

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

Introduction

Dear MCAA members,

We are pleased to present the very first issue of the Marie Curie Alumni Association Newsletter! The MCAA Newsletters will round up useful information for researchers and help alumni get in touch with one another so as to build the "Marie Curie Alumni community". Check out this issue and don't hesitate to comment and share! This information is yours to pass on!

- **What's the definition of the day?** Find an easy-to-understand overview of Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs).
- **Marie Curie Alumni Association first General Assembly.** The Marie Curie Alumni Association will indeed be up and running on 23 November, at the first-ever MCAA General Assembly !
- **A new website!** We have the pleasure to inform you that Marie Curie Alumni now have their own, new website ! The Marie Curie community now has the potential to become a social network phenomenon - there's no holding you back! Find out what fellow alumni want from the site with our sneak preview of recent survey results.
- **Face to face with a Commission Head of Unit.** You are probably wondering how the Association was created. With this in mind, we spoke to the European Commission Head of Unit responsible for the MCAA, who unveiled what happened behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association.
- **Meet other alumni!** Learn from each other thanks to insightful comments by fellow alumni on grants (Initial Training Networks) and administration (5 top tips on Marie Curie Administration); the icing on the cake is you get to meet one of them, Nadine Zeeni, in the "Ten minutes with..." section.
- **Everything you need to know about Horizon 2020.** Find out all about new Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020.
- **10 websites for EU funding and 5 Marie Curie acronyms explained!** Browse a treasure trove of websites presenting useful information on EU grants and get the low-down on five general Marie Curie acronyms !
- **What's next?** See what's in the pipeline for the next newsletter !

Yours,

The MCAA team

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Several Marie Curie fellows have already worked on projects under the umbrella of the JTIs. For more information on the opportunities available, see below.

Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) are a type of partnership between the European Union and the private sector established under Article 187 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU:

Article 187 TFEU (ex Article 171 TEC)

The Union may set up joint undertakings or any other structure necessary for the efficient execution of Union research, technological development and demonstration programmes.

The JTIs address strategic technologies that will underpin growth and jobs in globally competitive sectors. Each JTI has clearly defined objectives aimed at breakthroughs:

- **Innovative Medicines:** improving European citizens' health and wellbeing by providing new and more effective diagnostics and treatments such as new antimicrobial treatments;
- **Fuel Cells and Hydrogen:** developing commercially viable, clean, solutions that use hydrogen as an energy carrier and of fuel cells as energy converters;
- **Clean Sky:** radically reducing the environmental impact of the next generation of aircraft;
- **Bio-based Industries:** developing new and competitive bio-based value chains that replace the need for fossil fuels and have a strong impact on rural development;
- **Electronic Components and Systems:** keeping Europe at the forefront of electronic components and systems and bridge faster the gap to exploitation.

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

Mark this date in your agenda: **on 23 November, the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) will be officially launched at the first-ever MCAA General Assembly!**

Where and when? The first MCAA General Assembly will take place from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday 23 November at the Square Brussels Meeting Centre, Avenue Mont des Arts, Brussels, Belgium.

What will happen? The event will be an opportunity to introduce those present to the MCAA projects and aims, to present and elect the MCAA Board Candidates, to approve the articles of Association, and to preset the MCAA Plan of Activities. The complete agenda is available [here](#).

Who will be there? Researchers from all over Europe and beyond are expected to attend the event and to share their experiences.

I want to attend this event... Join us at the first MCAA Assembly by confirming your attendance [here](#) - just click on the "attend" button. Please note that you have to have registered on the Marie Curie Alumni web-portal in order to sign up for the event.

I want to get involved in the Board elections... If you are registered on the Marie Curie Alumni web-portal, you are welcome to put yourself forward for the Board election by completing the application form [here](#).

I don't live in Brussels, and these travel costs weren't foreseen in my budget... If you have budget difficulties, you may be eligible for an MCAA micro-grant of up to €450 to cover travel and subsistence costs. You can find more information on the grant [here](#) and you can apply until 31 October.

I am not able to attend the event, but I want to know what happened... Don't worry, you won't miss out! You will find plenty of information on the elections on the MCAA website...and of course in the next newsletter. So watch this space!

