional archaeological discovery.*



Rachele Dubbini

Part of the temple during the 1970s - Archivio della SSBAR

**During my Marie Curie IEF Fellowship** in the Humanities Department of Roma Tre University I was working on the reconstruction of the ancient landscape of 'Via Appia Antica'. The project (developed in conjunction with the *Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Roma*), included studying the documents preserved in the archives of the Soprintendenza itself. The plan was to integrate information from the field and from scientific publications with little-known or even unknown material from the archives.

It was a surprise when, among the documents from the 1970s' excavations, I recognised some photographs of a monumental architectural complex that is no longer visible and was completely unknown to archaeological research! For more than a month, I thought I had made a mistake – surely it was impossible that the monument had not yet been discovered!

The complex is exceptionally large and made of square tuff blocks. The red painted walls with their white base and part of the mosaic floor have been preserved. The building techniques used suggest the construction may date back to approximately the third century BC. But that is not all. It may be interpreted as a double-cella temple,



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a type of architecture that was rather unusual in the Roman world and was inspired by building models of the Etrusco-Italic period.

**News of the discovery of an ancient monument in a city like Rome, is not that remarkable.** However, what is remarkable is the discovery of a rare type of ancient temple architecture. This temple lies in an important part of ancient Rome; just beyond the borders of the city, which, since the time of Augustus at least, was formed by the river Almone.

It is well known that the most salient feature of the Appian Way is a series of tombs belonging to important members of Roman society. In this particular area, outside the limits of the urban part of the city, there was a temple dedicated to the god *Rediculus*, a god connected to the 'return' of the souls of the dead. It seems to be no coincidence therefore that, according to tradition, it was in precisely this area that the apostle Paul met Christ. The spot has been marked architecturally since the Middle Ages by the small church *Domine quo vadis?*

**We now know that in the same area as the church, a temple was built, in Roman times, based on a very unique architectural model.** It is unique not only because it resembles the buildings of the Archaic period (after all, it is not impossible that the temple was built above a more ancient sanctuary), but because it hints at the existence of a pair of gods, who probably complemented each other. In other words, this discovery leads to a series of topographical and historico-religious considerations regarding the area, which in turn opens up intriguing research prospects. The last months of my fellowship will be dedicated to this research. Progress may be followed here: <https://sites.google.com/site/theappianwayproject/home>.

## A brief note about archaeology

The main task of the archaeologist is to understand the interwoven elements that make up the history of an archaeological context, be it a specific site, a city, or even a region, in order to attempt to reconstruct this history. This kind of research is highly complex, not only because of the fragmented nature of archaeological data preserved up to the present day, but also the laborious analysis and re-composition of all the available information to examine. This includes the texts of the ancient writers, the epigraphic sources, and the geo-morphological conformation. Along with the excavation, there is also an 'excavation of the excavation', also known as 'archaeology in the archives', based on the study of documentation relating to previous excavations stored in public archives. Contrary to what one might imagine, many European archives are actually still unexplored territory, 'yet-to-be-excavated' and may contain discoveries that are no less remarkable than those hidden underground.

**Rachele Dubbini**

Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici  
Università degli Studi Roma Tre  
piazza della Repubblica 10  
00185 Roma



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## Call for contribution - e-book on Role Models for Women Scientists in MCAA

*Are you an MCAA member? Are you a woman? Then keep reading! The Working Group GEMS (Gender Equality for Mobile Researchers in Science) plans to publish an e-book on Role models for Women Scientists in the MCAA. GEMS needs your help!*

### Purpose of the e-book

An important factor in fostering a positive attitude towards science and scientific careers in young women researchers is strong role models. Stories from other women are a way to pass on realistic information about career opportunities.

This e-book will provide young women scientists with a collection of role models who have benefited from mobility within their careers.

### Contact

Are you interested in contributing? Do not hesitate to send a private message to Giovanna Avellis, Chair of the GEMS Working Group.

We are looking forward to reading about your scientific models!

