MCAA TURKISH CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES
Date: 03/08/2018

Place: Istanbul Technical University, Maslak, Istanbul

Scribe: Ceyhun Arslan

GÖZDE ÜNAL

- Acknowledgments: IR, EU office, MCAA members, the ITU team, Secretary, MCAA board
- Definition of Marie Curie association and definition of the chapter
- Gives a profile of Marie Curie fellows in Turkey. Most members come from other countries and use the reintegration grant
- Marie Curie grant was helpful for many Turkish academics who did their PhD outside Turkey and return back to Turkey
- Carrier award – Recognizes outstanding achievements of a Marie Curie fellow; Gozde Unal received the award and went to Salamanca. Met with Brian to talk about the possibility of establishing a MCAA chapter.
- Most Marie Curie fellows in Turkey are professors; most in Europe are postdoc fellows; EC highly values the Marie Curie community in Turkey
- The history of the chapter—Murat, Brian, and Gozde first developed the idea in Salamanca
- Typical annual budget for the chapter: 250-500 Euros; this year 750 Euros
- Goal of this chapter: Bring Turkish chapter members together; promote interests of Marie Curie fellows and alumni in Turkey and possibly in Europe
- Goal of this meeting: Determine the goals of this chapter
- Summary of the timetable

DİDEM ÖZGÜR

- EU Research Center Office of ITU
- The history and mission of ITU: the fifth oldest technical university (founded in 1773)
- **ITU at a glance**
  - Five campuses; 76 undergrad programs; 140 graduate programs; 13 faculties; 43 departments; 13 research centers
  - ITU chosen as a research university in Turkey; its aim is to become a leading research university in the world
  - Leading public research university in Turkey and in the world; world-renowned faculty members
  - Research focus—Social sciences, technology, engineering
  - 21 6. Framework program, 47 7. Framework program, 16 Horizon 2020 programs
  - 21 other EU programs (EU lifelong learning etc.)
  - H2020 performance—16 accepted projects out of 185 applications. 5 in the evaluation process. 164 rejected; their scores are very high even if they were rejected. Total budget 2915.825 Euros

- o   2 FP6; 12 FP7; 9 Horizon 2020 projects= 3 RISE, 5 IF, 1 ITM
- MSCA Performance of Turkey in FP7: 790 Turkish researchers funded
- MSCA performance of Turkey in H2020: 288 Turkish researchers funded; researchers going to Turkish organizations in 88
- TOP TR participating organizations in terms of participants in Horizon 2020- Bilkent and ITU (9), Koc and METU (8), Sabanci (4)
- Numbers of H2020 projects less compared with earlier framework programs. Tough competition.
- **ITU EU Center Research Office:** give information on EU framework programs; work as a help desk office; coordinate some EU projects; help ITU researchers as they write their projects; info days about EU programs; organize e-bulletin about EU research programs
- Contact of the office: UHEM building; same building with the ITU teaching. www.abmerkez-arastirma.itu.edu.tr

MATTHEW DIFRANCO

- Gozde Unal introduces Matthew DiFranco (chair of the MCAA board): PhD in computer science in University of Dublin; Works on computational methods in biomedical engineering
- A key role of the chair is to attend the kickoff meetings; the chair's first time in Turkey and first time in a kickoff meeting
- Definition of the MCAA association—founded in Brussels in 2012; aims to create a network of researchers who benefited from the Marie Curie fellowship. The main focus is on career development and networking. The mission is to become a voice for researchers
- Most activities happen in the local level; Chapters need to make contact with local universities, national research agencies, and local communities. A key mission is to reach out to communities outside Turkey. Research mobility is a key component.
- MCAA promotional video: Website for possible grants and job opportunities; socializing with others; keep informed of relevant events

ANTONINO PUGLISI

- Introduces the science speed dating session
- Elaborates on the scientific speed dating (each person speaks 2 minutes about their research; do it in simple words; key to make it more accessible to other people)

MATTHEW DIFRANCO

- Explains the MCAA Structure; General Assembly, Chapters, Working Groups
- Statistics about the MCAA members (gender, residence, scientific panel, nationality)
- MCAA services include micro-grants [Travel (for professional career development between 500 and 1000 Euros), Media (for publishing open-access works; up to 1000 Euros; for publishing educational materials and books; up to 400 Euros), One World), member directory, surveys, services, events, and awards. Researchers need to acknowledge microgrants when they receive it.
- Up to two micro-grants granted per year

