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## Welcome to the World Academy of Young Scientists

By joining the World Academy of Young Scientists, you became a member in the global network of young scientists. This is the first issue of the quarterly WAYS Newsletter, a publication to inform you about our network and young scientist issues.

## World Academy of Young Scientists at the World Science Forum



The formation of the World Academy of Young Scientists (WAYS) was announced at the closing session of the World Science Forum, Budapest (8-10 November 2003).



The video archive of this presentation is available at the World Science Forum website ([www.sciforum.hu](http://www.sciforum.hu), Video archive, Closing plenary session).

**1st General Conference  
will be held in Morocco  
in December 2004  
with the support of UNESCO**

35 young scientists (approx. 10% of total WSF participants) from 19 countries, representing 18 organisations and all levels (secondary school, university, doctoral and postdoctoral levels) attended the World Science Forum.

The programme of the World Science Forum was very tight. Beside being co-rapporteurs of the scientific sessions and actively participating in the structured discussions during the day, the invited young scientists held evening and night workshops to outline the major objectives and set up plans. They discussed the possible structure, operation, activities, membership and partnership issues. It was decided that WAYS would develop a structure according to scientific disciplines and geographical areas, support the organization of specialized scientific events, and encourage and promote the international mobility of talented young scholars.

The need for a provisional board was realized, with members coordinating workgroup tasks and therefore preparing a good basis for the 1<sup>st</sup> General Conference, which will be held with UNESCO support in December 2004. On behalf of UNESCO, Mr. Mustafa El-Tayeb, Director for Science Analysis and Policies, helps WAYS in the organization of this important event. ■

## Provisional Board Election

At the WSF, decision was made on the creation of 5 working groups. Among the invited young scientists, volunteers came forward to participate in them. The working groups are presently responsible for 1. finalizing the WAYS Constitution, 2. developing external relations, 3. coordinating logistical tasks, 4. raising funds and 5. organizing the upcoming 1<sup>st</sup> General Conference of WAYS.

### WAYS Board

Amanda Adeleye - USA  
Jana Ivanidze - Germany  
Peter Kerey - Hungary  
Mehdi Lahmar – Tunisia/France  
Marta Maczel - Hungary  
Lucky Nedambale – South Africa/USA  
Laszlo Oroszlany - Hungary  
Gyorgy Palfi - Hungary  
David Sehnal – Czech Republic  
Zsuzsanna Varadi Kalmar - Hungary

Marta Maczel was nominated for provisional president, and elected by unanimous vote. Because of Marta's involvement in both the Secretariat and in the Organization, her leadership will be beneficial in coordinating and organizing tasks. ■

## History and Background

WAYS is being formed as a continuation of the successful satellite event ("International Forum of Young Scientists" or IFYS) of the UNESCO-ICSU World Conference on Science in 1999. Recognizing the new challenges of science at the beginning of the 21st century and problems that have to be faced by young scientists, the IFYS participants decided to establish an organization that would function as a forum to communicate the opinion of young scientists to decision-makers in science policy.

In 2001, at the UNESCO General Conference in Paris, general consensus was achieved about the opening of the **IFYS Secretariat in Budapest**. The decision was based on Hungary's long tradition of scientific and civil institutions comprising all generations of young scientists (from secondary school through undergraduate and postgraduate studies to postdoctoral level). These young scientist organisations provide a firm background for the creation of an international network.

In 2002, the **IFYS Foundation** was established by the Association of Hungarian Ph.D. Students. As a legal entity, the IFYS Foundation was charged with advocating on behalf of young scientists and securing financial support to further the mission of the organization.

**WAYS**  
to the world of science,  
and between generations

A new name, **World Academy of Young Scientists (WAYS)**, was also proposed. The acronym WAYS has multiple meanings: ways to access science, ways to encourage scientific cooperation among generations, ways to international scientific cooperation, ways to influence science policy, ways to eliminate barriers to scientific opportunity.