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## During my Marie Curie Project, my host country was...Norway

*Anne Burtsey (France), Jean Froment (France), Atanas Kostadinov (Bulgaria) and Chema Martin (Spain) have worked, or are currently working, on Marie Curie projects in Norway. They all agree that it is a pleasant place to work in spite of the long, dark winters!*



Jean Froment



Atanas Kostadinov



Chema Martin

### Norway is a leader country in molecular biology and much more

Martin and Burtsey have both benefited from a Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship (IEF), allowing them to move to Bergen. Burtsey works on a project increasing understanding of cellular communication networks, whereas Martin is studying the embryonic development of priapulid worms. They both chose Norway as it is a leader in molecular biology. What's more, Martin especially wanted to work with Andreas Hejnol, a group leader at the Sars International Centre for Marine Molecular Biology "We met before the end of my Ph.D in Barcelona. I wanted to work with him and he had the opportunity to hire me". Kostadinov benefited from a Co-funding Action (COFUND) to work in Trondheim on a project about design and verification of new computer (processor) architectures. The opportunity arose when as his scientific coordinator knew about his educational background and experience in digital design.

### Although the country is not part of the EU, administration doesn't require a lot of paperwork

Having benefited from an Initial Training Network (ITN), Froment is currently at the Norwegian Institute for Water Research to work on a project using biological and chemical tools to identify chemicals in water samples. To register as a PhD student, he had to provide the University of Oslo with the originals of his Bachelor and Master degrees, including details of the courses that he took, his CV, a covering letter and some contacts for references. According to Martin, "The application process went very smoothly" and he adds that "Applying for a Marie Curie in Norway is quite similar to applying in any other country in the European Union. There were no translations to provide". Burtsey echoes "I didn't need official translations. The administration of the University of Bergen was very helpful". Kostadinov adds nevertheless that he had to provide a translation of his PhD diploma from Bulgarian to English, along with two of his research papers for his application (postdoctoral programme).



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## A work contract is very helpful for obtaining a residence permit

Our Fellows had no difficulties obtaining a residence permit. *"Thanks to my work contract, I had an unlimited residence permit,"* says Martin. For Froment, *"it took two months to obtain a work and residence permit in Norway"*, but as an EU citizen, everything went pretty smoothly. Kostadinov, who moved from Bulgaria with his wife, had to provide the translation of their birth certificates, which were required for the residence and work permits.

## High accommodation prices

Froment points out that it can sometimes be difficult to find accommodation in Norway. To him *"the first months of my stay were difficult because of the high prices and the three months' rent deposit, usually asked for by landlords"*. Martin and Burtey feel lucky that they received a lot of help from their administrations, especially for accommodation.

## Research is well supported and valued

All our Fellows agree on the fact that the research process is well-supported in Norway. Martin very much enjoys working in this country because *"research is valued the same as any other job in Norway. We have the rights and obligations of any other worker, and I think this helps me to focus only on my work"*. Froment has also been struck by the working process in Norway *"I was surprised how everyone in the institute is treated equally and how everyone is, by default, trusted. I quickly had responsibilities and if someone has an opinion to share (no matter if the person is an intern or a researcher for example), he/she will be listened to"*. He adds with amusement *"However a drawback is the possibility of being stuck in an endless discussion during a meeting"*.

## Quality of life and work

Martin feels lucky to work in the Sars Centre in Bergen, as he can access vessels and a marine station where he can find most of the animals necessary for his work. He highlights that *"these facilities are difficult to find elsewhere, in particular in continental Europe, when one has to travel several kilometres to the closest marine station"*. Froment stresses the good balance between work and private life and says *"I really enjoy the freedom I have to manage my time as I want and the fact that here, having a life (meaning doing activities) outside of the lab is regarded as a positive"*. All of our Fellows agree the nature is amazing and contributes to the quality of life.

## Be prepared for long, dark winters!

All of our Fellows have lived or are living an amazing experience in Norway. Nevertheless they advise future Fellows (and those from southern countries) wanting to come to Norway to keep in mind that winters are exceptionally dark and long. But, as Froment says, *"Don't be afraid of the cold or the dark during winter, we get used to it and you will miss it if you spend a winter somewhere else!"* Convinced? Then what are you waiting for?!



