YEAR Young European Associated Researchers

Annual Report 2014

CONTENT

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Supporting the young researchers in their starting careers, providing them with opportunities to extend their professional network, giving them tips to improve their skills: these are the main goals of the YEAR Network – Young European Associated Researchers.

Since its creation in 2007, the structure continuously developed itself in several areas and gained visibility, credibility and dynamism. 2014 was a very fruitful year, what the YEAR Board decided to report in the present document. The next pages will detail the YEAR mission and achievements through an overview of its different activities. These were designed to foster the professional capabilities of the Young Researchers around four main pillars: Training-Networking-Mobility-Consulting.

In that sense, YEAR launched a regular cycle of specific topic seminars developed for a little number of participants and focused on promoting collaboration and the creation of potential consortia within the network. Another highlight is the YEAR Annual Conference, a two-day event proposing both a theoretical and practical training to its participants. More informally, YEAR encourages also networking by organizing social activities on local and international levels. Beyond this, 2014 brought a new dialogue opportunity with the European Directorate General "Research and Innovation" (DG R&I). A discussion was developed

The YEAR Board at the European Commission in November 2014

around the possibility for YEAR to become, as relay of young researchers' opinion, a regular consultant for the DG R&I. A meeting has been held in Brussels as first concrete step of this collaboration.

Proud of the progresses accomplished, the former team proceeded to the election of a new YEAR Board in November 2014. Its future efforts will focus on maintaining and improving the existing activities: three thematic seminars are already planned for 2015 and the Annual Conference 2015, hosted at VTT and co-funded by FOSTER[1], will focus on Open Science in Horizon 2020. The Board also plans to give a renewed impulse to the "Mobility" pillar and foster the exchange of young researchers across Europe. Last but not least, the board will keep on enlarging the network. The whole team is very happy to welcome SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden as new member of YEAR.

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[1] https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/

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 has 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 2014, 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)
- **CTR** – Carinthian Tech Research AG (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 in giving more and tailored opportunities to young researchers to develop their careers. In order to better determine what needs the network could answer, YEAR conducted an online survey (sent to the YEAR mailing list) entitled: "*What do young researchers expect from RTO's as employers?* ". Answers were the following:
- Learning and building new competencies
- Completing PhD studies
- Being interdisciplinary and working in international projects
- Interesting, challenging and varied tasks
- Career development
- Management training

- High degree of freedom and responsibilities

Given this information, YEAR became a new platform putting a special emphasis on internationalisation of research and promoting 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. CONSULTING to represent the young European researchers on timely topics at the European Commission level.

3 REPORT 2014

3.1 ACTIVITIES

3.1.1 Summary of activities

Several YEAR events took place over 2014, which was a very productive period. We detail these different activities in the following pages.
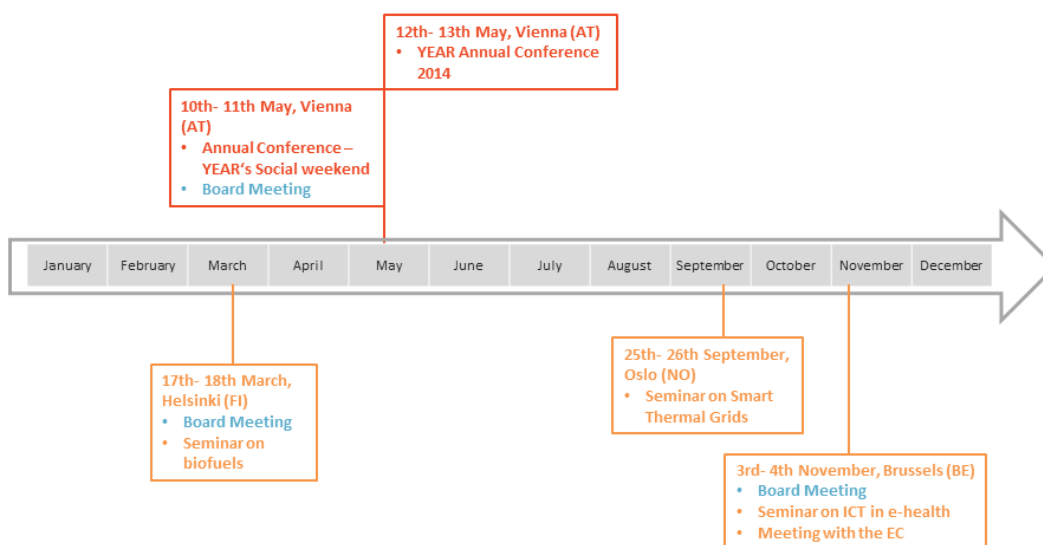