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

As of this summer, Marie Curie fellows and alumni have a new website!

With present and past Marie Curie fellows counting an estimated 50 000, they account for nearly 4% of all European researchers. So with this new tool, the Marie Curie community has the potential to become a social network phenomenon!

This is your space. Have a look at what the site can do for you!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) website is intended as a space where past and present Marie Curie fellows have plenty of opportunities to build and to foster their own unique community.

Exchange! The MCAA website is above all a space where alumni can exchange experiences, ideas and information. There are several functions at your disposal. You may create a blog or group to share information of common interest. You can comment on any post already online. Check out both the blog section and the groups section.

Stay informed! The page dedicated to news and feeds keeps you up to date with the latest research developments around the world. The icing on the cake is the events section, bringing together a wide range of conferences, forums and seminars for researchers taking place around Europe and beyond.

Contact! Do you want to contact a fellow? Nothing is more simple thanks to the database at your disposal. Moreover, you may browse alumni by nationality, current organisation, current country, current city, gender, framework programme, host country, host city, host institute, Marie Curie Action, scientific panel, scientific sub-panel and academic title. You may also get in touch with any of these fellows by sending a message via the site (when the person is registered on the web portal).

Organise! Arrange an event or meeting with other alumni and share it with the community!

Keep an eye on research posts! Access the EURAXESS portal directly from the website's job section.

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

Respond to calls for proposals! The calls section gives a complete overview of the latest calls for proposals as well as calls for tenders published in the Research Participant Portal.

What's in the pipeline for the MCAA website?

Plenty of other functions are foreseen to help you build up your community.

A library/online repository will allow members to add documents (reports, papers, etc.) that other members may access. These could include documents already published elsewhere on the Internet, but a storage facility will also allow members to publish documents not available elsewhere. This will be extended to 'multi-media' assets such as videos, audio files, databases, etc.

A map-based search will make it possible to find other members in or near to a specific locality/region.

An electronic voting system will enable the MCAA board to consult members on key issues.

An enhanced 'Jobs' page will present a wider selection of opportunities.

Share your ideas!

Is there a function that you would like to see on your website? Do not hesitate to submit your ideas and proposals here... they are more than welcome. The site aspires to meet your needs!

Do not forget to register!

To access all these functions, just register on the web portal. Click [here](#), it won't take more than two minutes! Just give us your first name, surname, title, nationality, gender, your e-mail address, your contract number, your proposal number, your project acronym, your scientific panel, your Marie Curie Action and your Framework Programme and then you will be welcomed by the MCAA community!

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

As the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) website is intended to meet the needs of the Marie Curie fellows, we surveyed many of you to understand what you expect from your website ... So far we've received 4 500 replies ... here, just for you, is a sneak preview of the wish list!

Whose views are these?

Who replied?

The typical MCAA website user is:

- **a full-time employee** (92% of respondents);
- **with experience** (>80% with more than five years of experience).

Where had the Alumni already worked?

- **Europe** (97%);
- **North America** (36%);
- **Asia and Australia** (15%);
- **South and Central America** (5%);
- **Africa** (2.5%).

Are Alumni registered on social networks?

Three-quarters of respondents describe themselves as active on social networks:

- 71.5% are on LinkedIn;
- 67.5% are on Facebook;
- 17% are on Twitter;
- Around 15% are on ResearchGate;
- 4% are on Xing.

Do the Alumni consider the MCAA important?

Most of the respondents (90%) believe that the MCAA could become important for the research community, and 80% would be able and willing to guide and assist (mentor) younger researchers in managing their career. So don't hold back - browse alumni and find your potential "mentor"!