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## I benefited from a Marie Curie Action – IIF in the spotlight

***Taichiro Iki (Japan), Valentin Ivanov (Belarus), Sergio Roa (Spain) and Shengqi Wang (China) are four of the many Fellows having benefited from an International Incoming Fellowship (IIF). They shared their experience and advice with us.***



Taichiro Iki



Valentin Ivanov



Sergio Roa



Shengqi Wang

**What is a Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship (IIF)?** The Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowships (IIF) are open to experienced researchers with a doctoral degree or at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience, and based outside the EU. The aim is to support researchers moving from around the world to work on projects in Europe.

To apply for an IIF, you must have a host organisation established in a Member State or Associated Country, and if applicable, a return host organisation from an International Cooperation Partner Country (ICPC) for the return phase. A project proposal is submitted by the researchers in liaison with the host organisation, which is represented by the scientist in charge (future coordinator).

The IIF is open to various types of host organisation, such as:

- national governmental or public organisations (universities, research centres, etc.);
- international organisations;
- commercial companies, including those of small and medium size (SMEs);
- non-profit or charitable organisations (NGOs, trusts, etc.);
- International and European interest organisations (CERN, EMBL, etc.);
- The European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

Projects are classified into: chemistry, economic sciences, information science and engineering, environment and geosciences, life sciences, mathematics, physics, social sciences and humanities.

**If you want to benefit from an IIF, preliminary research may be fruitful!** Before working on his Marie Curie project (in the field of immunoncology – he aims to increase understanding of the molecular mechanisms that are deregulated in diffuse large beta-



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cell lymphomas), Roa was looking for job opportunities in Spain and contacted the Centre for Applied Medical Research of the University of Navarra (CIMA), his future host organisation. There, the R&D project management office suggested that he should apply for an IIF as the organisation already had experience in applying for such actions.

Iki and Shenqi were both introduced to this Marie Curie Action by colleagues, whereas Ivanov did his research on the internet.

**An application has to be carefully prepared, taking into account the benefits of the proposal for the European Union.** It took four months for Roa to submit his application, as he realised that it was more time-consuming than expected. His advice for other Fellows wanting to apply for this type of Action would be: *"Ensure you pay special attention to the impact and benefits of your proposal for Europe and your integration within the European Research Community"*. Shenqi, who worked on a project called 'Optical fibre-based nano-bio-sensor for early prostate cancer diagnosis' in the United Kingdom, says *"the topic should satisfy the EU's requirements"*. It took three months for Iki and two months for Ivanov to apply for an IIF.

**Find synergies between your host organisation and the scientist in charge.** Ivanov worked on a project in Germany dedicated to the study of fuzzy methods for the identification of tyre-surface interaction parameters, and to new approaches to controlling vehicle dynamics using fuzzy tyre models. He says: *"The work was efficiently organised through regular research meetings on a weekly basis with the scientist in charge and host research group. In all administrative and management tasks, I was always supported by the EU Funding Office of the host organisation."* Roa considers himself lucky when he says, *"Fortunately we immediately found synergies and opportunities of collaboration between my supervisor's interests and my own research interests and expertise, without jeopardising any of his on-going projects at the host institution."*

Iki, who is currently working on a project linked to plant viral strategies to counteract antiviral effects of host RNA silencing, received a lot of support from his scientist-in-charge in facilitating professional collaborations.

**If you want to continue working on your project, secure your post-Fellowship position.** Ivanov wanted to perform long-term investigations in the same host organisation for his project, but had to find other sources of funding *"I had to look for new funding opportunities at the end of my Fellowship. Fortunately, my host organisation had industrial contacts, and was able to help me organise my post-Fellowship project"*. Roa also had to look for additional funding and recently received good news: *"I was just awarded my first national three-year grant as an independent junior investigator (from the Spanish Government) to expand the work of the IIF proposal."*

**An IIF can be a career springboard.** Each of our four Fellows considers that receiving an IIF boosted their career. Iki is still working on his Marie Curie project but recognises that this experience is opening up global opportunities. Ivanov is still working at his host organisation as a Research Professor and a Project Officer. He used his experience to apply for another Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) and is hoping to now become a Marie Curie project coordinator. Shenqi is now a full professor at the Huazhong University of Science and Technology in China. To Roa, *"This IIF is definitely helping me to boost my career towards an independent research position"*.