In 2003, due to the Trustee's effective lobby activity, the **WAYS Secretariat** was fully equipped and opened in Budapest (1 August 2003) with the support of UNESCO, the Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO, the Hungarian Ministry of Education and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The Secretariat, coordinating the functioning of the organization, is presently run by two full-time employees (Head of Secretariat: Marta Maczel, Ph. D.; Assistant: Ms. Maria Harsanyi).

Mr. Balint Magyar, Minister of Education of Hungary already reported on the establishment of the WAYS Secretariat in Budapest at the UNESCO General Conference on 3 October, 2003 in Paris.

WAYS made its debut at the **World Science Forum, Budapest– 2003** with the participation of numerous young scientists and the organization of the session 'Forum of Young Scientists'. ■

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## WAYS BOARD Member Profiles



### Provisional President

**Name:** Marta Maczel, Ph.D.

**Nationality:** Hungarian

**Position:** Head of WAYS Secretariat

**Field of research:** Diagnostic criteria and examinations methods of skeletal tuberculosis

**Dr. Marta Maczel, Provisional President of WAYS** has recently defended her Ph.D. thesis in Marseille in the framework of French–Hungarian co-tutorship. During the last six years, Marta participated in various mobility programs and multidisciplinary research projects. She was responsible for international relations in the Association of Hungarian Ph.D. Students and was invited to head the WAYS Secretariat in Budapest.

### General Delegate

**Name:** György Pálfi, Dr. Habil.

**Nationality:** Hungarian

**Position:** S&T Attaché in France

**Field of research and expertise:** Paleopathology



**Dr György Pálfi, General Delegate of WAYS** is one of the founders of the World Academy of Young Scientists. As a talented young scientist, he won several prizes and grants. György started his Ph.D. in Hungary, but finished it in France. He worked as a postdoctoral fellow for the CNRS (*Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*), organized international conferences and initiated international and multidisciplinary research projects. He presently works as S&T attaché in Paris, while continuing his research in paleopathology.

## More on the WSF...

The importance of the creation of such a young scientist organization was recognized by UNESCO leaders as well as the older generation of scientists and policy-makers attending the WSF.

Here are some examples:

### **Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO**

"I would like to express my appreciation to the organizers for having included the Young Scientists in the World Science Forum. Without our next generation of research scientists, we would jeopardize our efforts in maintaining, increasing and diffusing knowledge in the future. The International Forum of Young Scientists was one of the successful satellite events of the World Conference in 1999, and its final statement has been source of inspiration for UNESCO's youth-targeted science programmes." (Extract from the speech at the opening ceremony of the WSF)

### **Diana Malpede, UNESCO Science Sector**

"WAYS by its potentiality and its richness and diversity can be considered a laboratory for the creation of a global community of new generations of scientists. In fact it tries to approach the question of the younger generation of scientists in a broader way, which means combining the specificity of ages and disciplines with transdisciplinarity and intergenerational responsibility. This

specificity represents the "added value" of WAYS, comparing to other youth associations dealing with science issues." (Extract from the speech)

### **Julia Marton-Lefevre, Executive Director, LEAD, United Kingdom**

"...I would like to refer to two small examples of concrete action at this very meeting that deserve attention and deserve to be replicated. One is the presence of a few young scientists in this room. Perhaps too few but this is the start, which will lead to the formal introduction tomorrow of the World Academy of Young Scientists, WAYS. I really believe that we should give as much space as possible for these young scientists in our meetings and our work to make their voice heard..." (Extract from the speech)

### **Rainer Gerold, Director, "Science and Society" at the Research Directorate-General of the European Commission**

"...9) the young generation's interest in science and commitment to the knowledgeable future of their countries should be stimulated by introducing innovative teaching methods, and by changing the image of the scientist, with the help of the media and through involved mentorship..." (Extract from the summary of the session 'Knowledge-based society')

**Alain Pompidou, Professor, Faculty of Medicine COCHIN, France.** Prof. Pompidou, chair of the session 'Knowledge and Society', offered the possibility to a WAYS representative, Jana Ivanidze, to present the summary on his behalf.

