



# Young European Associated Researchers

*Annual Report 2015*



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## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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*“You are only young once, and if you work it right, once is enough<sup>1</sup>.”* Making the most of your youth: this is exactly what the YEAR Network proposes to the Young European Researchers, providing them with several opportunities to improve their starting career and make them personally grow. In that sense, 2015 was anew marked with successful events and fruitful discussions.

Thus, the YEAR Annual Conference 2015 was once again the occasion to gather a large amount of young researchers in Espoo, Finland, to discuss on Open Science, a burning issue impacting their daily professional life. Later in autumn 2015, other young researchers joined the YEAR seminar on raw materials in Brussels, presented their work on this topic and met colleagues from abroad. Other participated in the first YEAR workshop on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for civil applications, a new format that the Board proposed to make the juniors meet more stakeholders from their field - including seniors- coming from industry, universities, legal organisations or RTOs.

Further than the formal events organised by the Board, all the Young networks developed in each RTO’s members have been particularly active in 2015. They have organised creative activities - amongst other the weekend in Copenhagen, the Superbrain Workshop, a laser tag evening, the Charity Quiz- which have always been appreciated and enabled to build the European Research Area from a bottom-up approach.

In parallel, YEAR carried on its consultancy activity by the European Commission, representing the views of Young researchers on Open Science at several occasions. YEAR was thus present at the workshop “Vision on Open Science in 2030” or the conference “A new start for Europe: opening up to an era of Innovation”. Upon invitation of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, YEAR also took part in the Expert Meeting on Open Access. These were great opportunities for YEAR to present the perspective of the young researchers.

Encouraged by the positive outcomes of its actions, the Board has already planned 4 events for 2016 – the Annual Conference, one workshop and two seminars- as well as dedicated activities to foster mobility initiatives for young researchers. The Board also wants to be deeper involved in debates dealing with the Young Researchers. Still in contact with the European Commission concerning the topic of Open Science, YEAR has also been approached by the EU Slovak Presidency to help them preparing a “Declaration on Young Researchers”, one of the key achievement they want to reach. YEAR counts on these future experiences to gain a broader recognition as the young researchers’ representative.

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<sup>1</sup> Joe E. Lewis

## 2 YEAR VISION AND MISSION

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### 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 2015, 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 (topic-specific 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 2015

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### 3.1 ACTIVITIES

#### 3.1.1 Summary of activities

2015 was very productive for YEAR. Different events and activities were organized, both at the members and network levels. Thus, YEAR has organized once again his traditional “rendez-vous” under the form of its Annual Conference, which was quite successful. The format of the topic-specific seminar was kept; and a new one was successfully tried out. Indeed, the “workshop” is a new kind of event gathering different stakeholders from the same field, thus enabling the young researchers meeting different professionals. 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 different events for 2016 as well. Two schemes chronologically sum up the activities made in 2015 and foreseen in 2016. The following pages detail the content and the outcomes of these events.