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## Five Top Tips for starting a research job abroad

***More than half of the EU's researchers have experienced international mobility and 80% say the experience has had a positive impact on their research career. However, moving abroad for your research has unique challenges. Here are five top tips that Calum MacKichan gathered for your move abroad.***

### 1. Find your local Euraxess Centre and National Portal

As a researcher you have free access to a Europe-wide customised assistance service offered by the EURAXESS Service Network. More than 250 centres in 40 countries assist you and your family in all matters relating to your professional and daily life, including information on legal issues, social security, health and taxes, everyday life as well as family support.

The Euraxess website contains national portals – contact points with tailored advice for those who move abroad.

### 2. Scientific Visa and work permits

The Scientific Visa package helps researchers to obtain permission to enter, stay and work in European Union Member States for the purpose of carrying out scientific research. It is designed to make the process easier for researchers to receive a residence permit so they can carry out research for a short-term (up to three months) or long-term (more than three months) in the EU.

### 3. Know your rights: pension and social security

Researchers are a highly-skilled and mobile workforce. However, because of their mobility, gaps can arise in their social security protection and the transfer of their pension rights. In addition, there is no clear or adequate information available about these rights. Here is a useful FAQ on pension rights.

### 4. Learn the language

English may be fine in the lab; however, living everyday in a country where you don't understand the language may get boring! Author Mark Manson's 22 entertaining tips for learning a foreign language include: learning the 100 most common words as a start, speaking as much as possible, accept you will say a lot of stupid things, and (if you're lucky) date someone who speaks the native language!

### 5. Create an international network

Funding agencies are increasingly looking for international collaboration and favour the involvement of interdisciplinary research teams; therefore it can be useful to use your time abroad to create an international network. Here is some advice "for dummies" on using your personal network successfully.

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## Ten minutes with... Ivana Nina Unkovic



Ivana Nina Unkovic

**Profession:** Conservator of monuments and lecturer of theory and history of monument conservation

**Specialisation:** History of monument Conservation between two World Wars in ex-Yugoslavia territory, History of 19<sup>th</sup> century monument Conservation, History of Restitution of artefacts

### 1. When you started your project through the Marie Curie initiative, what was your expectation?

My Marie Curie path was very uncommon. To explain briefly, my research on the theory and history of monument conservation between the two World Wars in ex-Yugoslavian territory was at a recently mature stage when the Croatian science community in 2013 had the honour of being awarded its 100th Marie Curie Actions (jubilee) project.

The project, named 'NEWFELPRO' (New Fellowship Programme) has the goal of keeping the best Croatian scientists and researchers in the country after they develop their skills and disseminate knowledge at the most prestigious European knowledge centres. The situation in Croatia for young researchers and their positions and employment is very disturbing – therefore this action serves the purpose of alleviating the 'brain drain' effect.

The percentage of awarded Marie Curie action Grants in the humanities is around 3%, and my achievement provides a glimmer of hope for colleagues in this area.

The project, named 'Comparison of Croatian and Slovenian conservators Ljubo Karaman and France Stelè in the context of Vienna School of Art history' started recently, in June 2014, and it will be led by the University of Ljubljana Faculty of Arts for two years. In the third year, the project goals will be finalised at the University of Split Faculty of Philosophy.

Among 50 applied projects, this was one among 11 selected by the Marie Curie Co-fund Action, of which I am very proud. The specificity of the project is reflected in its interdisciplinary application (analyses of art history, history, political and contemporary influence in Croatian and Slovenian monument conservation between the two World Wars) and a concrete elaborated programme of knowledge dissemination via lectures, seminars and individual consultations at the Departments of Art History of both Faculties.





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The project has to be finished at the end of May 2017.

My expectations were only that the project would be recognised by the scientific world, because being a young researcher in Croatia is very difficult due to the lack of opportunities and job possibilities. This is the proof that working hard and believing in your skills will get you results.

