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EDITOR: Εθνικό Αστεροσκοπείο Αθηνών, Θησείο, T.Θ. 20048, 11810 Αθήνα
Διευθ. Επικοινωνίας: Δρ. Α. Σαββάδης, Γραμματέας
Ινστιτούτο Τεχνικής Σεισμολογίας και Αντισεισμικών Κατασκευών, Γεωργικής Σχολής 46, T.Θ. 53, Φοινίκας Θεσσαλονίκης – 55102, Τηλ.: +30 2310476081-4 (129), Ταχ.: +30 2310476085,
e-mail: gr@mariecurie.gr, URL:http://www.mariecurie.org/el
NEWS

• Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !!!
  Very best wishes by the Administrative Board and the Advisory Committee of MCFA-EL for Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year full of health, happiness and success!!!

• Intersectoral mobility questionnaire
  Marie Curie Fellowship Association- Hellas (MCFA-EL), in the framework of cooperation with the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT), is about to conduct a study on "Research & Development in Industry and Intersectoral Mobility". In particular, the areas of interest include:
  - Employment and experiences of Greek researchers in the industry and relevant production activities
  - The role that researchers play in the production activities and the development of this sector
  - The potential and the benefits of intersectoral mobility in Greece
  The results and the final outcome of the study will facilitate and contribute to the concrete assessment of the present situation as well as to the development of tools for improving the intersectoral mobility of researchers.
  Researchers who wish to participate in this effort of the association are kindly requested to contact Dr. Giorgos Simeonidis (gsimeonides@haicorp.com).

• In memory of Emilios
  Emilios is not with us anymore! Dr. Emilios T. Harlaftis (1965-2005), a distinguished scientist in the field of Astrophysics and Chairman of MCFA-EL is unfortunately no longer with us because of the tragic accident on the 14th February 2005. Emilios was the driving force for establishing the Greek subgroup of MCFA, as a legal entity, in 2003. To us he will always be remembered for his unique enthusiasm to create a pole of attraction for all MCFA fellows in Greece. To everybody who knew him, he will be remembered as an example for his scientific achievements, his character and his efforts towards improving science in Greece.
  We hope we will be able to continue his hard work and make true what he envisaged for MCFA-EL. Read more about Emilios.

MCFA-EL, as a means of respect to its Chair, offered flowers at his funeral and made a donation in his memory.

• New MCFA-EL board
  After the unexpected loss of our Chairman Emilios Harlaftis, the board members of MCFA-EL met on the 7th of March 2005 where it was decided that George Simeonidis will join the board, according to the statutes of our Association. The new synthesis of MCFA-EL administrative board is as follows: Andreas Drouzas (Chair), Konstantinos Giannakopoulos (Vice Chair), Alexandros Savvaidis (Secretary General), Alexandra Gogou (Treasurer), Giorgos Simeonidis (Member)

• Advisory Committee of MCFA-EL
After a proposal by the Chairman, an advisory committee was activated in the steps of the international MCFA which will enlarge the active member group. A number of members indicated their interest in participating. The advisory committee comprises, up to now, the following members: Evangelia Chrysina, Zoe Kardasiadou, Evanthia Tazoglou, Dimitris Charitos, Manolis Roditakis and George Spyroulias.

- **MCFA-EL web site**
  Our web site is under reconstruction at the moment. We will be very interested in hearing suggestions/ comments for ways to improve our site and about items to be included. Kostas Giannakopoulos is looking forward to receiving your feedback and suggestions.

- **MCFA-EL bank account**
  Please note that, since 21st December 2004, the details of the MCFA-EL bank account are as follows:
  
  Bank: ALPHA Bank  
  Account number: 101-002101-202070  
  IBAN: GR23 0140 1010 1010 0210 1202 070  
  Account holders: Andreas D. Drouzas and Alexandros S. Savvaidis

  As soon as you pay your membership fees please notify by e-mail Aleka Gogou (agogou@aegean.gr) and Andreas (andreasdrouzas@yahoo.com) about the date of deposition of your membership fees in the account.

- **MCFA-EL activities**
  - Article in the Newsletter of the Hellenic Scientific Society of PhD Candidates (ELEPETYD)
    After a request by the board of ELEPETYD, an article about the MCFA-EL and the Marie Curie Fellowships was prepared and published in "NEA", the newsletter of ELEPETYD. ([http://www.elepetyd.gr/n.e.a/NEA_vol.4.pdf](http://www.elepetyd.gr/n.e.a/NEA_vol.4.pdf))

  - Participation in a variety of events:
    - the kick-off meeting of the Network of Young Researchers,
    - the international two-days event on “Knowledge Based Society and Researchers Mobility in the Age of Globalization”,
    - the events to celebrate the European Researchers' Night, 23rd September 2005,
    - 6th, 7th and 8th Meetings of the Greek Researcher’s Mobility Network,
    - the workshop on R&D organised by the Hellenic Society of Researchers (EEE).