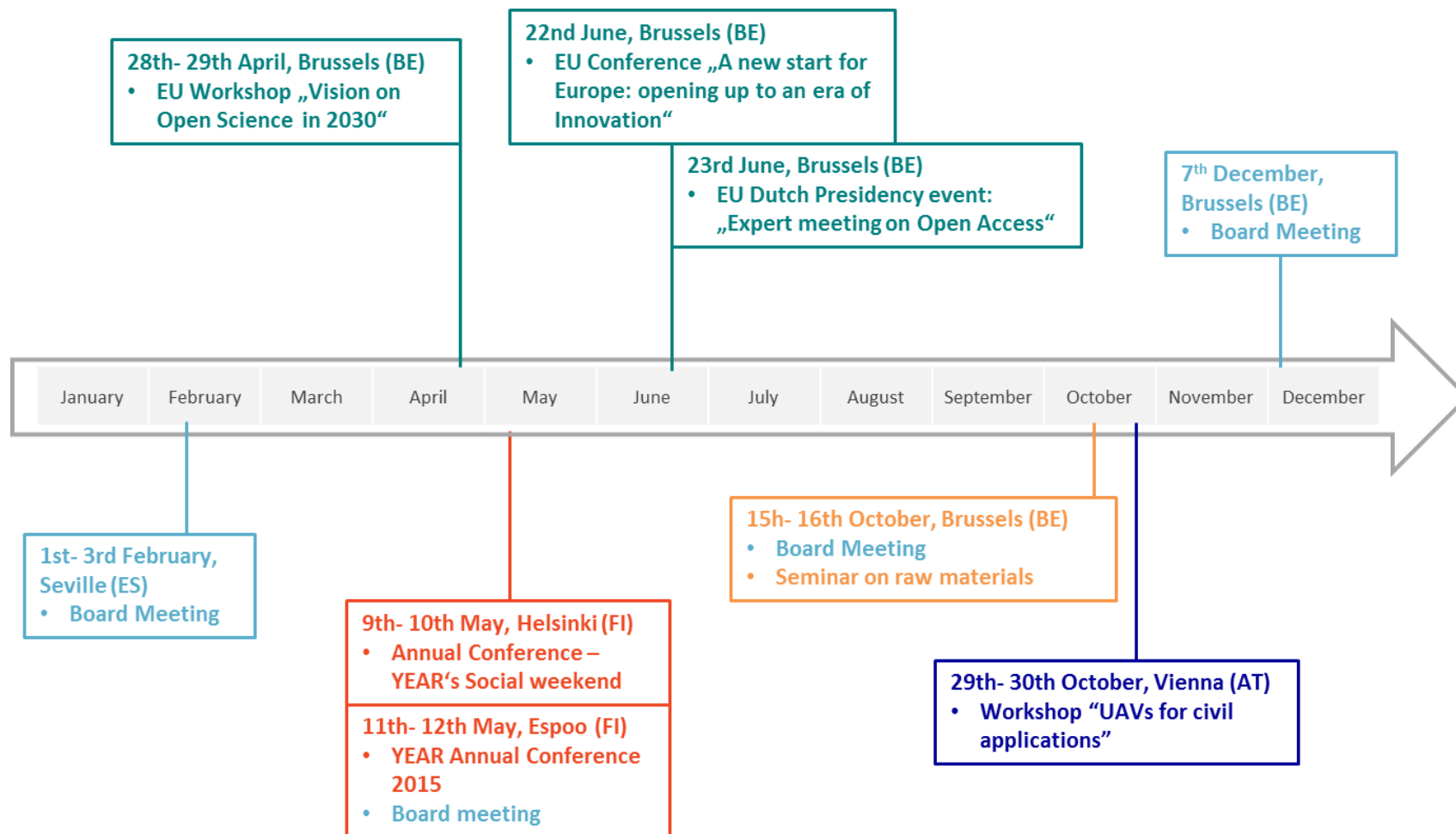


Figure 1: Overview of the YEAR events in 2015

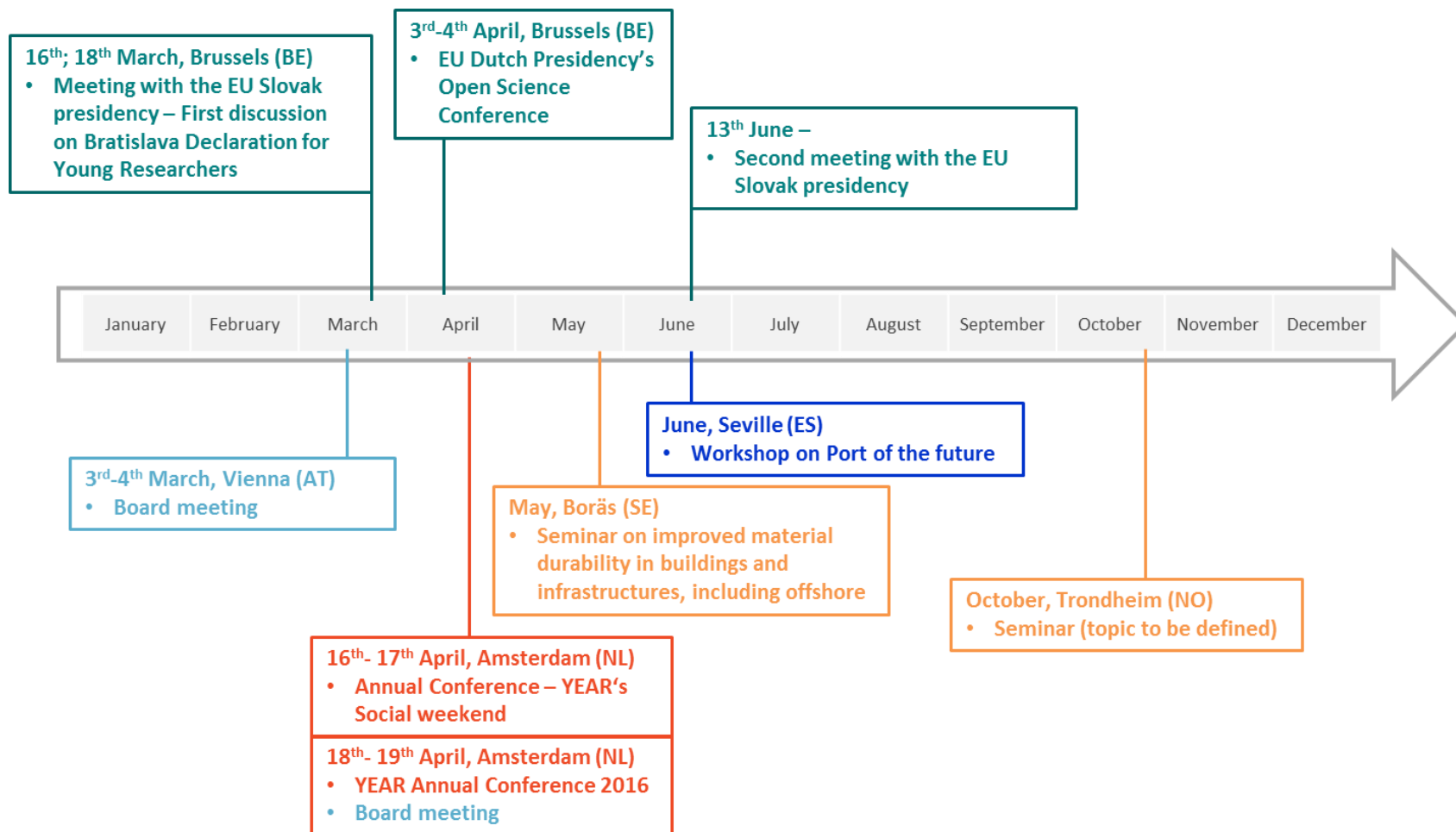


Figure 2: Overview of the YEAR events I planned for 2016



### 3.1.2 YEAR Annual Conference

For the fourth consecutive year, YEAR organized its Annual Conference. Biggest highlight of the network, the 2015 edition took place on 11-12 May in Espoo (Finland) and was hosted by VTT.

Co-organised by YEAR, VTT, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, KNOW Center Graz and SINTEF, the event was co-funded by YEAR, VTT and FOSTER (Facilitate Open Science Training for European Research). FOSTER is an EU project aiming to set in place sustainable mechanisms for EU researchers to foster open science in their daily workflow. Thus, it supports them optimizing their research visibility and impact. FOSTER also encourages the adoption of EU open access policies in line with the EU objectives on Responsible Research & Innovation. The project provides funding for events promoting Open Science.

Knowing this, willing to propose an Annual Conference focused on a burning issue concerning all the researchers, whatever their area of expertise may be, and in line with its dialogue with the European Commission in 2014, YEAR decided to choose the topic Open Science and to apply for a support by FOSTER<sup>2</sup>. The successful application enabled YEAR to organize a visible and valuable event, built on the same structure as the previous editions: a first day centred on gaining theoretical knowledge and a second day more practice oriented.

The Annual Conference 2015 brought together around forty young researchers from thirteen different European research organisations, both from and outside the YEAR Network (AICIA, AIT, SINTEF, TNO, SP, VITO, VTT, CSC, Masaryk University, Open Access Button, Aalto University, Graz University of Technology and University of Novi Sad). Seven high-quality speakers were invited for the first conference day, and 15 project ideas were proposed by the participants to try to gain the YEAR Awards.