Figure 1: Overview of the YEAR events in 2014

Due to their success, and following the same logic, the YEAR Board has planned further events for 2015:
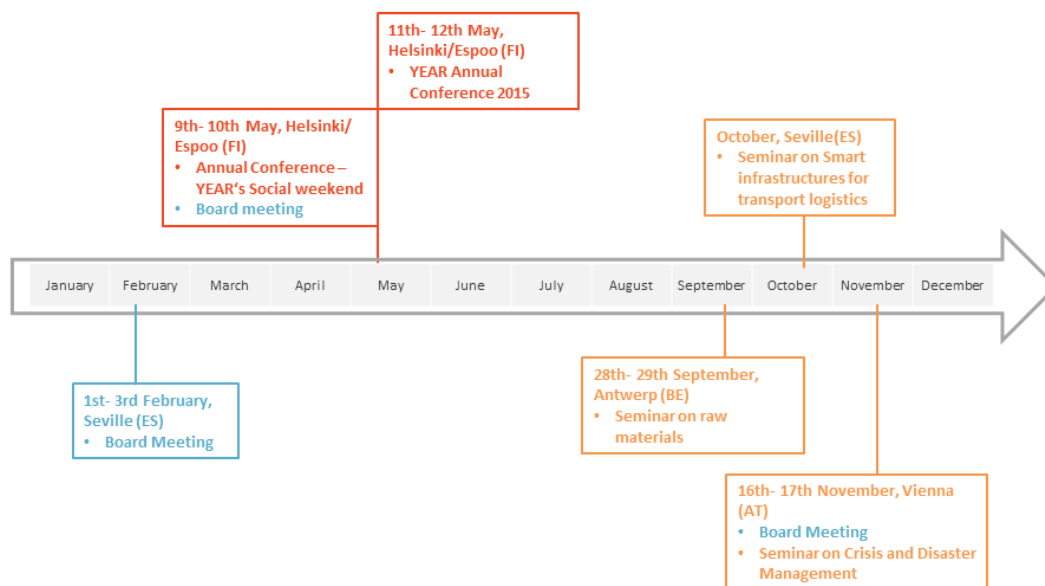

Figure 2: Overview of the planned YEAR events for 2015

3.1.2   YEAR Annual Conference

The Annual Conference 2014 brought together more than fifty participants

The YEAR Annual Conference is probably the biggest highlight of the network. The 2014 edition took place on 12-13 May in Vienna (Austria) and was hosted by AIT – Digital Safety & Security Department.

Especially addressed to young researchers, the conference brought together more than fifty researchers from seven different European research institutes (AICIA, AIT, SINTEF, TNO, VITO, VTT and Fraunhofer).

Day 1 – Experience and methods to generate competitive EU project proposals

The first part of the event was thought as a way to gain theoretical knowledge thanks to experienced professionals. In this sense, this day included presentations and panel sessions on best practices to set up a European research consortium and to build up a valorisation plan. The sessions were conducted by international and renowned speakers: Eric Claassen (Erasmus Centre for Valorisation), Helmut Leopold (AIT), Hans Boumans (TNO), Markus Clabian (AIT), Roland Sommer (AVL), Jeannette Klonk (NCP Austria), Ross King (AIT), and Martin Kraft (CTR). The day was concluded by an interactive session led by Joe Gorman (SINTEF) addressing the best practices for writing EU project proposals.

The presentations of the speakers are available for consultation on our website:

- *Welcome & Introduction to the conference by Caroline Lemeire[2]*
- *Introduction to Horizon 2020: Strategic planning and key success factors of a European project by Jeannette Klonk (FFG, NCP Austria) [3]*
- *Experience report: Journey from the YEAR Annual Conference 2013 to the "SmartFoodChain" proposal by Colm McCaffrey (VTT)[4]*
- *So you think you know everything about writing an EU proposal? By Joe Gorman (SINTEF)[5]*

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[2] https://www.dropbox.com/s/xrxte95c6y8prja/01-Lemeire_YEAR%20presentation%20Annual%20Conference.pdf
[3] https://www.dropbox.com/s/lp96mllew2sfxja/02_Klonk_H2020_YEAR_KLJ_v1.1.pdf
[4] https://www.dropbox.com/s/meotxr39xlj7okt/04%20-%20YEAR2014%20SmartFood.pdf
[5] https://www.dropbox.com/s/n2m42unm382a2ad/07-Joe-Gorman-EU-proposal-writing.pdf

The morning panel session: how to set up a competitive European research consortium?

