Year

Young European Associated Researchers

Annual Report 2016

CONTENT

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It has been 9 great and productive years for the Young European Associated Researchers network (YEAR). As the network and its activities have continued to evolve, YEAR's voice has continued to gain eminence and recognition among our research centres and in EU Commission.

The past year has been again filled with interesting, educational and fun activities. Our Annual Conference 2016 in The Hague gathered a large amount of active researchers to learn about Open Innovation and to network. Furthermore, one YEAR seminar was organised in Borås, Sweden by our newest member organisation; SP. Scientists presented their work on the topics of material durability which was followed by discussion about common interests. The seminar resulted in a joint project application to Nordic Green Growth call. In 2015 we developed a the concept of a YEAR Workshop, which makes the juniors meet more stakeholders from their field - including seniors- coming from industry, universities, legal organisations or RTOs. Based on this concept another YEAR workshop was held in Sevilla with a topic, Port of the Future.

During 2016, YEAR was particular active in consultancy. YEAR was represented at the High-Level Advisory Group 'Open Science Policy Platform' (OSPP) and at Open Science Conference. YEAR also actively contributed to "Bratislava Declaration of Young Researchers" initiated by the Slovak Presidency and was adopted, on the 29th of November 2016, by the Council of the European Union adopted a number of conclusions under the title of *"Measures to support early stage researchers, raise the attractiveness of scientific careers and foster investment in human potential in research and development"*. The declaration expresses aspirations of the young researchers in order to orientate the future EU policies. In addition, ALLEA – All European Academies, mandated by the EU Commission, consulted YEAR in the review process of the EU Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

2 YEAR VISION AND MISSION

2.1 *WHO WE ARE*

YEAR, the Young European Associated Researchers network, is a non -profit organisation gathering young professionals from different Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) and Industrial Research Bodies (IRBs) across Europe. YEAR aims at supporting the career of young researchers, providing them with opportunities to increase their skills, spread their professional network and live international experiences.

Originally founded in 2007, YEAR has developed itself, gathered other members and focused its activities around three main pillars: networking, training and mobility. In 2014, YEAR started to develop a fourth pillar with the design of a consulting activity with the DG Research & Innovation of the European Commission.

2.2 OUR MEMBERS

At the end of 2016, the YEAR Member Organisations were:

- **AICIA** – Asociación de Investigación y Cooperación Industrial de Andalucía (Spain)
- **AIT** Austrian Institute of Technology - Digital Safety and Security Department (Austria)
- **SINTEF** – Stiftelsen for industriell og teknisk forskning ved Norges tekniske høgskole (Norway)
- **SP** – Technical Research Institute of Sweden (Sweden)
- **TNO** – Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (The Netherlands)
- **VITO** – Vlaamse instelling voor technologisch onderzoek (Belgium)
- **VTT** – Technical Research Centre of Finland (Finland)

2.3 OUR LEGITIMACY

The YEAR Network exists to support its member organisations by giving tailored opportunities to young researchers to develop their careers. We have a special emphasis on internationalisation of research and we promote the four following pillars:

1. NETWORKING in different fields of science and technology within an international context;
2. TRAINING through various events (specific topic seminars, annual conference), dealing with key issues able to improve young professionals' skills within the European Research Area;
3. MOBILITY Initiate and promote physical and intellectual mobility across disciplines and locations through a close partnership with local HR departments and young researchers' network and associations.
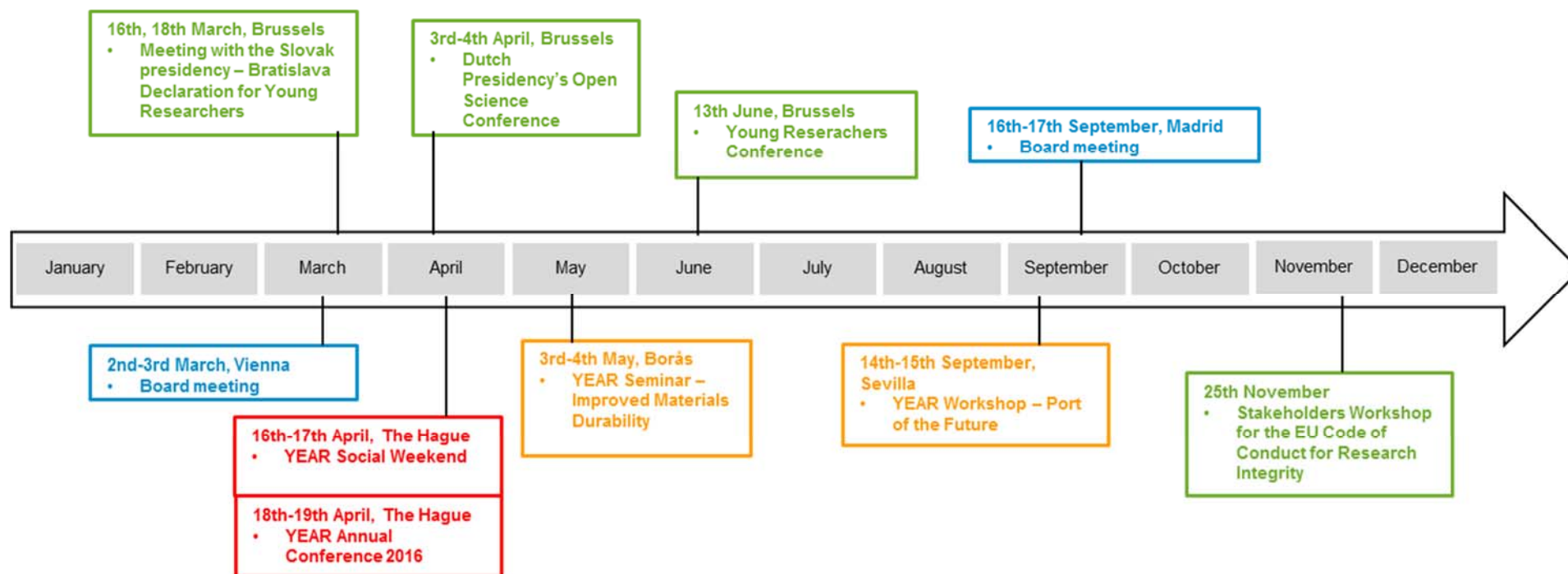4. CONSULTANCY to represent the young European researchers on timely topics at the European Commission level.

3 REPORT 2016

3.1 ACTIVITIES

3.1.1 Summary of activities

2016 was very productive for YEAR. Different events and activities were organized, both at the members and network levels. YEAR has organized once again its main networking event, The Annual Conference with the topic of Open Innovation. The format of the specific-topic seminar was kept; and the more advanced version of it, The YEAR Workshop was continued. One seminar and one workshop were organized. Further than this, YEAR was consulted several times as representative of the Young Researchers and was invited to take part in different events in order to share its perspective on Open Science.

Willing to keep this dynamic, the YEAR Network has planned events for 2017 as well. Also the Annual Conference will be renewed. Scheme in the next page will chronologically sum up the activities made in 2016. The following pages detail the content and the outcomes of these events.

YEAR
Young European Associated Researchers
www.year-network.com

16th, 18th March, Brussels
• Meeting with the Slovak presidency – Bratislava Declaration for Young Researchers

3rd-4th April, Brussels
• Dutch Presidency's Open Science Conference

13th June, Brussels
• Young Reserachers Conference

16th-17th September, Madrid
• Board meeting

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December

2nd-3rd March, Vienna
• Board meeting

16th-17th April, The Hague
• YEAR Social Weekend

18th-19th April, The Hague
• YEAR Annual Conference 2016

3rd-4th May, Borås
• YEAR Seminar – Improved Materials Durability

14th-15th September, Sevilla
• YEAR Workshop – Port of the Future

25th November
• Stakeholders Workshop for the EU Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

3.1.2   YEAR Annual Conference 2016

The YEAR Annual Conference 2016 was held in The Hague on the 18th and 19th of April. The first day of the event concerned the topic of Open Innovation, and the second day was reserved for a project idea competition.

Open Innovation

On the first day of the conference the YEAR Chairman, Clara from AICIA, welcomed everyone and introduced the YEAR network. She was followed by Albert van der Steen, manager of EU affairs at TNO, who welcomed us all to the city and TNO. He stated that the conference indeed helps to fulfil TNO's motto: "We connect people". Later, Kirsi Haavisto from the European Commission (Innovation policy unit) talked to us on the three priorities for R&I in Europe; Open innovation, Open science, and Openness to the world. She also helped the participants to understand how the use of prizes can be used to incentivise innovation.