#### Day 1 - Open Access and Open Research Data in H2020

"Sharing is caring" – This is probably a good way to describe what Open Science really means: a new approach to science to share ideas, research results, research data, and publications with the rest of the world, through the newly available network technologies. The fact is that few people actually know how to comprehend Open Science. The first day of the YEAR Annual Conference 2015 was then thought to enable every participant having a clear idea of this concept.

A programme was built with speakers representing different aspects of Open Science in order to give the public a comprehensive overview on the issue. The sessions were recorded and are available on YouTube. A PDF version of the presentations is available as well on our website:

- [Opening words – Anne-Christine Ritschkoff \(Executive Vice President, Strategic Research, VTT\)](#)<sup>3</sup>
- [Welcome and introduction to YEAR – Alexis Sevault \(YEAR Chairman, SINTEF\) \(PDF\)](#)<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> As mentioned in the Annual Report 2014, YEAR applied for the [Foster Call for Open Science Training 2015: https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/project/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=49:project-training-call-2015&catid=8&Itemid=304](https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/project/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49:project-training-call-2015&catid=8&Itemid=304)

<sup>3</sup> <http://youtu.be/hjvKVAht3AE>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6be3yHRAy&feature=youtu.be>

- [Keynote 1: Open Science on EU policy level – Jean-Claude Burgelman \(DG Research and Innovation, EC\) \(PDF\)](#)<sup>5</sup>
- [Keynote 2: Open access requirements and Open Data Pilots in H2020 – Liisa Ewart \(TEKES FI\) \(PDF\)](#)<sup>6</sup>
- [Seminar 1: Putting open access into practice – Nancy Pontika \(The Open University UK\) \(PDF\)](#)<sup>7</sup>
- [Seminar 2: How to open up my research data – Jenny Molloy \(University of Oxford UK\) \(PDF\)](#)<sup>8</sup>
- [Seminar 3: How to get recognition for my open science work – Peter Kraker \(KNOW Center AT\), Joe McArthur \(Right to Research Coalition\) \(PDF\)](#)<sup>9</sup>
- [Fishbowl conversation: How to avoid pitfalls when publishing open access or open research data? Moderator: Michela Vignoli \(AIT Austrian Institute of Technology AT\) \(PDF\)](#)<sup>10</sup>

## Day 2 - Open project ideas workshop and 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 2015:

- Oliver Zendel from AIT, was rewarded for his project idea “Towards an Open Peer-Review Process”
- Helena Henno from VTT was rewarded for her project idea “Fluvoid – a smartphone-based solution”.

The Annual Conference has thus constituted for them as well as for the other participants an outstanding chance to test their 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.

## Social Weekend

Beyond the conference, about thirty young researchers took part in the **Social Week-End** in Helsinki (09-10 May) organised by VTT Young Professionals. The goal? Get to know each other and extend one’s network while enjoying the city.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://youtu.be/o3KSi\\_6JiUA](http://youtu.be/o3KSi_6JiUA)

<sup>6</sup> <https://youtu.be/BBOXb-1AEExo>

<sup>7</sup> <http://youtu.be/29s7i1UIrIA>

<sup>8</sup> <http://youtu.be/giJJI-e9knE>

<sup>9</sup> [https://youtu.be/jAO0e83s\\_u0](https://youtu.be/jAO0e83s_u0)

<sup>10</sup> <https://youtu.be/wqXxBCHyF3g>

On Saturday, a very interesting visit of Helsinki and its highlights was proposed, ended with a dinner in a typical Finnish restaurant. On Sunday, a visit on Suomenlinna Island was organised and has been concluded by a barbecue in a sauna house by the sea.

### Annual Conference 2016

The preparation of the Annual Conference 2016 already started in 2015 with a brain-storming on the possible topic to focus on. Following the previous line, the YEAR Board decided to align the next Annual Conference with Open Innovation, a horizontal issue that impact the research nowadays and which is furthermore the logical follow-up of Open Science. The Annual Conference will take place in 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in The Hague (Netherlands). The event will be open to all interested young researchers in Europe.