The afternoon panel session: how to build up a valorisation plan?

Day 2 - Workshop on project ideas and 2014 YEAR Awards

The second part of the event was thought as the practical implementation of the knowledge acquired the day before. Thus, nineteen project ideas, "embryos" of project proposals, were defended by young researchers to win one of the two YEAR Awards. Each of them consisted of a European Project Management training course and 5000€ prize to support the meeting costs for the further elaboration of the project idea. The competition ran in different stages: first, all candidates presented their project ideas in three minutes. Then, all the workshop participants voted for the project ideas they could best contribute to. Five project ideas were thus selected and further elaborated within teams. The five refined project ideas were then presented to the jury, composed of six experts (among them some speakers from the previous day), who finally voted for the two most promising ideas. The following participants won the YEAR Award 2014:

- Antti Iivari from VTT, in collaboration with AIT and VTT, was rewarded for his project idea *"Smart IoT Gateway for Healthcare"*

- Bart Michielsen from VITO, in collaboration with AIT, TNO and VTT was rewarded for his project idea *"Upcycling of industrial waste into value added products"*.

The Annual Conference has thus constituted for them as well as for the other participants an outstanding chance to test theirs project ideas, exchange on it, receive advices from experts and discover different research areas. A short follow-up of the YEAR Awards will be given below.

An enthusiastic group of young researchers took part in the YEAR social weekend

Beyond the conference, more than twenty young researchers took part in the *Social Week-End* in Vienna (10-11 May) organised by YEAR. The goal? Get to know each other and extend one's network while enjoying the city.

On Saturday, young researchers from twelve different countries were guided through the old town before experiencing the Viennese art of living: *Schnitzel* and *Kaiserschmarrn* were tasted in a typical restaurant before getting a glimpse on the local nightlife. On Sunday, the visit of the imperial Palace Schönbrunn and a sweet pit stop at a *Kaffeehaus* concluded the weekend.

Evaluation of the YEAR Annual Conference

Following the Annual Conference, the YEAR board distributed an evaluation form to the participants (which was also available as online survey) in order to evaluate the quality of the event.

The conference was overall rated "very good" by the participants, and "good" compared to other conferences of this type. 21 of the 22 participants who filled in the evaluation survey plan to attend this conference again next year, or would recommend it to other young researchers.

The presentations and panel sessions on the first day were very well received. The speakers who opened the conference were rated "very good". The workshop on the second day was successful as well. The participants liked the concept of the workshop (very good), as well as the selection process for the YEAR Award finalists and winners (both rated good to very good). The participants rated the quality of the presented project ideas "good", and remarked however that the quality of the ideas as well as the selection process beforehand could be improved.

Most of the attendees liked the opportunities offered by the conference to meet people and interact with them, the high-quality and experienced speakers, as well as the social activities organised in the context of the conference. More detailed results of the evaluation survey can be found on the YEAR website[6].

Thanks to this very useful input, the YEAR Board will be able to improve the next Annual Conference and to propose another high quality event.

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[6] http://www.year-network.com/activities/annual-conference

Follow-up of the YEAR Awards

- Bart Michielsen (VITO) went home from the YEAR conference with a project management training course and €5000 budget to create a consortium for his winning idea "Upcycling of industrial waste into value added products". He started to elaborate his idea together with one of his team members at the YEAR conference, Jef Bergmans (VITO). Together, they narrowed the scope to stainless steel slags, mine tailings and incineration ashes. Afterwards, an appropriate H2020 call was found (SPIRE-7_2015) and the idea was picked up by Jef's team "Waste & Recycling Technologies". With the help of other research institutes (e.g., YEAR-member VTT) and industrial companies, the project proposal ISOLATE (Innovative recovery of valuable metals from low grade materials) was born. The ISOLATE proposal aims to develop innovative process technologies to recover valuable and critical metals from complex secondary domestic raw materials and to demonstrate these technologies at large pilot scale. As such, ISOLATE aims to increase sustainable metal production from currently unused resources, thereby reducing primary metal production and reducing the European import dependency for metals. The treated matrix material, which is then free of contaminants, will be valorised in high-grade building materials (e.g., with Carbstone technology). The YEAR starting budget was mainly used to get the assistance from consultancy bureau XiLon, who helped in the proposal writing, and for the organisation of a consortium meeting in Leuven, Belgium.