## The World Science Forum

was held in Budapest on November 8-10, 2003. It was successful in providing an opportunity for the diverse community of science to present and discuss what is at issue in the world of science today, and to begin to aim its efforts towards effective collaboration with the communities of society it serves.

To learn more about the 2003 Forum, organized by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, you can visit the web site, which provides full texts of many presentations. A video archive of the conference and a photo gallery of the participants are also available.

[www.sciforum.hu](http://www.sciforum.hu)



### **Peter A. Freeman, Assistant Director, National Science Foundation, USA**

"There was a common view on the importance of interdisciplinary education, more efficient support for young researchers, free access to information (e.g. online journals, databases, and so on). The building of informal networks can significantly contribute to the demand of knowledge system integration." (Extract from the summary of the session 'Information-based society and knowledge')

### **Norbert Kroó, Secretary General, Hungarian Academy of Sciences**

"4. The responsibility for our future is tantamount to the responsibility for the younger generation. Young scientists should be involved at every step." (Extract from the recommendations at the Closing Plenary Session)

### **József Hámori, Vice-President, Hungarian Academy of Sciences.**

Mr. Hámori, chair of the Closing Plenary Session, introduced the WAYS presentation (session of 'Forum of Young Scientists of the World') in the Hungarian Parliament on 10 November as "one of the major highlights of the three-day conference". ■

## WAYS in the News

13-19 November, 2003	European Voice	<a href="http://www.europeanvoice.com">www.europeanvoice.com</a>
<b>'Latest generation of Euro-boffins get themselves connected', Caren Karstens</b>		
19 November, 2003	Innovation Reports	<a href="http://www.innovations-report.de">www.innovations-report.de</a>
<b>'Young scientists organise permanent global network'</b>		
19 November, 2003	Science and Development Network	<a href="http://www.scidev.net">www.scidev.net</a>
<b>'Young scientists given a global academy', Ehsan Masood</b>		
20 November, 2003	Cordis	<a href="http://dbs.cordis.lu">http://dbs.cordis.lu</a>
<b>'Globales Netzwerk für Nachwuchswissenschaftler'</b>		
21 November, 2003	Science Next Wave	<a href="http://nextwave.sciencemag.org">http://nextwave.sciencemag.org</a>
<b>'Young scientists Call for Voice in Decision-Making', Kirstie Urquhart</b>		
26 November, 2003	ETH Life	<a href="http://www.ethlife.ethz.ch">www.ethlife.ethz.ch</a>
<b>'Hört hier jemand zu?', Martin Naef</b>		
01 December, 2003	Regional News	<a href="http://www.regionalnews.com.br">www.regionalnews.com.br</a>
<b>'Jovens pesquisadores ganham academia internacional'</b>		
05 December, 2003	Science Vol. 302	<a href="http://www.sciencemag.org">www.sciencemag.org</a>
<b>'Nonprofit World, Random Samples People', Yudhijit Bhattacharjee</b>		
18 December, 2003	Realites	<a href="http://www.realites.com.tn">www.realites.com.tn</a>
<b>L'Académie internationale des jeunes scientifiques</b>		

## Conferences and Events of Interest

### FOR INFORMATION:

#### **Early Stage Researcher Mobility in Europe - Meeting the Challenges and Promoting Best Practice**

Lisbon, 25-27 February 2004

<http://www.mariecurie.org/esrm2004/>

#### **Eurodoc 2004**

Athens, 18-21 March 2004

<http://www.eurodoc.net/activities/eurodoc2004/index.php>

### UPCOMING EVENT:

#### **EuroScience Open Forum - ESOF2004**

Stockholm, 25-28 August 2004

<http://www.esof2004.org>

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Young Scientists,  
Associations,  
Groups, Clubs, Unions,  
Conference Organizers,  
Media persons,  
Stakeholders  
Interested in science....