  More information on the above events can be found in the respective section of this Newsletter ("Participation in conferences, workshops, info-days, etc.").
Visit to the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT), 5th July 2005
Members of the board met with Mrs L. Giannakopoulou (Chief of the Section on EU issues, Directorate of International and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, GSRT) and Mrs Evi Afentaki (IHP and MCF National Contact Point, Section on EU issues, Directorate of International and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, GSRT) on the 5th of July 2005. There was a general discussion about the prospects of research in Greece with a particular emphasis on the involvement of the industry and the development of R&D departments while MCFA-EL had the opportunity to point out its views. It was agreed that the effective cooperation between the GSRT and MCFA-EL will continue in the future, especially in the framework of consultations for the preparation of the 7th FP.

Cooperation with the Greek Researcher’s Mobility Network
The cooperation with the Greek Researcher’s mobility network was initiated by Emelios Harlaftis (former Chairman) in 2004. Emelios contributed to the establishment of this network. Since then, a fruitful and efficient cooperation and collaboration has been developed between the Network and MCFA-EL and the latter has been invited to actively participate in the network activities and contribute towards fulfilling the aims of the propose work. In this framework, members of MCFA-EL board participate in the meeting of the Network and make contribution to the tasks taken over by the Network members.

The website of the National Researcher’s Mobility portal in Greece is the following: http://www.certh.gr/pls/rmp/mobility.main.

Meeting with the President of Hellenic Republic, 8th December 2004
His Excellency, now ex-President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. K. Stefanopoulos accepted the members of the MCFA-EL board for a short presentation of the scopes of MCFA-EL and its activities. Although the appointment was for 10 minutes finally it lasted 30 minutes since the President showed great interest in the activities of MCFA-EL.

MCFA-EL MEETINGS

MCFA-EL Board meeting, Athens, 8/12/2005
The minutes of board meeting can be downloaded by the MCFA-EL web site (http://www.mariecurie.org/el/mcfa-meet.html).

MCFA-EL Board meeting, Athens, 16/9/2005
The minutes of board meeting can be downloaded by the MCFA-EL web site (http://www.mariecurie.org/el/mcfa-meet.html).
• **MCFA-EL Social meeting Athens, 14/7/2005**
  A social meeting took place in “Polis Bar-Restaurant” in the center of Athens. The participants had the opportunity to discuss about the activities of MCFA-EL as well as about general issues and the plans for the summer vacations. It was a good opportunity for both old and new members to meet each other and have a friendly discussion.

• **MCFA-EL Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2005, National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF), Athens, 23/4/2005**
  The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of MCFA-EL for 2005 was held on the 23rd of April, at the National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens, Greece.

  Andreas Drouzas, current Chairman of MCFA-EL, welcome the fellows and asked for 1 minute of silence from the attendees in respect of Dr. Emilios Harlaftis memory. George Spyroulias and Dimitris Charitos were elected as president and rapporteur of the AGM, respectively. The meeting started with Manolis Plionis’ talk in the memory of Emilios Harlaftis. Manolis Plionis has always been a close friend and colleague of Emilios.

  Andreas Drouzas presented Evi Afentaki’s activities as a National Contact Point representative (since 1998) and talked about her great help, support and contribution to the Association. Everybody agreed to include Evi as an honorary member of the Association. Evi Afentaki thanked MCFA-EL for the honor, she talked about the potential and for the work done by MCFA-EL acknowledging the contribution and the efforts of Emilios.

  The MCFA-EL activities during the past year (2004) were presented and the role of the Association and its importance and relevance as an advisory organization towards research in Europe, were discussed. The action plan regarding the MCFA-EL future activities in that context was also discussed together with the budget for 2005.

  More information about the AGM.

• **MCFA-EL Board meeting, Athens, 7/3/2005**
  The minutes of board meeting can be downloaded by the MCFA-EL web site ([http://www.mariecurie.org/el/mcfa-meet.html](http://www.mariecurie.org/el/mcfa-meet.html)).

• **PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, INFO-DAYS, ETC**

  • **Kick-off meeting of the Network of Young Researchers, Athens, 26th November 2005.**
    Giorgos Simeonidis, member of MCFA-EL board, participated in the kick-off meeting of the Network of Young Researchers. Potential future cooperation of the association with the Network’s activities, such as organization of info-days, conferences, etc., was discussed.
International two-days event on “Knowledge Based Society and Researchers Mobility in the Age of Globalization”, Thessaloniki, 18-19 October 2005.

Andreas Drouzas and Giorgos Simeonidis participated in two panel discussions that took place in the above event. In particular, Andreas participated in a panel discussion about the European Charter for Researchers and the Code for the Recruitment of Researchers (MCFA-EL position on the Charter and the Code), while Giorgos participated in a panel discussion about the mobility of researchers between industry and academia (http://www.rc.auth.gr/ParisConf/presentations/2.3.symeonidis.ppt).

Detailed information may be found in http://www.rc.auth.gr/ParisConf/review.asp.

8th Meeting of the Greek Researcher’s Mobility Network, and the parallel two days events, Thessaloniki, 22nd and 23rd September 2005.