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

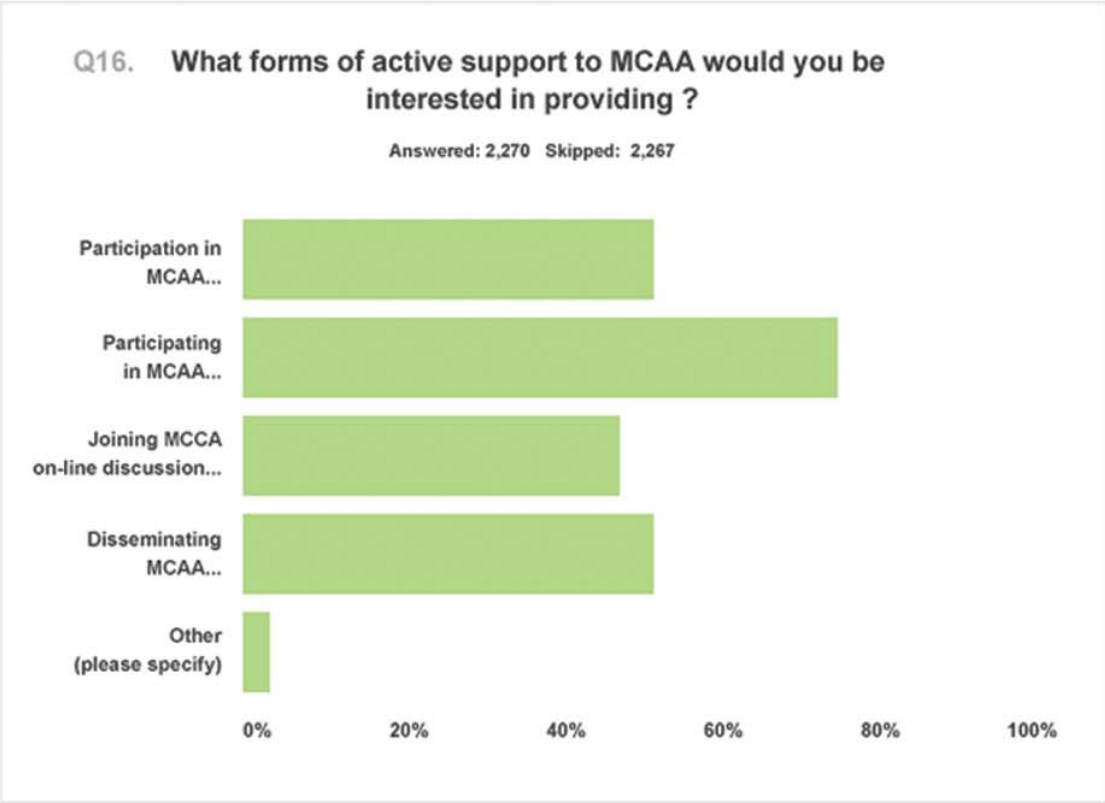
Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

Are Alumni prepared to support the association actively?

Some 73% of the respondents are willing to participate in MCAA working groups and around 50% would participate in MCAA governing bodies and take part in MCAA activities. What's more, some 46% would join MCAA online discussion groups (see graph 1).



Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

MC Alumni expectations

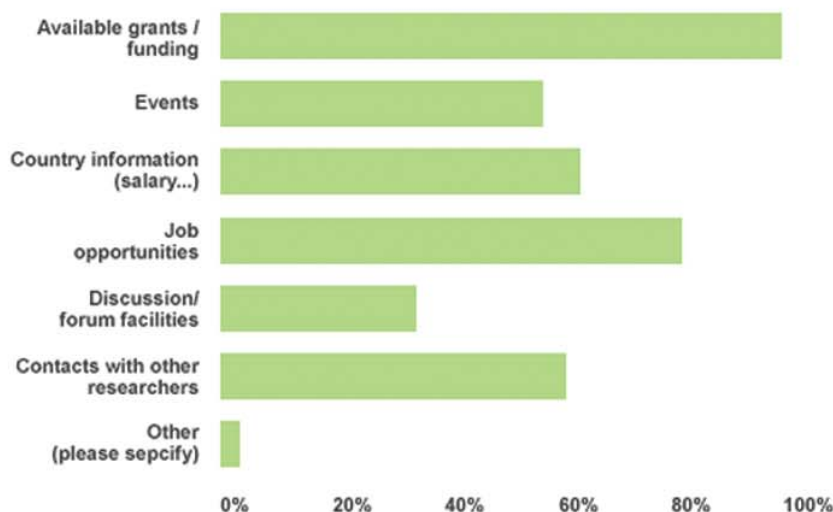
What would Alumni most like to find on the website?

