Annual Meeting of the Young Academy of Europe – Today’s Role of Young Scientists in Europe

The Young Academy of Europe (YAE), an independent association of top young scientists and scholars, held its third annual meeting in conjunction with Academia Europaea (AE) in Barcelona, Spain to discuss views on current realities and opportunities for scientists in Europe from a younger perspective. Holding the meeting at the AE Knowledge Hub at the Institut d’Estudis Catalans (IEC) continued to strengthen the connection between established and emerging researchers on an all-European level. The YAE, which was founded in 2012 by a group of young scientists supported by the European Research Council (ERC), also prepared itself to determine its next generation of leaders and elected a new Chair and Board. Prof. André Mischke from the University of Utrecht and founding Chair handed over to Prof. Lynn Kamerlin from Uppsala University.

During the four days of the YAE and AE conferences, various guests from the ERC, national and international young academies, and the PhD student organization Eurodoc exchanged views with YAE and AE members on the role of young scientists in Europe and their current challenges. ERC Executive Agency Director Pablo Amor gave an overview of current developments within the leading international research funding agency and its ongoing efforts to support modern research careers with flexible funding schemes that serve the scientific community. The audience agreed with the concerns of the young scientists that it remains a challenge to shape a coherent science policy for Europe to secure a sustainable support needed for achieving scientific impact and give a perspective for the next generation of scientific leaders.

The scientific sessions were characterized by stimulating discussion surrounding eight short presentations linking the three YAE domains of physics and engineering, life sciences, and social sciences and humanities. Both the breadth and the interdisciplinarity of these talks highlighted the diversity of members engaged in the YAE. It therefore also continues to establish connections between generations and disciplines as reflected in the participation of various YAE members in the scientific sessions of the AE Annual Conference. Researchers exchanged views and discussed some of their recent work from their respective domains. They addressed various societal challenges in the areas of health, responses to the economic crisis, and arising climate change parameters: YAE members presented novel insights into light-activated hearing devices, the formation of citizens’ collectives, and the accumulation of methane in lakes.

AE leaders appreciated the ongoing expansion of the YAE and its diversification based on the idea of a pan-European initiative that provides a platform for scientific exchange, science policy, and networking to widen participation across Europe and across all research fields.

For more information about the Young Academy of Europe or to schedule an Interview with one of the members please contact: press-office@yacadeuro.org
YAE members at 2014 Annual Meeting

Newly Elected YAE Board

André Mischke handing over Board documents to the new Chair Lynn Kamerlin