From the next speaker, Job van de Kieft from TNO Companies (he's also an entrepreneur starting up his own company), we learned how ideas can be turned into business. He challenged us to make contact with potential customers at an early stage, and gave examples on what questions to ask and not to ask in that process.

The next speaker, Erik Ronne, Open Innovation Manager at SP Technical research institute of Sweden, gave an enthusiastic presentation explaining the concept of open innovation (OI). It was clear that he thinks this topic is highly interesting! He visualised the concept of OI by using pens and their caps, explaining both the pros and the cons about Open Innovation.

In a session after lunch, Julius Berens, trainee at TNO – Mobility of knowledge, first talked to the

group about mobility being a key to international success. Secondly, Jacob Westerlund, Open Innovation Managerat at Sqore, reminded us that researchers often think that "the lab is our world", and he challenged us to rather think that "the world is our lab!". He also explained his company's business of helping other companies run their innovation competitions.

The first conference day was finalised with a "fishbowl conversation" with the four last speakers, with questions from the audience on Open Innovations, business development and other related topics.

The 18th of April was rounded off with a social dinner together with EARTO at Mauritshuis. Great food, nice drinks, good company and fabulous art made this an evening to remember!

Project idea competition

The second day, Tuesday the 19th ofApril, was dedicated to a project idea competition. The competition was performed in two stages. First all thirteen project idea proposers presented their idea to the rest of the participants. After an initial round of voting, the four most popular ideas were selected for a second round where small groups of conference participants collaborated to develop the idea. The lucky four were Serina Ng from SINTEF, Teemu Mutanen from VTT, Sven Hermansson from SP and Karolien Vermeiren from VITO.

After this the four project idea owners were responsible for presenting their idea and concept more in detail, before the winner was selected by a jury consisting of two speakers from day one, plus a representative from the YEAR board. Our congratulations to the winner – Sven Hermansson from SP!

Social weekend

Before the Annual Conference the participants had the opportunity to join in on the Social weekend. The social weekend gave the conference participants a good opportunity to get to know each other before the event, and of course at the same time have a good time! This year, JongTNO invited the participants to the Spring Beer Festival followed with a social dinner on Saturday. On Sunday we had a nice guided tour around the city, a common lunch, and a visit to one of The Hague's art museums.

3.1.2.1 *Update on the previous YEAR Award winners*

Oliver Zendel (AIT) won one of the two 2015 YEAR Awards for his project idea "Towards an Open Peer-Review Process". After the successful kick-off at the YEAR Annual Conference the group around Oliver found a suiting EU call (H2020-GARRI-2015-1) and decided to join forces with a leading consortium that was already applying for this call. This was necessary to meet the extent and scope of the call which included other open science topics like open data, alternative metrics, and alternative dissemination. The year 2016 started with great news: the team's project proposal succeeded among 20 competing entries and was accepted for funding! Oliver is excited and looks forward to implement his project idea: "The ideas and inputs I got from discussions at the last YEAR conference in Espoo really improved our proposal and made it more focused and clearer when compared to its original form. An even bigger impact was meeting all these great people from the different institutes of Europe. The network and the contacts allowed me to join a great consortium and together we now have the opportunity to put open peer review to the test! Many thanks to everyone at YEAR for their input and support."

Also *Helena Henno* (VTT), who won the second 2015 YEAR Award for her project idea "Fluvoid", gained a lot through the YEAR workshop. The YEAR Award was noticed at VTT and team Fluvoid was encouraged to apply for VTT's internal project funding to take the idea further. So they did and already in September the Fluvoid project was in full speed. During autumn, Ville, Lauri and Helena negotiated with two companies, created a demo version of the app, and presented it to the National Institute of Health and Welfare (THL). Following to that they prepared a funding application to Tekes – the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation – to carry out a pilot study and further evaluate the business potential of the idea.