- Antti Iivari (VTT) won the YEAR Award for his project idea «Smart IoT Gateway for healthcare». He was able to move forward with this work towards a concrete project proposal for H2020, although this has not happened in the expected way. Indeed, Antti and his managers decided around end of 2014 to integrate the Antti's ideas in the preliminary work of an existing and strong Consortium led by VTT, planning to submit a proposal for a H2020 call related to healthcare. The themes and ideas from «Smart IoT Gateway for healthcare» have thus been included as a sub-part in another proposal. Antti was of course actively taking part in the preparation of the proposal and the later possible realization of the project. Antti testifies: "*While this might not have been what the original purpose was, I am actually very happy with this arrangement. I now have a better chance to apply the things I have learned and mastered while working on the ICT-side of things for the benefit of eHealth and, hopefully, the wellbeing of European citizens. Also, as the competition in H2020 is fierce, I felt that this way the chances are better for me to actually have funding for the idea as a part of a really strong proposal working with a more experienced project leader. I am certain that any of this would not have been possible in any way without the award and support gained from the YEAR network. For this I am very much grateful.*"

- Colm MacCaffrey (VTT) won the YEAR Award in 2013 for his project idea «SmartFoodChain». He reported about his experience during the YEAR Annual Conference 2014 (presentation available on our website as fomerly mentioned) and constitutes a positive example on how the Award can help a young researcher move forward with his project idea. Indeed, Colm managed to develop a strong Consortium with famous and powerful partners like Metro or IBM. He applied for the call *WASTE-2-2014: A systems approach for the reduction, recycling and reuse of food waste* and his project was accepted on the first stage before being unfortunately withdrawn in the second one. Nevertheless, this experience remains a success story as Colm, on the basis of the work undertaken during the Conference, was able to develop a very competitive proposal.

Annual Conference 2015 – Preparation of the FOSTER application

The preparation of the Annual Conference 2015 already started in 2014 with the submission of an application to the <u>Foster Call for Open Science Training 2015</u>[7].

The YEAR Board decided to align the next Annual Conference with Open Science, an issue impacting on the daily work of every scientist in each branch. The FOSTER project (Facilitating Open Science Training for European Research) brings financial support to events dealing with the issue of Open Science.

The board prepared and submitted an application which was accepted by FOSTER. The YEAR Annual Conference 2015 will thus benefit from the financial support from FOSTER and be included in the FOSTER training events[8]. The conference will be open to and free for all interested young researchers in Europe.

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

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 organisation** (each 15min + 5min questions) **– Part I**
14:30	*Coffee break / Mingling*
15:00	**Relevant activities performed in each participating research organisation** (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 / End of Day 1*
19:00	***Aperitif and Dinner (offered by YEAR)***

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[7] <u>https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/project/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49:project-training-call-2015&catid=8&Itemid=304</u>
[8] <u>https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/events</u>

Day 2

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 organisation)***
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 2014, three seminars were organised on different topics.

Seminar on Biofuels

The YEAR Seminar on Biofuels took place on 17th March 2014 at VTT in Espoo (Finland) and gathered young researchers from AICIA, AIT, SINTEF, TNO, VITO and VTT.

Biofuels remains a burning issue, as the environmental aspects of all fossil fuels and the scarcity of petroleum has led to a situation where biofuels are thought to substitute them in the near future. According to Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC, all EU member states need to achieve at least 10% share of renewable energy in the total gasoline and diesel use by 2020. In this context, YEAR wanted to bring together young experts from different institutes in order to discuss various aspects of the issue- value chains and sustainability for advanced biofuels in Europe, multi-product bio refineries, CO2 to chemicals, BioCCS- and draft specific recommendations on research priorities for biofuels to be addressed to the Commission.

