Dear all,
Welcome to the first YEBN newsletter issue in 2012.
The last months of 2011 were full of events and meetings.
Below you find the members of the new Executive Board which were elected during the last Annual Meeting. You can get more details about the Annual Meeting and the related Intercultural Communication workshop on page 2. ANBI and btS were celebrating their 10th and 15th anniversary in the end of 2011. You can find reports about these events on page 3.
Check page 4 for upcoming events in life sciences. Keep in mind that the registration deadline for the Zurich Life Science Day is already on February 12th.
Enjoy your reading!
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The new YEBN Executive Board

During the last Annual Meeting (Bologna, December 3rd – 4th, 2011), a new Executive Board was elected. Find out what they are up to below.

Annika - Vice Chairwoman
Follow up on the collaborative atmosphere in the network as well as in the EB, to continue the projects and activities started in 2011

Irina - Secretary
Stronger connect btS activities and the other IMs to YEBN by promoting events in those countries and to continue her duties as Secretary

Mateusz - Treasurer
Hold finances as Treasurer and to start a programme focused on international internships for BSc and MSc students

Marie
Strengthen the link between young biotechnologists all over Europe as well as to industry and academia within the iPhD-project

Natalia - Chairwoman
Continue the efforts and undertakings we started in 2011 and keep on increasing YEBN visibility within Europe and outside
Event Report

YEBN Annual Meeting 2011 in Bologna

The YEBN Annual Meeting 2011 was held in Bologna (Italy) on the weekend December 3rd to 4th. The Annual Meeting is the most important gathering in the YEBN event calendar. It is crucial to ensure the sustainability of the network, bring members of the different countries together and legally approve the actions which were taken by the Executive Board (EB) in 2011.

Around 35 young scientists participated in the YEBN General Assembly (Saturday, December 3rd) and an interactive workshop on Intercultural Communication in Life Sciences (Sunday, December 4th, see report below). The newly elected EB is presented on the previous page.

We were very glad to meet you in Bologna and we are very thankful to the local organisers from ANBI for hosting the event. We are confident that the meeting will encourage more YEBN members to contribute to our activities and that the next Annual Meeting will gather even more actively involved young life scientists.

Natalia Borkowska

YEBN – communicating within a multicultural network

Communication can be tricky, not only between people of different cultural origins. Cultures provide people with ways of thinking - ways of perceiving the world. The “same” words can mean diverse things to different people, even when they use the "same" language. During the YEBN Annual Meeting 2011 in Bologna last December, one day was devoted to an intercultural communication workshop. This short introductory course was lead by a certified coach – Anna Fuchs. The participants were representatives of national biotechnology associations (Institutional Members) from several European countries.

Throughout the seminar, participants were introduced to a wide spectrum of aspects important for effective communication like, for example, the differences between human character types and the relationship between the message and the diversity of information it can carry. Lecturing parts were interspersed by interactive case studies, work group presentations and active discussions. There was an atmosphere of warmth and openness and this was thanks to genuine interest and active involvement of all international participants, entertaining course content and extremely professional guidance of the communication coach. The workshop was received with a lot of enthusiasm and everybody was actively taking part in all case studies even despite of being tired due to an intensive social part of the meeting. It was very instructive, especially for an international network like YEBN, but also for everyone’s personal life.

Michal Ferens
**ANBI, the Association of Italian Biotechnologists, celebrates 10 years**

On Friday, November 18th, Italian biotechnologists met in Bologna again to remember their membership history, and make the point on objectives, activities and results. The critical issues that hinder the career path of biotechnologists in Italy still remain a lot. But this is just an additional reason to do more and better, by collecting the enthusiasm of those days, together with the experience of 10 years of initiatives that made ANBI one of the key stakeholders in the sector. Many important guests participated to the ceremony, among which the Director of Assobiotec, Leonardo Vingiani and several Deans of Italian Biotechnology Faculties. The first President of ANBI, Francesco Lescai, spoke on behalf of founding members talking about the ten years spent building an ambitious project. Many biotech sectors were represented by young professionals who matured their career experiences within ANBI. The public research was represented by Francesca Gilli, who spoke about her activity on Multiple Sclerosis at the University Hospital S. Luigi - Torino. Marika De Acetis, former President of the Association and currently working at Pearson – Milan, described which career opportunities for biotechnologists are in the field of media and communication. Another important contribution was the one of Chiara Anzi, biotechnologist and school teacher in Lodi. Fabio Fracchetti, founder of the start-up Microbion, talked about his experiences in the field of bio-entrepreneurship and Alessandra Bosia closed the session by talking about her experience as a consultant in the field of intellectual property and patents. Finally, the current President, Simone Maccaferri, closed the ceremony by pointing out at the importance of continuously supporting biotechnologists in Italy. This will be achieved through the consolidation and expansion of the network of institutional interactions which has allowed the association to be recognised as an important partner in the development of the biotech sector in Italy.

Chiara Cipollina

**15 Green Years**

btS was founded in 1996 as a network for graduate and undergraduate life sciences students in Cologne, Germany. Within time, btS has developed into the biggest life sciences network in Germany with over 800 members in 25 branches. Therefore, in December 2011 it was time to celebrate 15 years of great success: About 90 members and former members including the founders of btS came back to the place of founding - Cologne - to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the network.

The founding members Hauke Kalweit and Martina Firus spoke about the first exciting days of the network. It was surprising how many structures and ideas of the beginning of btS are still important elements of the network today, for instance the nationwide meetings which take place twice a year (btS-Weekends). Finally, keynote speaker Prof. Uwe Heinlein (Miltenyi Biotech) spoke in an amusing and impressing talk about the future of the life sciences. After the official part of the event all participants had enough time to get together and to talk about the first steps of Germany’s biggest life sciences students association and about future projects.

Roman Schubert
Upcoming events in Life Sciences

3rd Zurich Life Science Day, February 16th, 2012 in Zurich, Switzerland

The life scientists’ job market is multifaceted and there might be opportunities you did never consider. Expand your horizons during the 3rd Zurich Life Science Day on February 16th, 2012 in Zurich, Switzerland. This conference on career opportunities will give you insights into various fields like the pharmaceutical industry, the food industry and the cosmetics industry. It will provide you with information about life scientists in Marketing & Sales and Consulting as well as in Start-Ups or as Entrepreneurs. The keynote lecture by Paul L. Herrling bridges the gap between academia and industry and tops the program off. Additionally, a company exhibition and CV checks will be offered. Further information at www.lifescience-youngscientists.ch

Tanja Matt

BCF Career Event, May 24th, 2012 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Do you want to know more about your career possibilities and the current labour market? Are you almost finished with your studies and looking for a job? Visit BCF Career Event on the 24th of May in Amsterdam RAI. BCF Career Event is the largest career fair for Bio, Chemistry, Food & Pharma and is organised for senior BSc, MSc, and PhD students, graduates and Young Professionals. On this day you will have the change to meet over a 100 employers and to expand your professional network. Take part in the program with presentations and workshops and talk to a career coach about Your Next Step in your career.

As a member of YEBN you will receive free entrance. To receive this discount, enter the promotional code in the registration form: YEBN012 Register now at www.bcfcareerevent.nl

Our Network connects independent national organisations active in Europe in the areas of biotechnology and life sciences.

The organization members defined Institutional Members (IMs) are composed of young professionals, undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Individuals can also participate to YEBN activities as Individual Members (InMs) upon registering on our website.