3.1.3   Specific topic seminars

YEAR regularly organises specific topic seminars dedicated to a little group of young researchers. The aim of this event is to bring people together from the same field and to discuss possible ways of cooperation in the framework of a call for proposals. Basically, the seminars are always built upon the same model, as described in the agenda template below:

DAY 1

Time	Session
12:30	*Welcome and coffee*
13:00	*Round of individual presentations*
13:15	*Presentation of YEAR and goal of the seminar*
	By one of the YEAR board members
13:30	*Relevant activities performed in each participating research organization* (*each 15min + 5min questions*) *– Part I*
14:30	Coffee break / Mingling
15:00	**Relevant activities performed in each participating research organization (each 15min + 5min questions) – Part II**
16:30	*Orientation on the EU policy trends (funding possibilities, policy on innovation framework, political scenarios) (Remote-presentation)*
	By an external expert (spokesperson from the European Commission, European parliament, National Contact Point...)
17:30	*Social Activity and Dinner (End of Day 1)*

DAY 2

Time	Session
09:00	*Round table discussion – Part I: Brainstorming based on a European call*
10:30	*Coffee break / Mingling*
11:00	*Round table discussion – Part II: Finding common directions*
11:30	*Wrap-up & Conclusions of the meeting*
12:30	*Lunch at seminar venue (offered by the hosting organization)*
13:30	*End of YEAR Seminar at the hosting organisation*

Figure 3: template of the agenda used for the specific topic seminars

Organising the seminars on a two-day basis let people get to know better each other and facilitating a future possible common work. In 2015, one seminar took place.

3.1.3.1   *Seminar on Improved material durability*

Improving the durability in materials for buildings and infrastructure is a key political strategy for the future in order to provide society with new and sustainable solutions.

The seminar at SP Sweden on the 3th-4th of May gathered young professionals from SP, VTT, SINTEF and VITO, as well as ACCIONA. During the two-half days the participant held presentations and shared their expertise from different, but related research areas. The discussions were general and open with a focus on finding common grounds for the upcoming H2020 call.

Several different proposals suggestions where discussed, and YEAR hopes that the seminar provided new connections and new opportunities for the participants.

3.1.4   YEAR workshop

In 2015, YEAR proposed a new kind of event under the form of a workshop. Workshop gathers wide variety of stakeholders from the field: junior and senior researchers in both technical and social areas, industries, SME, NCPs, etc. The "workshop" is understood as a platform of discussion representing the perspectives of as much people concerned by the topic as possible. The different point of views let the researchers acquiring larger information and enriching his/her work. Their research can therefore be closer to the market and the expectations of end-users. In 2016 a workshop was held in Spain by AICIA with a topic "The port of the future".

The agenda of the workshop could be following:

DAY 1:

Time	Session
12:30	*Registration and coffee*
13:00	*Welcome and opening of the workshop*
13:10	*Keynote: Funding opportunities in Horizon 2020*
13:40	*Stakehoder presentations 1*
15:10	*Coffee Break*
15:30	*Stakehoder presentations 2*
17:00	**Panel discussion**
17:50	*Wrap-up, conclusions of Day 1*
18:00	*End of Day 1*
19:30	*Social Event*

DAY 2:

Time	Session
08:45	*Opening of the Workshop*
09:00	*Demos/visit*
10:00	*Quick round of introductions*
10:30	*World Café Discussion*
11:30	*Coffee Break*
12:00	*Break-out groups*
13:00	*Wrap-up & conclusions of the workshop*
13:30	*Lunch and end of the Workshop*

Figure 4: template of the agenda used for the workshop format

3.1.4.1 YEAR Workshop on the Port of the Future

YEAR/AICIA Workshop of "Port of the Future" was derived from the need to implement new port concepts, new management models, innovative design and operation technologies solutions that covers from cost-effective operations to sustainable maintenance, low environmental impact and integration into the Smart city.

During this two-day event (Seville, 14-15th of September), YEAR gathered international young and senior researchers, along with experts from the industry to discuss today's R&D challenges in the development or renovation of large harbours. The event was sponsored by AICIA.
35 attendees from 4 different countries: Austria, Finland, France and Spain representing more than 15 institutions/companies was the key for the success of the event.