You said you would like to find information on (see graph 2):

- **Grants / funding** (92%) and **micro-grants** (64%);
- **Job opportunities** (76%) and **career support** (62%);
- **Country guidance / information** (59%);
- **Networking with other members** (57%).

Q1. The MCAA website is intended to meet the needs of the Marie Curie Fellows. Please let us know what kind of information you would like to find when visiting this web portal

Answered: 4,535 Skipped: 2



What else would Alumni find helpful?

1. **Newsletters** (60% desirable) - for two thirds (67%) these should be monthly;
2. **A library/repository/media bank** (58% desirable);
3. **Events calendar** (61% desirable);
4. **Discussion board/forum** (61% desirable);
5. **Membership sub-groups** (51% desirable).

Many features are already available on the website, and others are in the pipeline (check out the article "The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!")... but do not hesitate to submit additional ideas!

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

Finding the right grants eats up a huge chunk of every researcher's life. Take a look at these 10 websites dedicated to European funding that we have found for you.

1. Marie Curie Actions - Funded projects

Marie Curie Fellowships are European research grants available to researchers regardless of their nationality or field of research.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/funded-projects/how-to-manage/index_en.htm

2. European Research Council - Funding and Grants

European Research Council (ERC) grants support individual researchers of any nationality and age who wish to pursue frontier research.

<http://erc.europa.eu/funding-and-grants>

3. Joint Research Centre - External Staff Recruitment Application (ESRA)

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is a Directorate-General of the European Commission and comprises seven institutes. Its activities range from the risk assessment of chemicals to the forecasting of natural disasters, from evaluating product safety standards to providing assistance to humanitarian crises.

<http://recruitment.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

4. European Commission - DIGITAL AGENDA/DG CONNECT - Funding opportunities section

The Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) aims to reboot Europe's economy and help Europe's citizens and businesses to get the most out of digital technologies. It is the first of seven flagship initiatives under Europe 2020, the EU's strategy to deliver smart sustainable and inclusive growth.

<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/newsroom>

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

5. European University Institute - Max Weber Programme for Postdoctoral Studies

Max Weber Fellows are offered training to develop professional skills such as teaching, academic writing and publishing, and job market presentation.

<http://www.eui.eu/ProgrammesandFellowships/MaxWeberProgramme/Index.aspx>

6. EURAMET - European Association of National Metrology Institutes - Researcher Grants

EURAMET is responsible for the drafting and execution of the European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP), designed to encourage collaboration between European National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) and partners in industry or academia. The programme funds joint research projects in specific metrology fields.

http://www.euramet.org/index.php?id=emrp_grants

7. Executive Agency Education, Audiovisual & Culture (EACEA) - Erasmus Mundus Joint DOCTorates (EMJDs)

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) is responsible for the management of certain parts of the EU's programmes for education, culture and audiovisual. These doctoral-level training and research programmes offer fellowships covering up to three years of doctoral activities.

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_action_1_joint_dOCTorates_en.php

8. Bilateral EU Cooperation in Science (BILAT) - Funding

This website is dedicated to research funding opportunities worldwide, and to projects supporting EU policy dialogue with those countries that have a science and technology agreement with the European Union.

<http://www.bilat.eu/235.php>

9. Euratom Energy - Fusion - Funding opportunities

Fusion energy is a long-term research project requiring sophisticated experimental devices and a large coordinated effort. To support the programme, specific funding opportunities/mechanisms - different to those used for other EU research programmes and fully coordinated at European level - have been set up.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/euratom/index_en.cfm?pg=fusion§ion=funding

10. Executive Agency for Health and Consumers - Funding

The Agency works closely with the Health and Consumers Directorate General as it implements EU programmes on health, consumers and food safety.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/funding/funding.html>

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 will be officially up and running from 1 January 2014!

Background. When drafting the EU's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs - Europe 2020 - Europe's leaders gave a prominent role to research and innovation. They pledged to take action in 30 areas to ensure Europe produces world-class science, removes obstacles to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering an 'Innovation Union'. Horizon 2020 will help hit these targets with its emphasis on excellent science, competitive industry and tackling societal challenges.