Some promising exchanges have been initiated during this seminar. The presentation held at this occasion, as well as the conclusions drawn up are consultable on our website.

Seminar on Smart Thermal Grids

The Seminar on Smart Thermal Grids took place in Oslo (Norway) on 25th-26th September 2014 and brought together seven young specialists from each YEAR member.

The topic "Smart Thermal grids" includes mainly district heating and cooling, re-use of waste heat (from buildings or industry), thermal storage, thermal distribution and automation. The seminar was oriented towards the constitution of a potential consortium.

The participants started the seminar by sharing current research activities of their organisation in the field of smart thermal grids. To end the first day, Alessandro Provaggi – Project Officer at EUREC (The Association of European Renewable Energy Centres)/ Coordinator of the Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC) Platform – held a remote-presentation on the RHC platform and the orientation of the EU policy trends towards smart thermal grids (funding possibilities, policy on innovation framework, political scenarios). On the second day, the discussions focused on a specific

Horizon 2020 call for projects to articulate the fresh consortium around a common specific project idea.

Meanwhile, the team from the seminar had a series of Skype meetings to further work on a Horizon 2020 project proposal to be submitted in June 2015. YEAR is looking forward to seeing the results of the developing collaboration!

Seminar on ICT applications in health care

The seminar on ICT application in health care took place on 3rd-4th November 2014 in Brussels and brought together young experts from AIT, SINTEF, TNO, VITO and VTT. The goal of this seminar was to create interaction between experts from different institutes on the subject of eHealth and mHealth, debate on potential project ideas and connect with EU Commission officials.

eHealth refers to tools and services using information and communication technologies (ICTs) which can improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and health management. They can benefit the entire community by improving access to care and quality of care and by making the health sector more efficient. This includes information and data sharing between patients and health service providers, hospitals, health professionals and health information networks; electronic health records; telemedicine services; portable patient-monitoring devices, operating room scheduling software, robotised surgery and blue-sky research on the virtual physiological human.

Mobile Health (mHealth) is a sub-segment of eHealth and covers medical and public health practice supported by mobile devices. It especially includes the use of mobile communication devices for health and well-being services and information purposes as well as mobile health applications including sensors. mHealth is an emerging and rapidly developing field and mHealth contributes to the empowerment of patients: they could manage their health more actively, live more independently thanks to self-assessment or remote monitoring solutions. mHealth can also support healthcare professionals in treating patients more efficiently as mobile apps can encourage adherence to a healthy lifestyle.

Here again, the participants shared their experiences by presenting their current research activities. At the end of the first day, Jaako Aarnio of the Commission's Directorate General Connect sat with the young researchers and discussed the European initiatives and opportunities in this field. He elaborated on the different programs initiated by the European Commission and showed the participants some of the EU policy trends towards ICT applications in health care (funding possibilities, policy on innovation framework, political scenarios). On the second day, the discussions focused on a specific Horizon 2020 call for projects. Some possible synergies have been identified and contact has been maintained between some participants after the seminar to design a further potential common work.

3.1.4   Mobility

Throughout 2014, YEAR surveyed young researchers towards potential interest in a short-time professional exchange abroad. This "call for interest" mainly happened through our newsletter. Considering the little number of feedback, YEAR will develop in 2015 a new strategy to increase the visibility and efficiency of the "mobility" pillar.

Mobility of Knowledge

In that sense, the trainees of TNO running the Mobility of Knowledge project consulted YEAR on its mobility pillar. They also visited one of the other YEAR members, VITO, to discuss possibilities in generating an ecosystem where different parties can complement each other and working together to maximise the impact of their research. The goal of this TNO trainee project was to establish the first steps towards the implementation of such exchange program, identify its success factors and pre-conditions for different stakeholders and make available the most important enabling tools, such as maps of overlapping expertises of different RTOs, a practical guide for exchanges and getting partners on board. Mobility of Knowledge provides advice for the next steps to implement a sustainable approach possibly in a wider (YEAR) network.

3.1.5   Consulting for the European Commission

As "voice" of the young European researchers, YEAR was contacted by the Directorate General Research & Innovation in August 2014 to provide input on the topic Science 2.0. To assess the status of the profound changes currently happening in the way of doing research and to collect feedback from various stakeholders on this issue, the European Union launched a consultation in July 2014. The main focus lay on Science 2.0 in general, its advantages, barriers and challenges, as well as suggestions for policies in this field. As digital natives, young researchers are an important stakeholder and their opinion is of particular interest in this context.