3.1.5 Mobility

Up till mid-2015, YEAR tried to promote and facilitate exchange of researcher through a bottom-up approach (searching for matches for interested young researchers). However, we experienced that a close collaboration with the HR departments of the different RTOs will be crucial to establish successful mobility initiatives. In 2016 YEAR prepared a questionnaire to gauge the interest of the HR department for researcher exchange programs. The questionnaire was distributed over the HR departments of our members and, to get a broader feedback. This will allow us to establish a more targeted approach. Furthermore, we will keep on promoting exchange initiatives via our webpages, conference and seminars.

3.1.6 Consultancy

Activities conducted under the pillar "Consulting" let YEAR gained visibility as "voice" of the young European researchers. Consequently, the Board was invited to present their views and perspectives at different occasions.

3.1.6.1 Open Science

YEAR board member Michela Vignoli represented the YEAR Network at the High-Level Advisory Group 'Open Science Policy Platform' (OSPP) and at Open Science Conference.

OSPP was established by the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation and the members of the Advisory Group will meet twice a year to discuss the documents and general orientations proposed by the European Commission to further develop and implement a European Open Science Policy. The Advisory Group is composed of top level representatives from universities, research organisations, academies/learned societies, funding organisations, citizen science organisations, publishers, open science platforms/intermediaries, and libraries. The goals of the OSPP are in line with Commissioner Moedas' priority to radically improve the quality and impact of science in Europe.

Open Science Conference was hosted by the Dutch Presidency on 4-5 April 2016 in Amsterdam. The event assembled a few hundred researchers, publishers, and representatives of educational and research institutes as well as of the EU Commission, who had the chance to discuss concrete actions related to the paradigm shift to a more open science in Europe. The YEAR Network was previously involved in various consultation and expert advisory activities with the Commission in this context, and it was a great honour for us to be invited again.

3.1.6.2 YEAR at the Young Researchers Conference 2016

On the 13th of June, YEAR Network was represented by its chair, Clara Luján, and its mobility programme responsible, Jef Bergmans, at the Young Researchers Conference 2016 organized by the Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU together with the European Commission – DG RTD.

In this event they had the chance to discuss together with other researchers, managers and policy-makers about the barriers that young researchers face in their careers.

One of the highlight of the Slovak Presidency is to produce the "Bratislava Declaration of Young Researchers" a text to which YEAR Network is actively contributing and that will collect the aspirations of the young researchers in order to orientate the future EU policies on this point.

During the panel discussion, our chair provided feedback from both the young researchers' point of view and those writing the Bratislava Declaration of young researchers that was outlined during the event and will be public in the near future

3.1.6.3   EU Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

Mandated by the EU Commission, ALLEA – All European Academies consulted YEAR in the review process of the EU Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

A first version of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity was co-written by ESF – European Science Foundation, and ALLEA – All European Academics, in 2011. The document describes the principles of research integrity and presents a set of rules for responsible scientific practices to ensure the highest integrity in research work in Europe. The Code also integrates a dedicated part to the treatment of research misconduct at the institutional level in the view to maintain the overall research integrity.

The EU Commission mandated ALLEA to revisit the 2011's version of the Code to improve it and update it with the recent developments in the research framework (e.g. Open Science) in order to make the Code a reference document in the EU projects' Grant Agreements. ALLEA decided to consult YEAR among other stakeholders due to our active involvement in the Open Science policies, and to get the views from the early-career researchers in Europe.

The review process consists of 2 stages	
Phase 1 – Aug-Sep 2016: YEAR and other consulted stakeholder organisations were requested to send their **general view of the document** and propose perspectives over issues that are not included or not treated adequately in the 2011's version.	**Phase 2 – Nov-Dec 2016:** based on the feedbacks gathered throughout Phase 1, a writing group led by ALLEA sent out a new draft version of the Code so that the consulted stakeholders can **provide feedbacks on content and structure** on the updated Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

Regarding Phase 1, the general review sent by YEAR and a first blog post can be found on YEAR's website. The review was written in the perspective of a researcher reading the Code and it especially pointed out relevant issues for early-career researchers. We are very thankful to the writing group who implemented several of YEAR's suggestions into the draft version released for Phase II.