Do not hesitate to contact  
the WAYS Secretariat  
for further information on  
becoming members  
or establishing partnership  
with WAYS.

## Organizations Under the Loupe

The **Postgraduates' International Network (PI-Net)** is an international association of national organizations representing postgraduates. The mission of PI-Net is to provide a global forum for postgraduates and junior researchers. The major aims are to encourage collaboration among organizations comprising or working for postgraduate students and junior researchers; to represent / promote postgraduate interests on an international level; to support member / postgraduate organizations on national / local campaigns and to establish relations with organizations with complementary aims.

[www.postgrad.org](http://www.postgrad.org)

**EURODOC**, the council for postgraduate students and junior researchers in Europe, was founded in 2002 as an umbrella organization for young researchers' associations in Europe. Among its aims is the representation of early stage researchers and post-docs at a European level, serving as a common platform to discuss the problems of science policy and those of young researchers in particular. EURODOC has established a number of workgroups that tackle different issues of interest for European young researchers, such as international mobility, gender equality, PhD supervision, labour conditions and future prospects. EURODOC currently participates in numerous discussions at a European level. [www.eurodoc.net](http://www.eurodoc.net)

The **Marie Curie Fellowship Association (MCFA)** unites more than 3,000 scientists who have been awarded a Marie Curie fellowship or other EU mobility research-training grant. Created in 1996 at the initiative of the European Commission, it is today independent from the EC, but there are still close links and many common interests. The MCFA has national subgroups in many different countries, offering practical advice to Marie Curie fellows past and present. As a network of scientists at different career stages, it provides a valuable source of information for its members' career development. It contributes to debates on science policy questions and actively participates in events on European science and the European Research Area.

[www.mariecurie.org](http://www.mariecurie.org)

The **Network of Youth Excellence** was established with the participation of numerous countries to give scientific research practice to talented high school students. The Network aims to promote cooperation among existing scientific research training projects for talented high school students, to better the existing projects by exchanging their experiences and outlining successful organizational and fundraising tactics, and to help the initiation of scientific research training projects in countries where they currently do not exist.

[www.kutdiak.hu/en/](http://www.kutdiak.hu/en/)

The **Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)** has 710 members, including 600 from 68 developing countries. Through a series of programmes, including annual TWAS Prizes and the provision of research grants, the Academy aims to recognize, support and promote scientific excellence in the South.\* Associateship and fellowship schemes allow South-South scientific collaboration, and a Visiting Scientist programme permits scientists from the North to visit institutions in the South on a regular basis. For additional information on these and other TWAS programmes you may contact [info@twas.org](mailto:info@twas.org). [\*South stands for developing countries in the text.]

[www.twas.org](http://www.twas.org)



**UNESCO**

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** was born on November 16, 1945. Today, it works as a laboratory of ideas and a standard-setter to forge universal agreements on emerging ethical issues. The Organization also serves as a clearing house – that disseminates and shares information and knowledge – while helping its Member States to build their human and institutional capacities in diverse fields. UNESCO works to create the conditions for true dialogue, based upon respect for commonly shared values and the dignity of each civilization and culture.

[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

Find your **WAYS!**



# WAYS in action

for diversity and equality

The **World Academy of Young Scientists (WAYS)** is established under the aegis of UNESCO as a permanent, non-for-profit organization. The members predominantly consist of young scientists and associations promoting young scientists.