### Follow-up of the YEAR Awards



The two winners of the YEAR Award, surrounded by the Jury and the YEAR Chairman

The YEAR Awards bring the winners a great opportunity to develop themselves a project idea and submit a concrete proposal. The experience gained at this occasion is really relevant for the young researchers and help them in their future career. We give here a short follow-up of the two winners of the YEAR Awards in 2015:

**Oliver Zendel (AIT)** won the 2015 YEAR Award for his project idea "Towards an Open Peer-Review Process". He quickly assembled a working group to find funding for a study on how to make the peer-review process more transparent and fair. In the middle of 2015 the group found a suiting EU call: H2020-GARRI-2015-1. Diligence is the mother of good luck and the group could join forces with a leading consortium on open science 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 disseminations. 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 inputs and support."

**Helena Henno (VTT)** won the YEAR Award for her project idea "Fluvoid". Actually, Fluvoid is the brainchild of three young VTTers; Ville Antila, Helena Henno and Lauri Reuter – young researchers from very different fields – decided to come up with an interdisciplinary project idea. In the following weeks they gathered frequently for working lunches to refine the idea and its possible execution. The first sketch of Fluvoid was ready well in time to be submitted to the project idea competition in the YEAR Annual Conference 2015. Fluvoid is a mobile service that will impact human society by making viral epidemics visible. It allows everyone to make a simple test and analyse it by a smart phone in order to find out if one is infected by an influenza virus or not. With appropriate contextual data the application is able to instruct the user to either keep calm and carry on, stay home for few days and do another test or see a doctor. The application also updates every single test result on a map that will show the spread of the epidemic. This data has never before been available for research and will generate knowledge that is crucial for condense human societies. With large amounts of data, Fluvoid will be able to also predict the epidemics and give the user a heads up in time to get their flu shots. The YEAR Annual Conference 2015 awarded Fluvoid as (one of the two) best project idea. As a reward the project team got a seed funding of 5000 € and a very valuable project manager training for Helena, who presented the idea. The YEAR Award was also 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 the autumn Ville, Lauri and Helena have negotiated with two companies and created a demo version of the app and presented it to the National Institute of Health and Welfare (THL). While writing this, they are preparing 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 Topic-specific seminars

YEAR regularly organises topic-specific 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:

<b>DAY 1</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
12:30	<b>Welcome and coffee</b>
13:00	<b>Round of individual presentations</b>
13:15	<b>Presentation of YEAR and goal of the seminar</b> <i>By one of the YEAR board members</i>
13:30	<b>Relevant activities performed in each participating research organization (each 15min + 5min questions) – Part I</b>
14:30	Coffee break / Mingling
15:00	<b>Relevant activities performed in each participating research organization (each 15min + 5min questions) – Part II</b>
16:30	<b>Orientation on the EU policy trends (funding possibilities, policy on innovation framework, political scenarios) (Remote-presentation)</b> <i>By an external expert (spokesperson from the European Commission, European parliament, National Contact Point...)</i>
17:30	<b>Social Activity and Dinner (End of Day 1)</b>
<b>DAY 2</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
09:00	<b>Round table discussion – Part I: Brainstorming based on a European call</b>
10:30	Coffee break / Mingling
11:00	<b>Round table discussion – Part II: Finding common directions</b>
11:30	<b>Wrap-up &amp; Conclusions of the meeting</b>
12:30	<b>Lunch at seminar venue (offered by the hosting organization)</b>
13:30	<b>End of YEAR Seminar at the hosting organization</b>

Figure 3: template of the agenda used for the topic-specific 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.

### *Seminar on raw materials*

Securing the sustainable access to raw materials, including metals, industrial minerals and construction raw materials for the EU economy is of high importance. However, the EU is confronted with a number of technological challenges along the entire raw materials production value chain of primary and secondary raw materials. YEAR organized, in collaboration with VITO, a seminar on the topic Raw Materials on 16 – 17 of October, 2015 in Brussels. The seminar was attended by several young researchers within the YEAR network to present their activities on the topic, as well as exchange ideas with other researchers for future collaboration and debate on potential project ideas. Furthermore the EIT Raw Materials, a strong European consortium in the raw materials field, was presented.