## 2. What do you see yourself doing after your Marie Curie project?

With this experience in hand, I believe that I will get the opportunity to continue working in the research field of monument conservation. I would like to have the possibility to teach or lead a project at foreign institutions on the history of monument conservation within ex-Yugoslavian territory. The most important thing is to spread the knowledge, and loving interaction with students, my future colleagues, I would be most satisfied to continue by becoming a professor. For me, the best indicator of your work's value is when a student or ex-student says: *"I remember your lectures, they were interesting and useful to me."*

## 3. If you had to choose the most memorable moment (so far) during your Marie Curie project, what would it be?

My first glimpse of the quantity of unexplored archived material on this subject was enough for me to have visions of publishing a book. I can just lose myself in the stories of that time – how the conservators Ljubo Karaman and France Stèle managed to protect the monuments in that very vulnerable period between the World Wars with little or no financial resources, with just pure knowledge and plain resourcefulness.

## 4. Three words that sum up your Marie Curie Actions experience?

Acknowledgment, hope, future.

## 5. How do you see yourself in 10 years?

In 10 years I will be 43. By that time in my career I see myself being a renowned researcher having led a number of projects, hopefully with experience of organising congresses and helping young researchers. I would gain personal satisfaction from seeing different places or to have the opportunity to volunteer as a conservator in the risk management area.

## 6. Is there a famous researcher who inspires you?

For me my inspiration is: Nikola Tesla, Ivan Đikić and Ljubo Karaman. All of them are self-effacing and ingenious people who love their work without the need to establish the "ME" factor in the scientific and research world.





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## 7. What is your favourite quote by a scientist?

"When I investigate and when I discover that the forces of the heavens and the planets are within ourselves, then truly I seem to be living among the gods."

Leon Battista Alberti

## 8. Your advice to a researcher who would like to apply for a Marie Curie Action?

First, have the courage, and believe in your potential as a project leader. When explaining the project, just present thoroughly and honestly. The project's goal should be clear, applicable, and with transparent results.

## 9. Imagine your ideal Marie Curie Alumni Association event. What would it be and where?

The ideal would be a relaxed and informal exchange of experiences in a gathering in a rural setting or something like that. Where? In a country that really needs to provide opportunities for its researchers, especially women researchers. I think that you get my point; the countries on the 'margins'.

## 10. If you could introduce us to another Marie Curie Alumni, who would it be?

I haven't yet the opportunity to get to know many Marie Curie Alumni, but I know that Dr Robert Vianello from the Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb (Croatia) achieved stunning results with his research and projects.

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## Events that we attended for you - 16th European Congress on Biotechnology

***Leading biotechnologists from Europe and across the world gathered at the 16<sup>th</sup> European Congress on Biotechnology from 13 to 16 July in Edinburgh (Scotland), to discuss the latest trends and developments in the field. Calum MacKichan, who is publications officer at the European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO), attended the Congress.***

**In the opening keynote** speech, Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Advisor to the President of the European Commission and a Scottish native, issued a rallying call to European biotechnologists as she underlined our role in European society and encouraged us to be bolder in communicating our research. It was the perfect start to the next three days of stimulating talks and discussion.

**A central discussion focused on Europe's bio-economy strategy**, a long-term vision of sustainable development based on renewable resources. In 2020 it is estimated that the bio-based products market in Europe will be worth €200 billion a year and €530 billion globally.

**We were warned that the success of biotechnology will only be judged by the success of the bio-economy.** A number of speakers urged Europe to focus more on bio-based chemicals, a message reinforced by impressive plenary talks that demonstrated how microbes and bio-refineries can be used to produce high-value chemicals.

**An evening debate on antibiotic resistance was free to the general public and generated much interest.** Paul Hoskisson took us on a history lesson from the dark ages, when the only method to prevent bacterial infections was to wash your hands, through the 'golden era' of antibiotic discovery in the last century, and back to the point where our best defence may be hand-washing again. "*Antibiotic resistance is certain, like death and taxes*", he said. For the public it is a difficult reality.

**Despite this problem, few pharmaceutical companies are interested in the development of novel antibiotics for economic reasons.** Solutions to this problem may include longer patents, bulk buying of novel antibiotics, selling them as expensive specialist drugs, and reducing clinical trial costs.

**Parallels were drawn between antibiotic resistance and climate change:** they are both natural processes that have global significance, and need preventative action. It was proposed that antibiotic resistance may need an equivalent to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

**After such a rich session it was encouraging to see bright young scientists talk about developing new antibiotic strategies the next morning!**

**A discussion on responsible research and innovation took a wider perspective.** Social scientists, research funders and scientists from academia and industry debated how to manage the collective stewardship of research in the present, to ensure the



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safety of research in the future. Anticipating future problems is very challenging and we need robust structures to decide what is responsible, and at the same make sure we do not stifle research.