## Mission

**The mission of WAYS is to provide:**

- a) an arena to interact and exchange information in order to extend scientific knowledge, improve collaboration between different generations of scientists worldwide, and communication between scientists and Society;
- b) a platform to make the voice of young scientists heard about present problems and concerns through regular input into science policy and decision-making. ■

## Objectives

**The major objectives are to:**

- a) Improve **communication** and **international cooperation** amongst young scientists.
- b) Promote **racial, cultural, and gender equality and diversity** amongst young scientists.
- c) Encourage a **global, ethical, and social awareness** among the youth.
- d) Provide **a voice for young scientists** and increase participation in policy and decision-making.
- e) Encourage **interdisciplinary approaches** to science in response to the needs of society.
- f) Emphasize and support **cultural/national return of scientists** and provide possible solutions to the major socio-economic problems.
- g) Promote education in science and increase the **understanding of science by the general public**.
- h) Facilitate the **access of young scientists to careers** in science and encourage international mobility.
- i) Facilitate the emergence and **sharing of scientific knowledge** to reduce the gap between developed and less developed countries. ■



## Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

**Science and Technology (S&T)** are an integral and essential part of our present and future. Paradoxically, science is seen as remote and inaccessible by a majority of young people in both developed and developing countries. The public increasingly perceives scientific endeavours as enigmas, doubts are expressed about the intrinsic beneficial function of science and knowledge, and dwindling numbers of youth opt for research.

The scientific community recognizes that the vitality of S&T can be assured only by developing the next generation of young scientists. Major challenges to scientific talent development are identifying ways to make science more attractive and accessible to young people, and generating a research climate that allows for creativity, open communication, and free flows of ideas and talents.

### *Through affiliation to WAYS, you can:*

- \* ***improve your general knowledge*** by receiving cutting-edge information on scientific breakthroughs and real-world applications from all over the world
- \* ***meet people*** with first-hand knowledge of the latest developments in different scientific fields
- \* ***have the broadest possible access*** to your international circle of young colleagues, your professional community, and their research findings
- \* ***make your voice heard*** in various issues and influence science policy and decision-making
- \* ***learn how to be efficient*** as a scientist in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- \* ***develop mentorship*** at early stages of the scientific career
- \* ***get practical information and help*** through local WAYS members in case of mobility



- \* get equal access to information on scientific issues, events and opportunities to ***assure your career development***

- \* ***have access to the WAYS virtual library***

- \* ***get the quarterly newsletter*** with up-to-date information on our global network and young scientist issues

Through its different activities, WAYS seeks practical and effective solutions in the development of science to achieve a more humane and sustainable world. ■



- \* ***get acquainted with diverse points of views*** to scientific topics and exchange opinions

- \* ***set up and participate in special WAYS projects*** on different topics, in multidisciplinary and multicultural collaborations

- \* ***attend conferences, meetings, forums, workshops*** etc.

- \* ***have access to support***, especially in developing countries, for scientific purposes (improve communication, attend conferences etc.)

In giving support to the organization of WAYS, UNESCO recognizes the commitment of the organization to work not only **FOR** young people, but also **WITH** them. This approach is in line with the overall UNESCO strategy concerning **THE YOUTH**.

In fact, listening to young people and working closely with them in the construction of a **peaceful world** is one of UNESCO's priorities. At the same time, young people in general and young scientists in particular have an important role to play in defining a new social contract between **science and society**, which is a common responsibility and as such calls for a multiplicity of visions culminating in collective action.

## Membership

**WAYS membership** is open to all *Young Scientists around the globe*, irrespective of their origin. Anyone may however be a member who is involved in or just cares about the future of science, accepts WAYS principles, policies and programmes, and is prepared to abide by the *Constitution and Rules*.

Therefore, WAYS predominantly consist of young scientists (between 15 and 40 years of age; *regular members*) and their organizations (*collective members*; either professional or non-professional), but also senior researchers (*senior members*), and supporting persons and organizations active in science, education, industry, government, and media worldwide (*affiliate members*).

**Our honorary president is  
Nobel laureate  
Dr. Leon Lederman.**

The honour to become an *honorary member* in WAYS is reserved for individuals who have made key or long-standing contributions to Science or to the Organization. ■

# WAYS

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