Some reactions from participants: “Overall, the seminar was very useful for me, since it resulted in at least one concrete line of collaboration (... Such discussions with young researchers from various research institutes of Europe are very beneficial because as young researchers, developing a professional collaborative network is very crucial.”; “In my opinion the seminar was a good opportunity to create connections between European partners.”; “I would be happy to have another opportunity to join seminar like that.”

One of the outcomes of the seminar is a possible collaboration for submitting a proposal.

### 3.1.4 A new format – YEAR’s workshop

In 2015, YEAR proposed a new kind of event under the form of a workshop. Willing to foster a discussion on the topic “UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles)”, YEAR starts to announce the seminar on this issue and realized that it raised the interest of several stakeholders of the field: junior and senior researchers in both technical and social areas, industries, SME, NCPs, etc. The Board took into account those different expressions of interests and took the chance to organise something new. 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. The first YEAR workshop was jointly organised with AIT and entitled “UAVs for civil applications”. It took place in Vienna, Austria on two half days, as shown in the agenda:

#### **DAY 1: Thursday October 29th**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
12:30	<b>Registration and coffee</b>
13:00	<b>Welcome and opening of the workshop I. Gojmerac, J. Pielorz, A. Gasne (AIT)</b>
13:10	<b>Keynote: Funding opportunities for UAV in Horizon 2020 Jürgen Rattenberger and Andreas Jonke, FFG (Austrian NCP).</b>
13:40	<b>Robots in Motion – Drones from Research to commercial Use</b> , Helmut Hlavacs, University of Vienna, Austria
14:10	<b>UAV-to-* communications in mixed search teams: the SWARMIX approach</b> , Karin Hummel, University Johannes Kepler, Linz, Austria
14:40	<b>Aerial manipulation</b> , Matko Orsag / Stjepan Bogdan, University of Zagreb, Croatia
15:10	Coffee Break
13:40	<b>Robots in Motion – Drones from Research to commercial Use</b> , Helmut Hlavacs, University of Vienna, Austria
14:10	<b>UAV-to-* communications in mixed search teams: the SWARMIX approach</b> , Karin Hummel, University Johannes Kepler, Linz, Austria
14:40	<b>Aerial manipulation</b> , Matko Orsag / Stjepan Bogdan, University of Zagreb, Croatia
15:10	Coffee Break
15:30	<b>Keynote: UAVs, privacy and data protection– Romain Robert, European Data Protection Supervisor</b>
16:00	<b>Aerial capacity and interference: 5G to the rescue</b> , Sofie Pollin, University of Leuven, Belgium
16:30	<b>Detect &amp; Avoid Sensor Technology</b> , Christoph Sulzbachner, AIT- Austrian Institute of Technology, Vienna, Austria
17:00	<b>Panel discussion – Future of UAVs’ civil applications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christian Briese, TU Wien/ EODC (Austria)</li> <li>• Tobias Krieger, Schiebel (Austria)</li> </ul>

- Ole Kristian Forstrønen Thu, Redningsdrone (Norway)
- Romain Robert, EDPS (Belgium)

<b>17:50</b>	<b>Wrap-up, conclusions of Day 1</b>
<b>18:00</b>	<b>End of Day 1</b>
<b>19:30</b>	<b>Social Event</b>

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**DAY 2: Thursday October 30th**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
<b>08:45</b>	<b>Opening of the Workshop</b>
<b>09:00</b>	<b>Indoor demonstration of UAVs</b>
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Quick round of introductions</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>World Café Discussion</b>
<b>11:30</b>	Coffee Break
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Break-out groups</b>
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Wrap-up &amp; conclusions of the workshop</b>
<b>13:30</b>	<b>Lunch and end of the AIT/YEAR Workshop</b>

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

On the model of the Annual Conference, the first half day was focused on presentations and panel discussions. On the second day, a UAVs demonstration took place as well as a short round of presentations by the young researchers. Afterwards, a World Café discussion was organised in order to gather more concrete inputs on possible applications for UAVs. Different synergies between the participants appeared during this World Café Discussion and some partners decided to concretely work on a project proposal.

The participants provided a very positive feedback about the workshop and were really enthusiastic to have met seniors, juniors, and stakeholders from industries. They also estimated the participation of a legal expert really valuable for discussing issues linked to UAVs.

