



Press Release 2013-AnnualMeeting
-for immediate release-

September 23, 2013

Annual Meeting of the Young Academy of Europe – Connecting Science Generations and Disciplines

The Young Academy of Europe (YAE), an independent association of top young scientists and scholars founded in 2012, held its second annual meeting in conjunction with Academia Europaea (AE) in Wroclaw, Poland to discuss views on future scientific challenges and the role of science in society from a younger perspective. During the four day conference starting on September 16, the president of the scientific council of the European Research Council (ERC), Prof. Helga Nowotny, addressed YAE members and guests from funding organizations and other national young academies. Nowotny emphasized the unique perspective that the young generation of leading European scientists and scholars organized in the YAE contributes to science policy and to the implementation of the Commission's next framework program "Horizon 2020".

Although the role of scientists is becoming more and more important for decisions concerning the grand societal challenges in health, environmental, and energy topics, evidence based policy is often confused with policy based evidence, Nowotny said, a statement that received agreement by other science supporters in the audience such as the Volkswagen Foundation, represented by its secretary general Dr. Wilhelm Krull during the meeting. YAE members welcomed her invitation to become new entrepreneurs in this field and contribute their experience to identify and to tackle these issues. The audience agreed with the concerns of the young scientists that it was a challenge to shape science policy in Brussels and on the national level to secure the sustainable support that is needed for achieving scientific impact. The YAE strongly supported Prof. Nowotny's statement that science is the cultural aspect that keeps a long-term vision alive in Europe.

In doing so, the YAE establishes connections between generations and disciplines, reflected in the participation of YAE members in various AE plenary sessions and panel discussions about achievements of the past and challenges of the future. Covered aspects ranged from understanding the universe on astronomical and sub-atomic scales to promoting science and young researchers in Central and Eastern Europe. YAE and AE members also exchanged views on academic integrity and presented some of their recent work from the fields of life sciences, physical sciences, and the humanities.

Further issues discussed during the YAE meeting included opening of the YAE to outstanding non-ERC funded scientists and scholars in 2014 when the annual meeting will be held in Barcelona. YAE aims to expand and diversify since it considers itself as a pan-European initiative which provides a platform for scientific exchange, science policy, and networking to widen participation across Europe and across all research fields. The future of European science strongly depends on the efficient use of public funds and hence on the close collaboration of individuals and the different member states, thus illustrating the need for an academy based on the European idea.

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