**The discussion underlined that in a world where culture, demographics and environment are all changing**, science has no monopoly on solving these problems. However, biotechnology will play a critical role for all of us.

There will be much to discuss at the next edition in Krakow, Poland, in 2016.

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## Top 10 YouTube Videos about European Research Funding

*Understanding the various opportunities for research funding at the European level can be a confusing task. But there's plenty of information out there if you know where to look. We've compiled a top-10 list of videos that could help you.*

### 1. Horizon 2020 – How to apply

Interested in learning more about EU funding opportunities for your research or innovation project? This short animation will guide you through the steps involved in applying to Horizon 2020.

### 2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

This playlist includes a variety of videos introducing the various Marie Skłodowska-Curie opportunities, including the Initial Training Network and Reintegration Fellowship.

### 3. Step-by-Step ERC Grants

The above video gives a graphical introduction to the European Research Council (ERC), highly prestigious grants awarded purely on the basis of excellence. In other videos Dr Pablo Huertas speaks of his experience in applying to the Starting Grant Programme and Professor Luke O'Neill provides a case study for the benefits of receiving an Advanced Grant.

### 4. Access to funding for SMEs

Triin Udris from the Enterprise Europe Network explains how SMEs can access funding from the new Horizon 2020 EU programme. If you have more time on your hands, this webinar offers a full explanation.

### 5. Horizon 2020 – Societal challenges

Europe faces significant societal challenges; Horizon 2020 provides funding for research and innovation to pave the way for solutions to seven of today's challenges.

### 6. COST Exhibition at the European Parliament

COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, allowing the coordination of nationally funded research on a European level. In this video, key figures speak about the programme at the European Parliament.

### 7. JPI Oceans – Where we're heading

Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) pool national research efforts in order to make better use of Europe's public R&D resources, as well as tackling common European challenges in a few key areas; for example JPI Oceans.

### 8. ERASysBio – Introduction and Data Management

The ERA-NET scheme involves the coordination of research activities carried out at a national or regional level. ERASysBio is an ERA-NET for Systems Biology.





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## 9. Joint Research Centre at a glance

The JRC provides independent scientific and technical advice to the European Commission in support of a wide range of European Union policies. It has seven scientific institutes located at six different sites in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain This video presents the JRC's priorities.

## 10. Chemical Party

Finally we take a more light-hearted look at the EC's attempt to attract people to the Marie Curie programme through a chemical party!

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## Don't miss the next MSCA event – ENGRES 2014!

***Save the date: the next Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) event will take place in Italy on 18 and 19 November!***

**Where and when?** The EU 2014 Conference on the “Empowerment of the Next Generation of Researchers – Promoting talents, spreading excellence” (ENGRes2014) will take place on 18 and 19 November 2014 in Trento, Italy.

**Who's behind it?** Part-funded by the European Commission, the conference is organised by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research, in collaboration with the Autonomous Province of Trento, under the auspices of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

**What is it about?** With “Empowerment of the Next Generation of Researchers – Promoting talents, spreading excellence” as the conference theme, the event will focus on skills, mobility and gender balance, but also on researcher training, recruitment and career development.

**Which themes will workshops address?** The workshops will cover the following:

- Training and supporting researchers in a changing world;
- Multi-sector career paths: promoting and assessing professional development;
- Attractive working and social security conditions in Europe for ANY talented researcher;
- A win-win collaboration between academia and beyond;
- Towards an open labour market for empowered researchers.

**What about the MSCA prize ceremony?** The second edition of the MSCA prize ceremony will take place on 18 November and will be followed by a press conference. The three award categories are:

- Promising research talents;
- Communicating science;
- Nurturing research talent.