Particularly, the young researchers asked for further edition of this kind of workshop, in so far as it brings them further opportunities to meet seniors and enlarge their network. YEAR will examine the possibilities in 2016 to make this wish come true.



### 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. YEAR prepared a questionnaire to gauge the interest of the HR department for researcher exchange programs. In the course of 2016, YEAR will distribute this questionnaire over the HR departments of our members and, to get a broader feedback, the EARTO HR network. This will allow us to establish a more targeted approach. Furthermore, we will keep on promoting exchange initiatives via our newsletter, conference and seminars.

### 3.1.6 Consultancy

Activities that were conducted in 2014 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.

Indeed, the Board, represented by Petri Pipatti, Clara Luján and Michela Vignoli, took part in the workshop “How will research look like in 2030?”, organized by the DG Research and Innovation in Brussels on 28th -29th April 2015. The goal of this event was to prepare a short vision-paper on how Open Science will change the way research is conducted in 2030. Happy to contribute to the creation of a common vision towards a more open science world, YEAR presented its paper<sup>11</sup> detailing the impact of Open Science on the world of Science and the possible applications for the Young Researchers. The output of the workshop has been summarized in a document available for consultation<sup>12</sup>, and was presented at the EC conference “A new start for Europe: Opening up to an era of Innovation”<sup>13</sup> on 22-23 June in Brussels.

YEAR had also the opportunity to take part in this conference, as it counted among the 500 selected participants. The event was opened by the **EU Commissioner Carlos Moedas** who announced officially his action plan that follows three priorities: “**Open innovation, Open Science and Open to the World**”.

On the following day, **YEAR was invited by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science to be one of the three invited speakers** at their *Expert Meeting on Open Access*. The Expert meeting gathered 60 experts from all over Europe, representing research councils, governments, publishers and researchers. The goal of the meeting was to provide the Dutch government with valuable inputs on how to implement Open Access and Open Science during their **EU-Presidency** for the first semester of 2016.

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<sup>11</sup> available for consultation on the YEAR Website: [http://www.year-network.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/YEAR\\_Vision\\_Paper\\_EC\\_Workshop\\_Open-Science-in-2030.pdf](http://www.year-network.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/YEAR_Vision_Paper_EC_Workshop_Open-Science-in-2030.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/pdf/pub\\_open\\_science/open\\_science\\_2030.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/pdf/pub_open_science/open_science_2030.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2015/era-of-innovation/index.cfm>

YEAR was invited due to its exhaustive work carried out on Open Science since 2014, namely: surveys, local debates<sup>14</sup>, publications<sup>15</sup>, participation in EU Commission Workshops and the YEAR Annual Conference dedicated to Open Science. Karlijn Jans (YEAR External Relations, TNO) and Alexis Sevault (YEAR Chairman, SINTEF) took part as experts. Joe Mc Arthur (R2RC), invited speaker at the last YEAR Annual Conference, was invited as expert to this meeting as well. **Alexis delivered a speech on behalf of YEAR**, on “Open Access as seen by researchers<sup>16</sup>”, based on the consultation<sup>17</sup> YEAR carried out on *Open Science seen by young researchers*. Alexis’s speech introduced the first discussion on “How to best engage researchers in Open Access?, What is the added value of Open Access for researchers?, What aspects make Open Access easy and rewarding for researchers“. The second discussion dealt with “What does a sustainable market for scholarly Open Access publications look like, considering the growth of numbers of publications, difficulties finding reviewers, speed of the reviewing process, costs, disciplinary niches..?“. The following discussion focused on “Infrastructures for Gold and/or Green Open Access“.

The final discussion enabled the experts to briefly pronounce their **ideas to be taken forward into the Dutch EU Presidency**. Among various inputs from the participants, YEAR insisted on the idea to establish a **new and uniform system of evaluation metrics for researchers**, better than the current ones, too often based on journal impact factors and H-index for instance. This should **enable researchers to practice Open Science while receiving credits** for such activities. YEAR also suggested to the meeting organizer to carry out a **new consultation among researchers** to get feedback on a potential new system of evaluation metrics and any new policies of interest to the researchers. Such survey could be carried out in a similar way to the one YEAR performed for the EU Commission in November 2014, though with a wider spectrum of researchers.