To provide additional feedback from the point of view of young researchers, YEAR member organisations organised local debates gathering young experts from different research areas. Together, they exchanged about their experiences and their approaches towards Science 2.0. Their reports revealed discrepancy in practices: for example, some of them use open science tools regularly while others only seldom. But generally, all participants see a

Meeting with DG Research and Innovation, Brussels, November 2014

great potential in these changes. In addition, the YEAR Board carried out an online survey, based on the questionnaire written by the European Commission. The network received around 200

answers, which were analysed in a report published on scienceintransition.eu[9]. The report can also be downloaded on YEAR's website[10].

These results were further discussed at a meeting with the DG Research & Innovation, held in Brussels on 4th November 2014, where the YEAR Board had the opportunity to meet the Director General Robert-Jan Smits and the Head of Unit Science Policy, Foresight and Data Jean-Claude Burgelman. Both of them presented the viewpoint of the European Commission on Science 2.0 as well as preliminary results from the EU consultation.

The group discussed and compared the results of both consultations and further debated some other aspects. Moreover, the settlement of a regular and stronger cooperation was discussed, allowing YEAR to become a consultant for the DG R&I. In that sense, the board, represented by two of its members, was invited to take part in a validation workshop on open science in Madrid[11] on 4.12.2014. This common work will be further conducted and developed in 2015.

3.1.6   Board Meetings

The board meetings are organised three times a year in order to prepare the planned activities. The aim is to gather at least one representative per member organisation in order to take representative decisions. Three face-to-face meetings per year are planned to prepare the main orientations of the network. 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:
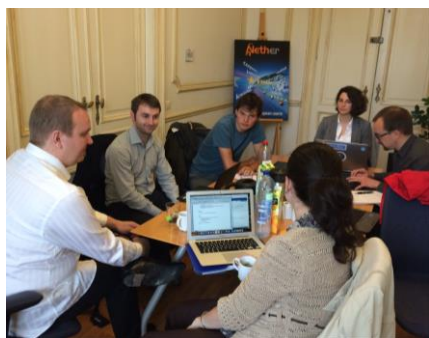
*Board meeting in Brussels
November 2014*

- 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

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9 http://scienceintransition.eu/further-documents/
10 http://www.year-network.com/homepage/year-consultation-on-science-2-0
11 http://scienceintransition.eu/validation-workshops/workshop-04-12-14-madrid/

3.2   COMMUNICATION

As a dynamic and "young-oriented" organisation, YEAR uses traditional communication channels as well as Web 2.0 tools to provide its followers with relevant information about its missions and activities as well as specific highlights on each member institutions.

More specifically, YEAR bases its communication strategy on two approaches: the first one, more classical, includes a brochure, a website and a YEAR mailing list as general communication channels. The second one, more collaborative, encompasses social media (Twitter, LinkedIn) and the elaboration of surveys and newsletters, with contributions from all YEAR member organisations. These three tools let people interact with YEAR, both at an organisational or personal level.
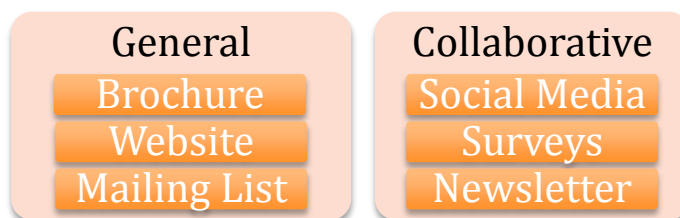
Figure 4: YEAR's communication strategy

3.2.1   Brochure

A brand new YEAR brochure has been designed in 2014 in order to present the network in a more concise, precise and dynamic way. This material highlights the YEAR pillars as well as success stories from people who took part to YEAR events. The white block details the local contact in each YEAR member organisation. The brochure can be found on our website[12].

Figure 5: YEAR brochure

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[12] http://www.year-network.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/YEAR-flyer_website.pdf

3.2.2 Newsletter

The YEAR newsletter was conceived as a way not only to promote the network's activities but also to highlight the research undertaken by each member organisation. Currently, more than 1200 subscribers are gathered in the YEAR mailing list and receive the newsletter, issued between three and four times a year. It encompasses different sections, enabling a fast and comprehensive reading.

