In Berlin we met again, The YM Leadership Meeting glamoring the EPS forum of 2024!

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The Young Minds project of the European Physical Society is committed to its foundation as a global connecting hub for physicists and early career scientists from every country in Europe and its surroundings. Therefore, and as every year, the Young Minds project hosts the annual leadership meeting where representatives from every student-run chapter (section) are invited to join us for two outstanding days of scientific research skills and career development in addition to priceless networking opportunities.

This time our participants packed up for a double chance to participate as well in the annual EPS Forum which harpored the YM leadership meeting along with other activities. And the destination ? It was the capital city of science, the hometown of Einstein, and Max Planck, Berlin, where beer, art, and science make the true spirit of the city.

More than 70 participants representing 30 sections from 10 different countries came together at the Henry Ford Building of the Freie University-Berlin, for the YM leadership meeting on the 25th and 26th of March. The meeting was initiated with a warm welcome by the LM organization committee chair, Anna Grigoryan, the EPS Secretary General, Anne Pawsey, and EPS Former Chair, Luc Berge. The meeting could not have proceeded without YM Former Chair Mattia Ostinato's famous overview presentation about the YM project which he used to announce as well some exciting news and the latest of achievements of the EPS and YM project. The core of the meeting came from the following many talks, lectures, and discussions which focused on empowering the students' scientific research skills and broadening their perspectives within and outside academia with a unique range of topics and group of speakers. To further connect with other YM delegates, a networking session was conducted which offered perfect opportunities for the participants to catch up, get to better know each other, and follow-up on the attended talks and lectures. The LM was concluded with the YM activity poster session, where 18 posters were presented by the section's representatives with the corresponding "Young Minds Best activity award by EPL" ceremony, where the two Italian YM sections, PONYS and SPAM Caserta, received the winners certificates from EPL and 250 euros.

Nobel Laureates, Masterclasses, Panel discussions… the LM's hotspots

The Leadership Meeting featured a range of talks and activities focused on the soft skills that scientists require. The first day of the meeting began with Masterclasses on Scientific Writing led by Isabelle Auffret-Babak, EDP Science Senior Publisher, and Anne Ruimy, EDP Publishing Director. After this, Antigone Marino spoke about Impostor Syndrome. The

"From PhD to CEO" panel discussion, in collaboration with OPTICA, was also a highlight. The panelists were Imran Khan, Co-Founder of Keequant, and Jan Kischkat, Co-Founder of Quantune, and the session was chaired by Director OPTICA Europe Claus Roll and Mattia Ostinato. During the discussion, the panelists introduced themselves and answered questions from both the audience and the panel discussion chairs.

The second day of the meeting began with Nobel Prize Laureates' Lectures, which were made possible by the co-location with the EPS Forum. Tatevik Chalyan then gave a lecture on writing a successful grant application, followed by Steven Goldfarb's talk on "Why we bother – the urgency of education and outreach".

Thanks to these special activities, the meeting brought together YM delegates from various countries, as well as many interested students and young researchers from outside of the YM network, making it a great success and the hit of 2024 YM project's year. In addition to the LM program, participants had the opportunity to learn about industrial opportunities and attend lectures from world-class researchers conducted in the EPS Forum.

Young Minds Action Committee would like to express sincere gratitude to the European Physical Society for inviting and accommodating the Leadership Meeting within the EPS Forum and congratulations to the organization for the success of the event. We are thrilled that so many young minds gathered for the meeting and look forward to the Leadership Meeting in 2025.

Carmen Martín Valderrama elected as a new chair of EPS Young Minds

Carmen Martín Valderrama, PhD student at CIC nanoGUNE, Spain, and former member of the YM section in Valladolid, Physics League, received the support of the entire committee and took over the chair position from the YM leadership meeting onwards. She presented an overview of the main points the action committee will work on for the next two years, which consists in (1) improving the internal processes, (2) strengthening the YM network and the relationship with other associations and (3) working on our digital presence, webpage and social media. We thank Mattia for his dedicated work and leadership over the last two years, and we wish Carmen all the best and much success for her tenure. ■