Three pillars. Horizon 2020 is designed to boost growth and jobs and improve people's lives. It is built around three main pillars:

- **Excellent Science:** Supporting the best ideas, developing talent within Europe, providing researchers with access to priority research infrastructure, and making Europe an attractive location for the world's best researchers.
- **Industrial Leadership:** Investing in key industrial technologies, maximising the growth potential of European companies by providing them with adequate levels of finance, and helping innovative SMEs to grow into world-leading companies.
- **Societal Challenges:** Funding will be channelled into finding solutions for challenges such as health, demographic change and wellbeing; food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bioeconomy; secure, clean and efficient energy; smart, green and integrated transport; climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials; and inclusive, innovative and secure societies.

What will change with Horizon 2020? Horizon 2020 will bring together all strands of Union research and innovation funding, including Horizon 2020, plus the innovation activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action – Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

The novelties within Horizon 2020 can be summarised as:

1. A simpler programme architecture to reduce the average time to grant by 100 days;
2. An inclusive approach, open to new participants;
3. Tighter integration of research and innovation, providing seamless and coherent funding from idea to market;
4. More support for innovation and activities close to the market;
5. A strong focus on creating business opportunities;
6. More opportunities for EU novices and young, promising scientists to put forward their ideas and obtain funding.

Key figures on the Horizon 2020 budget

- **Horizon 2020 is the biggest ever EU funding programme with €70.2 billion for 2014 to 2020.**
- **The headline objective is to increase spending on R&D to 3% of Growth Domestic Product (GDP) by 2020.**
- **60% of the total Horizon 2020 budget will support sustainable development.**
- **35% of the Horizon 2020 budget will allocated to climate-related research.**
- **15% of the total combined budget for projects tackling societal challenges and supporting enabling and industrial technologies will go to SMEs.**
- **Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) are expected to mobilise a total investment of over €17 billion.**

The importance of public-private partnerships (PPPs). One of the key aspects of Horizon 2020 is to promote public-private partnerships. PPPs have the potential to:

- provide a legal structure to pool resources,
- address complex challenges as they help develop interdisciplinary approaches,
- facilitate the creation of an internal market for innovative products and services.

PPPs have been created in the following areas: Factories of the Future, Energy-efficient Buildings, Green Vehicles, Future Internet, Sustainable Process Industry, Robotics, Photonics and High Performance Computing.

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action – Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

Current legislative framework

Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation - Communication from the Commission

Public-private partnerships in Horizon 2020: a powerful tool to deliver on innovation and growth in Europe - Communication from the Commission

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council establishing Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council laying down the rules for the participation and dissemination in Horizon 2020

Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon 2020

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the research and training programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2014-18) complementing Horizon 2020

To come:

- **October 2013 to January 2014:** Launch of Horizon 2020 - national events.
- **November-December 2013:** Horizon 2020 should be adopted by the Council.
- **11 December 2013:** Adoption of work programme and publication of first calls for proposals.

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

5 Marie Curie acronyms

MCA: Marie Curie Actions

MCF: Marie Curie Fellow

REA: Research executive Agency

ERC: European research Council

ICPC: International Cooperation Partner Countries

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!



When you started your PhD through the Marie Curie initiative, what were your expectations?

At that time, I wanted to get a PhD in order to access a teaching position at a reputable university in Lebanon, my country of origin; I expected to have a more or less monotonous three-year experience as this is what I had heard about PhDs. I was very wrong, the mobility of the Marie Curie programme made it lots of fun and allowed me to refine my project by getting the input of so many different experts in the field from all around Europe. Also, this programme not only targeted the development of research skills, but also development of the whole person (communication skills, career plan, personality...).

When you started your placement, did you imagine that you'd be where you are today 4 years later?

Absolutely not, it is a dream come true. Four years later I am in a tenure-track position coordinating a nutrition programme and dietetic internship on two campuses and a hospital. In addition, I am still able to carry out research activities and I am collaborating with the lab that hosted my PhD. This is truly above the expectations that I had when I started the programme!

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

If you had to choose the most memorable moment during your PhD, what would it be?

It would be the first time I gave a talk at a conference (SSIB in Paris). It was really a great moment. I was nervous about questions at first but then I realised that people were asking questions to know about my work and not to test me. Sharing your own work at a conference and exchanging ideas for improvement is really enriching.

