



Empowering Young Explorers (EYE) is a support project funded under the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7).

Objectives

The aim of EYE is to help young European researchers in a range of disciplines to realise their scientific potential in future and emerging technologies (FET) and contribute to breakthrough research. The project will encourage the generation of high risk scientific ideas through brainstorming and interdisciplinary collaboration between young researchers. In addition, EYE will support the development of young scientist's leadership potential through networking and training.

Young researchers

The EYE project will focus on the support of young researchers interested or already involved in high risk FET-quality multi/interdisciplinary research enabled by information and communication technology (ICT). A young researcher is a holder of a PhD degree that was awarded at the latest six years prior to the participation in the EYE activities and events (PhD + max. 6 years).

EYE partners

The EYE project is coordinated by the Technical University of Delft. Ten partners, including six universities, two research institutions and two small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from 9 European countries, have joined forces to achieve the goals of EYE. The partners will establish a network of local collaborators in 38 countries across Europe that will promote the EYE activities locally among young researchers. Europlan UK is the originator of the EYE project idea and the important player responsible for communication and coordination of multiple activities pursued by the partners.

EYE activities

Starting in November 2013, the EYE project will span a period of two years. The project will support a series of complementary regional and European brainstorming and training events for young scientists involved in FET-quality research, such as seminars, conferences and summer schools. Young researchers will be invited to take part in two cycles of EYE events and competitions. Travel and accommodation costs of selected participating young researchers will be covered by the EYE project.

Lab Surfing workshops - regional brainstorming and networking events



The project will start with six "Lab Surfing" workshops running in six regions of Europe: North and Irish Sea; Black Sea and South Mediterranean, Western Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe; Western Mediterranean, and Nordics and Baltics Participants. These regional workshops will provide young researchers with a unique opportunity to learn about the most advanced FET research, brainstorm about future research areas and jointly elaborate new high risk scientific ideas, partner with peers, and also develop scientific administration and leadership skills.

European "Blue Sky" conference for young researchers

Regional teams of young researchers with the most promising ideas will be invited to attend a "Blue Sky" Conference where they could further consolidate collaborative research ideas and network more widely at a European level.

Science Incubator summer school

Finally, the teams with strongest ideas will take part in the "Science Incubator" Summer School. This four-day intensive training event will help the selected teams of young researchers to bring their ideas to a level from which substantive FET project proposals can be presented for participation in Horizon 2020. Special attention will be paid to the transformation of ideas generated by young researchers into specific project proposals.

EYE thematic focus

EYE advocates blue sky thinking and the disruptive innovation potential of young researchers and supports FET-quality research which goes beyond the conventional boundaries of ICT and ventures into uncharted territories and convergence with different scientific disciplines. Nine broad multidisciplinary research areas provide a thematic framework for EYE:

- Constructive symbiosis (hybrid artificial-natural systems);
- Bottom-up intelligent construction (constructing materials at various size scales);
- Ecological technology (holistic paradigms for environmental impact of technologies, incl. ubiquitous environmental sensors, embedded technologies);
- Nano-bio-chem interface (new tools and techniques for advancing research, e.g., in neuroscience or biology, novel systems and synthetic or hybrid materials, applications for new implants, drug delivery, generative medicine);
- Knowing, doing and being (interdisciplinary fundamentals of knowledge; future knowledge technologies);
- Nano-optomechanical technologies;



- Quantum technologies (technologies exploiting quantum phenomena, e.g. superposition and entanglement);
- Global Systems Science (novel participatory tools and processes for linking scientific evidence from systems science, operational research, computer science, into policies and societal dialogue).

The EYE events will build thematically upon these broad directions for FET, as well as on Horizon 2020 societal challenges in Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing; Secure, clean and efficient energy; Industrial biotechnology; Smart, green and integrated transport; Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials, etc. Participation in EYE is also open for young scientists in ICT-enabled research in other areas.

NOVA platform

The EYE activities are supported with an online platform called NOVA - *Networking for Outstanding Visionaries & Academics*. NOVA will serve as a professional platform for ideation, networking, collaboration and discussion among young European researchers involved in FET-quality interdisciplinary research.

More details about the EYE project can be found on its dedicated website: www.fet-eye.eu

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