One of the most shared inputs given to the Dutch government during the Expert meeting was to **further involve researchers into any new policies** on Open Access, and Open Science in general.

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<sup>14</sup> [https://scienceintransition.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/year\\_consultation\\_science-2dot0\\_v1-0.pdf](https://scienceintransition.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/year_consultation_science-2dot0_v1-0.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.year-network.com/documents>

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.year-network.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Hand-out\\_Alexis-Sevault-Expert\\_Workshop\\_Open\\_Science\\_2015-06-23.pdf](http://www.year-network.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Hand-out_Alexis-Sevault-Expert_Workshop_Open_Science_2015-06-23.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> [https://scienceintransition.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/year\\_consultation\\_science-2dot0\\_v1-0.pdf](https://scienceintransition.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/year_consultation_science-2dot0_v1-0.pdf)

### 3.1.7 Board Meetings

The board meetings are organised three to four times a year 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

In 2015, four Board meetings took place, one during the Annual Conference to reduce costs.



*Board meeting in Brussels October 2015*

### 3.2 COMMUNICATION

YEAR decided to profoundly renew its communication strategy by elaborating a communication plan. 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, the emphasis will be put on the LinkedIn group and the Twitter account to inform the followers about the YEAR events. A complete reworking of the newsletter was done too: the mailing list was totally updated and the focus of the newsletter was changed. The newsletter has been edited 3 times in 2015 (March, July and December) and provided by flexmail. It will be only edited twice in 2016 as a collection of the different news that will be posted on the website. The articles focus on the different activities led by YEAR and the local Young Associations developed by each member organisation. The website is continuously improved to gain in visibility.

The communication towards the YEAR members and towards the institutions asking for consultancy has been reworked. The Board decided as well to create a “new member package” encompassing the necessary information for potential new members willing to join YEAR.

Concerning the internal communication, this has been improved with the use of an innovative and collaborative tool.

Partially settled in 2015, 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.

In 2015, the Board has kept the same philosophy and also sought for external funding to support its activities. As mentioned above, this was reached through the successful application to FOSTER, granting YEAR with 7 600 €, which covered a part of the direct costs of the Annual Conference 2015.

The negative balance for 2015 is due to the late claim of YEAR Awards. Although the funding was saved for the purpose, this situation has been addressed and it is expected to be normalised during 2017.

#### Summary of transactions 2014

<b>Bank account balance on 01.01.2015</b>	<b>42.375,11 €</b>
Membership fees 2015	26.199,00 €
3 Board meetings	- 10.740,98 €
YEAR Annual Conference at VTT (Helsinki, Finland)*	- 12.956,04 €
Payment YEAR Award 2013 to VITO and YEAR Awards 2014 to VTT and AIT	- 15.000,00 €
Bank, hosting address and accounting costs (2015)	- 3.602,40 €
Foster Grant	7.600,00 €
YEAR Workshop	- 515,50 €
Others (web hosting, printings)	- 158,20€
<b>Bank account balance on 31.12.2015</b>	<b>33.299,38</b>

\*YEAR contribution to the Annual Conference

## 4 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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### COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

In 2015, the YEAR Board was composed as follows:



**Alexis Sevault**  
(SINTEF)

Chairman



**Clara Luján**  
(AICIA)

Vice Chairman and  
Finances Coordinator



**Axelle Gasne**  
(AIT)

Secretary



**Tiia-Maria Tenhunen**  
(VTT)

Information  
Management



**Michela Vignoli**  
(AIT)

Event organisation



**Karlijn Jans**  
(TNO)

External Relations



**Jef Bergmans**  
(VITO)

Mobility  
Coordinator



**Martin Zelan**  
(SP)

Board Member



**Petri Pipatti**  
(VTT)

YEAR Ambassador

### CONTACT DETAILS

#### YEAR

36-38 rue Joseph II

1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

e-mail: [contact@year-network.com](mailto:contact@year-network.com)

website: [www.year-network.com](http://www.year-network.com)

twitter: @year-network

## 5 BECOME A MEMBER

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### 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](mailto: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](http://www.year-network.com)*