Three words that sum up your Marie Curie Actions experience?

Turning-point, enriching, network.

How do you see yourself in 10 years?

Hopefully, I will be an Associate Professor applying for the Professor rank at the Lebanese American University and planning to take a sabbatical year to do research abroad, probably with the people I met during my PhD!

Is there a famous researcher who inspires you?

Definitely Charles Darwin. The theory of evolution is so versatile and can be used in almost any field, including mine.

What is your favorite quote by a scientist?

"The heart has its reasons which reason knows not" - Blaise Pascal

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action – Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

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

Enjoy the mobility! It may be a bit of a burden at first but it is the most enriching experience. You get to meet researchers and build a network, it might be the only time that you have such an opportunity in your career.

Imagine your ideal Marie Curie Alumni Association event. What would it be? Where?

Any event that encourages interaction between scientists/researchers from different fields. Something with discussions and workshops, not lectures. Somewhere with nice weather and nice food.

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

Jessica Schwartz: she was in the same programme as me (NuSISCO) and is really passionate about her research. Also, she encouraged me to give a TED talk last year at the final FP6 conference which was an amazing experience.

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Silvia Puddu and Nikolaj Nielsen are two of the many fellows who have benefited from the Initial Training Network (ITN) Marie Curie Actions.

They are still working on their projects and agreed to share their experiences with us.



The Marie Curie Action ITNs are open to researchers in the first five years of their career. Project proposals may take one of three forms:

- Multi-Partner ITNs
- European Industrial Doctorates (EID)
- Innovative Doctoral programmes (IDP)

Funding covers transnational networking, involvement of private commercial entities, and research in interdisciplinary and new, supra-disciplinary fields. Researchers from any science or humanities research field may apply for ITN funding.

Universities: sources of information and contacts. As an ITN is open to researchers in the first five years of their career, applicants are often still studying. This was the case for Silvia Puddu, who applied at the beginning of her PhD. Nikolaj Nielsen was finishing his master's degree and had been working as a research assistant for three months when put himself forward. Both originally heard about the Marie Curie opportunities, and the ITNs in particular, from their universities. Nielsen was lucky to be in the right place at the right time - his supervisor was setting up an ITN linking several EU universities and invited him to join. Immediately interested, Nielsen wrote to professors within the network in Germany, France and the UK and was rewarded with a fellowship in Münster, Germany.

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

ITNs grow your network! Each ITN must have partners from at least three different EU Member States or associated countries. Above this minimum, third countries (countries that are neither EU members nor have an association agreement for the EU's research programme) and international organisations may also participate. Puddu was able to gather her partners with a little help from her master's thesis supervisor, and considers the transnational aspect of the ITNs a very effective way to expand a network.

Get organised before applying! Applying for an ITN requires some time and some sense of personal organisation. Nielsen advises his peers to start collecting the necessary documents and papers in good time - preparing an ITN application can take one month according to Puddu. He also recommends launching collaboration between partners early and to have a precise description of all of them written down. It is also important to consider practical aspects at an early stage, such as looking for an apartment in your chosen country. Indeed, this was an area in which Puddu had difficulties when she moved to Switzerland for her fellowship.

Diversity in projects. ITNs enable young, motivated and talented researchers to shape their projects. Puddu has always been interested in detector technology and works with gas detectors, using them for neutron detection and radioactive waste characterisation. That's why she was attracted to a project on the applications of particle detectors conceived for high energy physics, for dosimetry in accelerators environments and medical physics. Chemist Nielsen is investigating the hypothesis that ion channels and transporters play a prominent role in pancreatic stellate cell (PSC) function. He believes identifying possible therapeutic targets could further understanding of the mutual interplay between PSC and cancer cells and more efficient cancer therapy.

No financial stress. Both young researchers are satisfied with the financial support received through their ITN. Nielsen's needs were covered, as were Puddu's - even if she has spent a lot on equipment and training and it is therefore sometimes difficult to cover all costs with the grants.