**More information on ENGRES 2014**

<http://www.msca2014.eu/>



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## More information on the MSCA prize ceremony

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/news-events/news/2014/20140718-msca-prizes\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/news-events/news/2014/20140718-msca-prizes_en.htm)

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## All you need to know about the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

*The Joint Research Centre (JRC)'s mission is to provide the European Commission with independent, evidence-based scientific and technical support to enhance research.*

**How is the JRC funded?** The JRC budget amounts to around €330 million annually. It uses the funding to support the EU institutions through scientific and technical advice o policy. It is funded by two programmes:

- Horizon 2020
- The EURATOM Research and energy programme.

All the budget and resources figures are available in the JRC annual reports.

**In which scientific areas is the JRC active?** The JRC's activities are clustered into 10 scientific areas, as follows:

- **Agriculture and food security** (agricultural biodiversity, agricultural markets and international trade, agricultural monitoring, agricultural technological innovation, desertification and drought, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, rural development, etc.);
- **Economic and Monetary Union** (financial and economic analysis, financial market regulation, regional economic analysis and modelling, etc.);
- **Energy and transport** (aviation safety and security, bio-fuels and energy, energy efficiency, renewable energy, transport safety, etc.);
- **Environment and climate change** (air-quality and greenhouse gases, climate change, coastal and marine environment, soil, water, etc.);
- **Health and consumer protection** (alternatives to animal testing and safety assessment of chemicals, consumer products, food and feed safety, GMOs, nanotechnology, etc.);
- **Information society** (cyber-security, digital earth, digital economy, digital living, learning and skills, etc.);
- **Innovation and growth** (education and lifelong learning, industrial research and innovation, smart specialisation, sustainable production and consumption, etc.);
- **Nuclear safety and security** (nuclear knowledge management, training and education, nuclear safety, nuclear science base for standardisation, preparedness for radiological emergencies, etc.);



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- **Safety and security** (accident prevention, antifraud, crisis management, surveillance, transport safety and security, etc.);
- **Standards** (certified reference materials, nuclear science base for standardisation, reference materials for food analysis, reference materials for GMO analysis, standards for wireless services, etc.).

**How and where does the JRC work?** The headquarters of the JRC is located in Brussels. However, the JRC's work is carried out in seven scientific institutes, as follows:

1. The Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES): providing scientific and technical support to EU policies for the protection of the environment and the management of natural resources (Ispra, Italy).
2. The Institute for Energy and Transport (IET): enhancing sustainable and efficient transport in Europe (Ispra, Italy and Petten, the Netherlands).
3. The Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP): providing support in the areas of food, consumer products, chemicals and public health (Ispra, Italy).
4. The Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen (IPSC): providing support in the sectors of global stability and security, crisis management, maritime and fisheries policies and the protection of critical infrastructures. It also performs statistical and information analysis, and acts in the field of engineering, information technologies (IT), satellite image processing and analysis, open source information analysis, structural mechanics and risk assessment (Ispra, Italy).
5. The Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS): mainly contributes to the conception and development of key EU policies such as agriculture, food security, Digital Economy, low-carbon economy and resources efficiency (Seville, Spain).
6. The Institute for Trans-uranium Elements (ITU): works to protect European citizens against risks associated with the handling and storage of highly radioactive material. It works very closely with national and international bodies in the nuclear field, both within the EU and beyond, as well as with the nuclear industry (Karlsruhe, Germany and Ispra, Italy).
7. The Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM): providing measurement standards and scientific advice on measurements and standards for EU policies in the field of safety and security (Geel, Belgium).

**International collaboration.** The JRC collaborates with many external organisations, located mainly in EU Member States, in the following contexts:

- joint research projects;
- networks with national enforcement laboratories and agencies;
- knowledge transfer;
- participation in workshops and seminars;



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- [mobility and training schemes for young scientists.](#)

In addition, the JRC has put in place a network of National Contact Points (NCPs) whose mission is to act as intermediaries and operational contact points between the JRC and stakeholders from the scientific community, industry and public authorities in their respective countries.

More information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en>



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## Keep in touch... what's coming up in the next newsletter?

***Dear MCAA Members,***

As you could read in the special coverage of ESOF 2014, the summer was fruitful for the MCAA.

Continue watching this space for the next edition; it will bring, among other things, news about the winner of the MCAA video competition.

We wish you success in all of your projects and collaboration over the weeks to come.

We are looking forward to receiving your news and article contributions, so please keep in touch!

The MCAA team

Keep in touch... what's coming up in the next newsletter?