A Stakeholders Workshop was held by ALLEA on 25 November 2016 in the EU Commission's Covent Garden building in Brussels. YEAR was among the 29 invited experts to discuss the freshly released draft of the Code of Conduct and suggest edits. In addition, a Review of the Code of Conduct draft

sent by YEAR on 8 December 2016 to ALLEA to summarize YEAR's main inputs before the writing group proceeds to the final version planned early January 2017. The key issues pointed out by YEAR's review are listed below:

The notion of "**Transfer of knowledge**" shall not be limited only to research integrity but, as a responsible practice, shall apply to research knowledge in general. To this respect, YEAR strongly suggests adding the following point (inspired from the last point of Paragraph 2.2.3 in the original Code): "*Researchers have the responsibility to transfer research knowledge to the next generation of researchers through mentorship and supervision.*"

Among the **list of key principles**, "Openness and accessibility" may be replaced by "***Responsibility in transferring knowledge**, communicating research work and provide appropriate access to data to any interested parties, including the general public, within the legal framework of intellectual properties.*"

The notion of **environmental impact** shall be stressed further in the document, as it is one of the pillars of Horizon 2020 and many national research programmes.

Open Science practices shall be explicitly mentioned, with reference to the European Commission book "*Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World*", in the light of the current and upcoming policy implementations on research dissemination.

Within the chapter "**Violations of Responsible Conduct of Research**", a reference could be made to any **existing legal document at the European Commission level** treating specific aspects of research misconduct (e.g. fabrication, falsification or plagiarism).

3.1.6.4 *Bratislava Declaration of Young Researchers*

The Slovak Presidency has among its priorities to foster talent with emphasis on young researchers, as they will be the new generation of scientists in Europe[1].

According to that and before the start of its presidency, the Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU in collaboration with the DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission, decided to create a working group of young researchers from different backgrounds, countries and at different stages of their professional career to come up with a document that will identify the main barriers that young researchers face at the beginning of their careers. YEAR network was contacted to be part of this group.

After several face-to-face meetings, audioconferences and e-mails during several months, the working group finally finished the text of "*the Bratislava Declaration of Young Researchers*", which is a document that does not highlight the barriers but the young researchers' aspirations. It also provides concrete proposals on how those aspirations could be implemented by the European Commission, the member states and the research institutions.

The text is supported by the results of the survey authored by Emília Petríková and carried out by YEAR, thus, we have you voice there.

"*As a human endeavour for common good, scientific and scholarly research plays a special role in our European Union – one that has the ability to transform people and society. The passion, ideas and curiosity that young people bring to research sustain it. This declaration – written by young researchers – calls on Member States and the European Commission (EC) to recognise the special role that young*

researchers play and aspires to better enable them: great ideas and ability are divorced of age, gender, or nationality.

1. *We aspire to enable great people to realise their ideas to understand and improve the world.*
2. *We aspire to sustainable and transparent career trajectories.*
3. *We aspire to a diverse, collaborative, inter-disciplinary, open, and ethical research environment.*
4. *We aspire to a healthy work-life balance."* (Extract from the Bratislava Declaration of Young researchers)

The declaration was officially presented by the Minister of Education Peter Plavčan and Commissioner Carlos Moedas during the meeting of the Ministers for Competitiveness (Research) held in Brastilava the 19th of July.

On the 29th of November 2016, the Council of the European Union adopted a number of conclusions under the title of "Measures to support early stage researchers, raise the attractiveness of scientific careers and foster investment in human potential in research and development"

3.1.7   Board Meetings

The board meetings were organised three times in a 2016 in order to define the main orientations and prepare the planned activities of the network. The aim is to gather at least one representative per member organisation in order to take representative decisions. Decisions are discussed and voted unanimously. If some points need to be clarified in between, a teleconference is scheduled. These meetings always coincide with the seminars in order to save travel budget and generally last two days. Their main objectives are to:

- Prepare the Annual Conference (main topic, dates of the event, potential speakers to be invited, organisation of the social weekend)
- Define the topics, schedule and host of the upcoming seminars
- Define the topics of the newsletters to be published
- Evaluation of the visibility of the communication channels/ improvement of the communication material
- Enlargement of the network: potential new members, way to get more known in the ERA
- Interactions with the EU: increase the visibility of YEAR towards the European Commission; get contact persons to support our actions
- Finances

Board meeting in Madrid in 2016

3.2 COMMUNICATION

YEAR continued to improve its communication strategy also this year. This document sums up the key messages that need to be redefined and adapted to the different stakeholders approached by YEAR as well as the tool used for this.