A career boost! Both Puddu and Nielsen consider they have increased their international network; they now have contacts from universities as well as from industry and are confident they have expanded their career opportunities. Puddu is currently in the second year of her project, while Nikolaj Nielsen is half way through his three-year fellowship.

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Applying for a grant, moving and working in another country, translating official documents... administration represents a huge part of a Marie Curie fellow's life, so check out Kiran Kumar Cherreddy's "five tips" on taking the pain out of paperwork!



Kiran Kumar Cherreddy took part in a Marie Curie Initial Training Network (ITN), wanting to expand his network and develop close professional contacts within the context of a high quality research project.

Tip 1: Claim exemption from a work permit with a scientific visa!

Cherreddy comes from India and moved to Belgium to work at the Louvain Drug Research Institute in Belgium. As people coming from a non-EU country can't usually stay in an EU country for more than three months, they need authorisation to stay longer and to work there. However, if you hold a scientific visa, there is no need to ask for a work permit.

As Cherreddy advises, be sure that the authorities within your chosen town are fully familiar with the scientific visa. Further information on scientific visas is available [here](#), and if you experience administrative difficulties, use the form available [here](#) to facilitate the process.

Tip 2: Get in touch with the National Contact Points!

National Contact Points (NCPs) are present in each EU country. They are financed by governments of the EU Member States and the States associated to the framework programme. They provide mainly:

- Guidance on choosing thematic priorities and instruments;
- Advice on administrative procedures and contractual issues;
- Training and assistance on proposal writing;
- Distribution of documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.);
- Assistance in partner searches.

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

Tip 3: Stay in close contact with your professor!

Chereddy has several types of cost to cover during his fellowship and was worried about getting reimbursed. He was fortunately in close contact with his professor, who understood his situation and supported him in claiming reimbursements.

Tip 4: Stay informed thanks to Euraxess!

Euraxess provides a complete range of information and support services to researchers. Chereddy recommends this website as a source of information, and as a useful resource should you encounter administrative difficulties.

Tip 5: Familiarise yourself with the Marie Curie terminology!

According to Chereddy, it is crucial to feel comfortable with the Marie Curie terminology, like acronyms, programmes and funding names, etc. Don't worry about this - the Marie Curie Alumni Association website will provide all the information you need to stay on top of all Marie Curie procedures!

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

The Marie Curie Actions (MCA) were launched in 1996 to offer financial support to research activities and researcher mobility. What were the European Commission's expectations at that time?

The real beginning, in the form of fellowships, was in the 1980s. It was later, in 1996, that we gave the actions the name 'Marie Curie'. The initial objective was to support research and development programmes by making it easier for researchers to move between countries within the EU and later the programme was expanded to include Associated Countries and also Third Countries, effectively the whole world. We also saw this as an opportunity to contribute to the growth of a knowledge society – mainly scientific knowledge – and of course support for research automatically leads to social and economic benefits for society at large.

By facilitating researchers' freedom of mobility, we hoped to create a critical mass of researchers in the EU who would be in a better position to exchange knowledge, both within Europe and with researchers elsewhere. The goal was **to make the EU attractive for the best researchers** mainly from the EU but also, as things progressed, from the world, by helping finance their mobility, their training, making a career in science a less complicated option, and by putting in place a selection process based on excellence. To put it briefly, the aim is to increase the EU's appeal to the best researchers and to counteract the phenomenon of brain-drain.

Since their start in 1996, Marie Curie Actions have benefited more than 65 000 researchers. Did the European Commission expect such success?

The EC certainly hoped and planned for these actions to be successful, but I think that at the time we did not really think they would become quite so attractive and successful as they have become.

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action – Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

How do Marie Curie Actions influence the careers of researchers? Is there a long-term impact?

Marie Curie researchers have a very high employment rate, above 97%, and have worked or are working in Europe (most of them) many in North America but also in the rest of the world. Furthermore it is, I think, well known that being awarded a Marie Curie fellowship is recognised widely as a sign of scientific excellence. A fellowship definitely helps someone's research career to take off, so yes there certainly is a long-term impact. One of the reasons for this high employment rate are the transferable skills that fellows acquire.

Has the initiative generated "community spirit" among the researchers who have benefited, as we can see for example among the students who have benefited from the Erasmus programme?