Permanent sections

- ***In the picture***
  The YEAR member in the picture has the opportunity to present in a detailed way both its institution and the current research activities linked to the main topic of the issue.
- ***Word of chair***
  Highlights concerning the main topic of the issue and announcement of important news for the members.
- ***News of our members***
  Every member gets the opportunity to provide information about the current research activities in the field of the main topic of the issue
- ***Young initiatives***
  Every network of young researchers within YEAR has the opportunity of promoting the activities organised since the last issue.
- ***Mobility research programme***
  A call for interest is included in the newsletter, in order to measure the willingness of young researchers to have an experience abroad through a professional exchange.
- ***Coming up next***
  Announcement and promotion of activities planned either by YEAR or one of its members.

Special sections

These sections summarize the different YEAR events:
- Specific topic seminars (Next issue after the event)
- Annual Conference & Year Awards (Next issue after the event)
- Follow -up Year Awards (December issue)

Newsletters issued in 2014

Newsletter n°	Month of publication	Main topic	In the picture
19	February 2014	Biofuel	VITO
20	October 2014	Future of Research	VTT
21	December 2014	2014 in a nutshell	YEAR

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.

In 2015, the Board will keep the same philosophy and also seek for external funding to support its activities. As mentioned above, this has started with the successful application to FOSTER, granting YEAR with 7 600 € aimed at cover part of the direct costs of the Annual Conference 2015.

Summary of transactions 2014

Bank account balance on 01.01.2014	**53 522.47 €**
Membership fees 2014	21 027.00 €
Board meetings	- 5 459.58 €
YEAR Annual Conference at AIT (Vienna, Austria) [13]	- 3 059.52 €
Payment YEAR Award 2013 to VTT	- 10 000.00 €
RTOs conferences and meetings with EU Commission	- 1 079.06 €
Bank, hosting address and accounting costs (2013 and 2014)	- 7 100.06 €
YEAR Seminars #2, #3 and #4	- 5 476.14 €
Bank account balance on 31.12.2014	**42 375.11 €**

Expected Budget for 2015

Membership fees 2015	**25 612.50 €**
Board meetings	- 6350.00 €
Payment rest of YEAR Awards 2014 to VTT and VITO	-15 000.00 €
YEAR Seminar #5, #6 and #7	- 3 750.00 €
YEAR Annual Conference at VTT (Helsinki, Finland)	- 8 000.00 €
YEAR Awards 2015	-15 000.00 €
FOSTER grant for YEAR Annual Conference 2015	**7 600.00 €**
Bank, hosting address and accounting costs	- 3 600.00 €
RTOs conferences and meetings with EU Commission	- 2 000.00 €
Expected bank account balance on 31.12.2015	**21 887.61 €**

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[13] Remaining costs of the Annual Conference were directly supported by AIT

4 EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

In 2014 and after the election proceeded in November, the YEAR Board was composed as follows:

Petri Pipatti (VTT)
Chairman

Tiia-Maria Tenhunen (VTT)
Information Management

Caroline Lemeire (VITO)
Chairman 2011-Oct. 2014

Clara Luján (AICIA)
Vice Chairman

Michela Vignoli (AIT)
Event organisation

Catherine Laurent (TNO)
External relations 2011-Oct. 2014

Alexis Sevault (SINTEF)
Treasurer

Karlijn Jans (TNO)
External Relations Since Sept. 2014

Axelle Gasne (AIT)
Secretary

Jef Bergmans (VITO)
Board Member Since Nov. 2014

Nevertheless, some professional obligations implied a reorganization of the Board, now composed as such since March 2015:

Alexis Sevault (SINTEF)
Chairman

Tiia-Maria Tenhunen (VTT)
Information Management

Jef Bergmans (VITO)
Mobility Coordinator

Clara Luján (AICIA)
Vice Chairman and Finances Coordinator

Michela Vignoli (AIT)
Event organisation

Martin Zelan (SP)
Board Member

Axelle Gasne (AIT)
Secretary

Karlijn Jans (TNO)
External Relations

Petri Pipatti (VTT)
YEAR Ambassador

CONTACT DETAILS

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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 – CONSULTING