As for the external communication, new website was set up. The website allows improved communication by simplifying the page structure and by make in more appealing to use. LinkedIn and Twitter was used to inform the followers about the YEAR events. Newsletter was cancelled due to lack of readers and increased emphasis on the webpage updating. In the end of the year a survey about YEAR activities was conducted.

The communication strategy will be continuously updated according to the needs of the network. The main goals remain the improvement of the visibility and the attractiveness of YEAR and the support of its growth.

3.3 FINANCES

YEAR gets its funding through the YEAR membership fees. The YEAR membership fee is calculated for each member institute, based on 5€ per employee, with a maximum fee of 6 000€. A 15% discount applies when the member institute runs an internal network of young researchers.

In March 2013, the YEAR Board decided to re-allocate differently the use of its resources and to invest more in the organised events. Consequently, there is, in comparison to the first years of

activity (2007-2012), a higher event frequency (four a year since 2013) and a solid budget dedicated to the YEAR Awards, making the Annual Conference more attractive and professional. Nonetheless, it should be mentioned that each member organisation also allocates significant internal resources for supporting the participation and organisation of YEAR events. It is also of first importance for the board to reasonably use the resources available. In that sense, board meetings, for instance, are organised in parallel to other YEAR activities in order to reduce the travel costs.

Summary of transactions 2016

Bank account balance on 01.01.2016	**33 200.99 €**
Membership fees 2016	25 766.75 €
3 Board meetings	- 6 115.24 €
YEAR Annual Conference (sponsored by TNO)	- 4 189.18 €
Second part YEAR Awards previous years	- 9 748.32 €
2 Seminars (sponsored by SP and AICIA)	- 755,85 €
RTOs conferences and meetings with members institutes	- 730.02 €
Bank, hosting address and accounting costs	- 3 604.93 €
Other costs (website, annual report, etc.)	- 450,28 €
Bank account balance on 31.12.2016	**33 373.92 €**

4 EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

In 2016, the YEAR Board was composed as follows:

Clara Lujan
(AICIA)
The Chair and Finances

Michela Vignoli
(AIT)
Event organization

Martin Zelan
(SP)
Secretary

Axelle Gasne
(AIT)
Vice-Chair

Tiia-Maria Tenhunen
(VTT)
Communications

Jef Bergmans
(VITO)
Mobility

Line Rydså
(SINTEF)
Board member

Alexis Sevault
(SINTEF)
External relations

Karlijn Jans
(TNO)
External relations

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5 BECOME A MEMBER

5.1 WHO CAN BECOME A MEMBER

Any RTO (Research and Technology Organisations) or Research and Development departments of industrial organisations established in member countries of the European Union or of the European Economic Area and willing to support the career of its young researchers can become a YEAR member. YEAR activities are specially intended to *young-minded people*; therefore, there is no age limit to participate.

An internal network of young researchers is not required for an institution to become a member. Nevertheless, and according to the YEAR's experience, an organised internal platform or group of young researchers helps increasing the visibility and efficiency of YEAR; young people feel more directly concerned.

5.2 WHY BECOME A MEMBER

Considering the 4 YEAR pillars - networking, training, mobility, consulting- the following advantages arise from a YEAR membership:

- **Frequent networking opportunities** with young researchers from all over Europe to get to know and find research partners, exchange experiences, develop new ideas, etc.
- **Yearly event with a fine-tuned education programme** for young researchers on proposal writing, European programmes, mobility opportunities, etc.
- **Topic specific seminars** where experts from each member institution have the opportunity to talk about their research, establish new collaborations and share their questions and concerns with members of the European Commission or other important personalities linked to the development and financing of research.
- Display of **articles in the newsletter** to promote your organisation's key research topics and look for partners in the field
- Opportunities of **young researcher exchanges** between two member organisations or assisting researchers in the process of getting funding for an exchange.
- Assistance in formalising an **internal network of young researchers**.
- Assistance to **develop initiatives around the YEAR pillars**.

5.3 HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Contact us at contact@year-network.com and we will guide you through the steps. We have elaborated a simple, clear and efficient process diminishing the administrative burden.

NETWORKING – TRAINING – MOBILITY –CONSULTANCY

www.year-network.com