I would answer yes to that, but I would also add that the creation of a community spirit is one of the goals of the MCAA. MC fellows are spread out over a very large geographical area and are a very mobile professional group. Creating a community spirit is therefore no easy task. It very much depends on a feeling of ownership and a willingness to be proactive and take the initiative – something we hope to achieve with the creation of the association, run by its own members and assisted by a professional team.

How important are networks and especially transnational networks to Marie Curie fellows?

Transnational networks in general are very important in a multitude of ways, such as transnational cooperation and understanding, knowledge sharing, the potential for creativity through communication and cooperation and common interests etc. I would say that in the research field – where most ground-breaking discoveries are usually made by international teams – the chance to network, cooperate and exchange results with highly qualified experts in your field is even more valuable.

What are the main objectives of the MCAA?

To extend the impact of Marie Curie Actions still further, networking between Marie Curie fellows (current and past) will be stepped up through a range of new services designed especially for alumni. We also hope to maintain permanent contact with Marie Curie researchers in order to evaluate the impact of Marie Curie Actions on their career development. We plan to do this through:

- Promotion of networking, cooperation and mutual understanding among alumni from different countries, economic sectors and scientific disciplines;
- An organisation which will serve as a forum for debate, enable alumni to promote Marie Curie Actions and accelerate their own and others' careers;
- Fostering global relationships by alumni who serve as ambassadors of the Marie Curie Actions for the wider research and innovation community, drawing on their experience of international and inter-sectoral mobility.

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action – Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

What actions are foreseen for implementation by the MCAA?

We are providing for assistance to the MCAA through a contract with a service provider. Of course there are several actions foreseen in the contract, such as creation, expansion and maintenance of a dedicated website and the services it provides, as well as more general actions: the organisation of general assemblies, elections, production of newsletters, micro-financing, assistance in finding jobs or establishing residence in a new country and more. However we are also ensuring the MCAA has a lot of creative freedom, so much depends on the needs and wishes of the alumni themselves. Maybe they will request the creation of chapters on the basis of thematic interests, or a national MCAA presence, discussion forums etc. – we will have to wait and see.

Which particular benefits will the MCAA website offer Marie Curie fellows in terms of networking, documentation, employment and funds?

It will offer a single point of access to information about calls for proposals and for participation in research programmes, certain types of financing, job offers, networking opportunities and more general information (e.g. news about research, opportunities for publication). As the MCAA develops and grows, more services and opportunities will be added. I think it is crucial to understand that this organisation will be self-governed and managed by its own members. Its organisation and the way it will develop depends significantly on the needs and decisions of its members – it is a very democratic type of management.

Does the European Commission expect the MCAA to contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy objectives on research and innovation?

The creation of such an organisation certainly opens up this opportunity. And we are already planning to consult a pool of excellent scientists (such as our fellows) on a whole range of issues. It is a rather Socratic method – to consult the beneficiaries of an activity in order to improve it. And in my view there is probably nobody better suited to provide such advice on publicly funded (or co-funded) research programmes.

Do you have a last word for the MCAA members?

Join, keep your profile updated, be proactive; this is your organisation and we count on you to make it a success.

Introduction

Definition of the day: Joint Technology Initiative (JTI)

Marie Curie Alumni Association officially up and running!

The Marie Curie Alumni Association Website is online!

What do Marie Curie Fellows (MCF) expect from their website?

10 websites you need to know for European funding opportunities

All you need to know on Horizon 2020

5 Marie Curie acronyms

Meet an alumnus! 10 minutes with... Nadine Zeeni!

I benefited from a Marie Curie Action - Initial Training Networks (ITN) in the spotlight

Five top tips: getting on top of Marie Curie Action administration

Behind the scenes of the Marie Curie Alumni Association: an interview with Alessandra Luchetti, Head of Unit of DG EAC.C3 of the European Commission

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

Dear MCAA members,

We hope that you enjoyed your first newsletter. If you have any comments, suggestions or remarks, do not hesitate to send us your ideas!

We hope that you will be pleased to hear that Newsletter number 2 is already under construction. Watch this space for information on the election of the MCAA board and much, much more. Keep in touch!

The MCAA team

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