- General assembly held next year in Vienna.
- MCAA pillars—innovation, networking, career development (careers not just in academia but also in industry)
- Network a central component of MCAA. Networking is crucial especially for PhD and postgraduate students as they have a great opportunity to engage with people from similar research backgrounds. Networking events can include dinner, lecture, trips, and cultural events.
- Career development and science communication are also crucial.
- FP9 Position Paper: The future of the framework program. Some key topics include:
  o Inform current researchers about their career prospects—careers not just in academia but also in other fields. Also academic fields in other countries
  o Provide mental health services for researchers.
  o Find ways to better fund humanities and social sciences and integrate social sciences and humanities into research. Humanities a crucial component of technical research and vice versa
  o Help displaced researchers
  o Ensure gender equality and diversity. EC needs to be critical of institutions who do not advocate gender equality and diversity.
- Other chapters such as North America. Crucial to contact them.
- Communication events: Science slams, European Researchers' Night
- Entrepreneurship and research—How can researchers benefit from entrepreneurship
- TranSkills: Training on transferable skills. Writing successful ERC application, protecting intellectual property, how to write CV for academia and industry; microgrants for trainers to come to Istanbul. You can pay trainers through the chapter budget too.
- Chapter Microgrants versus General Microgrants.
- MCAA Mentoring Academy. Local chapters can provide mentoring. Mentors and mentees can select each other and a guided process of mentoring.
- Attending General Assembly: You can present your own work in a poster session.
- Funding: through a reimbursement; submit your receipts and get money individually.
- MCAA generates a sense of a community. Mentors especially help for careers, while supervisors help for research. People can register to become a mentor or a mentee. Mentees will describe their expectations and research background.
- General Assembly on 24-25 February 2019 in Vienna—Great opportunity to network with other fellows.
- Running budget for the chapter.
- EC funding for the chapter has to be spent in a certain timeframe and under certain conditions. A better strategy is to spend it a budget and then ask for a budget raise.
- Crucial to provide collaborations with local communities. In case for need for more budget, local resources are crucial.
- Minimum two chapter meetings a year including webinars
- Chapter budget is given for events. Travel of members for travels related to the chapter can be funded through a microgrant, which is not a career microgrant but instead a chapter microgrant.

- One needs to keep the receipts and then receive the reimbursements from the MCAA. If employment contracts do not allow such a reimbursement, then researchers needs to contact the MCAA.
- MCAA encourages people to apply for microgrants at least three months in advance.
- MCAA can provide informal help in regards to FP9 and other grant opportunities. Social media crucial to promote these opportunities.
- Chapters can contact with national contact point and hence to promote grant opportunities.
- At the end of the MC fellowship, you get a certificate. New awards are considered (monetary and exposure)
- **MCAA Partnership programme: Recognize the University Support. For example, ITU's contribution to the MCAA TC should be recognized. Similarly, any local institution giving support to the local chapter should be listed as a partner to the MCAA.**

MURAT GUNES

- Describes the general assembly at Leuven. Agenda; innovation in Europe; keynote speakers; sessions in issues such as work-life balance, grant writing of ERC and IF, future career development
- Describes the website for the Marie Curie alumni (MCAA). One needs to register through the website (being a MC fellow does not suffice). One needs to provide the information for the project and the beneficiary has to approve. Alumni include those who signed the contract as well as supervisors. Technically, the chair can add people to the chapter too especially at the formation stage of the chapter.
- You can follow a chapter without being a member of that chapter.
- MCAA website includes board members, working groups, and chapters such as Turkish chapter. Turkish nationals who reside in other countries are encouraged to apply for chapter membership to increase the visibility of the chapter.
- For specific questions, one can go to "Contact us" section. FAQ page in construction.
- Minutes of MCAA Board and ExCom Meetings are also available on the website.
- Newsletters on the website, which is updated quarterly per year. An article on the Turkish kickoff meeting will be written for the newspaper too. One can make contributions to blogs.
- Database available for alumni and one can send messages to the person of interest
- Job offers and job advertisements on the website
- Two events per year including online meetings, webinars. Funding available from different sources possible, such as companies (Anovra).

ANTONINO PUGLISI

- Shared the logo of the Turkish chapter that was approved by the members.
- Crucial to standardize the logo. The Marie Curie logo should not be changed.
- MCAA board of the Turkish chapter. Gozde Unal— chair; Antonino Puglisi—vicechair; Güneş Kurt - vicechair; Ceyhun Arslan and Alper Gurarslan—Secretary; Emel Topuz—Treasurer. We may add an event organizer, i.e. a

Social Chair. We can ask people from different parts of Turkey to organize events and act as a liaison for their regions.

- Gender balance is a crucial issue. It would be important to keep a gender-balanced Local Committee of MCAA-TC including the chair, vice chairs, secretary and the treasurer. Perhaps geographical balance could be considered (board member from Ankara). Email communication is ideal for further discussing these issues.

Round Table Session: partecipants

Cengiz Acarturk
Gozde Unal
Gullu Kiziltas
Antonino Puglisi
Emel Topuz
Özlem Arzu Azer
Osman Gulseven
Nourhan Mohamed
Eda Celik-Akdur
Tüzin Baycan
Guneş Kurt
Ceyhun Arslan
Gözde İnce
ISMAIL BAYEZIT
Alper Gurarslan
Guneş Murat
Matthew DıFranco
Didem Özgür
Başak Tiniş
Nazım Kemal Ure

NB - *all notes from round-table session have been recorded and are available upon request*

#	Objectives of the Chapter
1	Increase the visibility of MCAA Turkish Chapter in local and global scale and attract researchers to Turkey through MCSA
2	Raise awareness on EU funding opportunities for early career stage researchers
3	Reach out and communicate to society on science and research
4	Promote social science research and Integrate social science and humanities research into engineering projects
5	Create multi/transdisciplinary working groups for networking and collaboration on pressing issues such as sustainable development, artificial intelligence, and global economic problems.