Alexandros Savvaidis participated in this event. An official letter was submitted to the Mobility Network from MCFA-EL concerning two main issues addressed by different MCF’s leaving in Greece. The first one concerns the variation of different allowances that MC fellows receive concerning both number and money (a. Living, b. Mobility, c. Travel and d. Career). The second issue raised concern the social security that differs between research organizations. A working group co-ordinated by Eva Michelidaki (University of Crete) has been created in order to search of the practises used till now and try to suggest a harmonized method to overcome these problems. The software called RJOE has been presented by Stefania Bettini in order to show to the members of the Network how to post job vacancies. "A practical Guide for Foreign Researchers" has been presented by Artemis Saitakis from the Technological Park of Crete.

Events to celebrate the European Researchers’ Night, 23rd September 2005.

MCFA-EL was invited to participate in the Star-parties, two events that took place in Athens and Thessaloniki for the celebration of European Researchers’ Night. Andreas Drouzas and Alexandros Savvaidis participated in the Thessaloniki’s event.

More information on the above events can be found in http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/researchersineurope/events/event_2558_en.htm, while all the events that took place all over Europe can be found in http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/researchersineurope/events/event_2214_en.htm.


Two members of the MCFA-EL board were invited and participated in a panel discussion about the "European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers" that took place during the info-day. Andreas Drouzas participated as a representative of MCFA-EL and Giorgos Simeonidis participated as a representative of the industry.
Andreas emphasized on the need for concrete mobility, i.e. the acquisition of additional knowledge and skills along with effective technology and knowledge transfer within a required mobility time. Researchers should be encouraged to move to another country, however, continuous changes at this level might not be that beneficial considering the need for high quality research with the maximum outcome and gain. Regarding the obstacles encountered in the mobility he mentioned that these frequently lay outside the research environment (e.g. social security problems).

Giorgos stressed the fact that the mobility becomes an end in itself, without checking if the scope is implemented or if the outcomes are the expected ones. He also put attention to the problems that exists in the mobility of researchers between academia and industry and to the lack of cooperation between the two sectors.

- **7th Meeting of the Greek Researcher’s Mobility Network, Athens, 6th June 2005**

  Being invited by Mr D. Sanopoulos, Coordinator of the Greek Researcher’s Mobility Network, Andreas Drouzas and Alexandros Savvaidis, participated in the 7th Meeting of the Greek Researcher’s Mobility Network.

  A presentation on the MCFA-EL activities and of the possible areas of cooperation between the Network and Association was made. MCFA-EL was asked to contribute and collaborate in a study about the intersectoral mobility, in the preparation of a guidebook for researchers in Greece and in a survey about the mobility obstacles.

- **6th Meeting of the Greek Researcher’s Mobility Network, Thessaloniki, 1st April 2005**

  Andreas Drouzas and Alexandros Savvaidis, participated in the 6th Meeting of the Greek Researcher’s Mobility Network, after having an invitation by Mr D. Sanopoulos, Coordinator of the Greek Researcher’s Mobility Network.

  MCFA-EL contributed and provided input in the discussions, which was greatly acknowledged by the participants. A full text with information on legal issues was addressed from the Centre of International and European Law (Mrs Gaki) that concern incoming researchers.

  Three Working Groups was established concerning: (a) Quality of Information (Instruments), (b) Technical Experts for National Portals, and (c) User Groups of the networks internal communication platform (CIRCA).

  Additional information and details about that meeting can be found at [http://www.certh.gr/pls/rmp/mobility.announcement?id=290](http://www.certh.gr/pls/rmp/mobility.announcement?id=290)

- **Workshop on R&D organised by the Hellenic Society of Researchers (EEE), Athens, 27–28 January 2005.**
Emilios Harlaftis, Chairman of the MCFA-EL, was invited and gave a presentation in a workshop on R&D organized by EEE, that was held in the National Hellenic Research Foundation.

- **Mobility Portal Workshop, Thessaloniki, 5th November 2004.**

  The Greek Mobility Portal was presented in Thessaloniki on the 5th November 2004 at the main hall of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, organized from CERTH and AUTH. The Researcher Mobility Portal in Greece is running from CERTH and can be used to provide information on fellowships and grants and also research job opportunities. Also, practical information about Greece can be found on a subject and region query base.

- **Info-day on “Human Resources and Mobility – Marie Curie Actions”, Thessaloniki, 4th November, 2004**

  Among other topics, the last set of calls for the Marie Curie Actions was presented by Mrs Manousaki from the DG Research (see EUROPA-Mariecurie actions and CORDIS-Marie Curie Actions) at CERTH, Thermi, Thessaloniki. Also, a presentation of the statistics of the MCF programs already held for the EC and Greece for each call was given by Prof. Vassilis Roussis from the University of Athens. Additional information as well as the presentations made in that info-day, can be found in this link: http://www.certh.gr/pls/rmp/mobility.announcement?id=231

  Further information on all calls or current call, can be provided by CORDIS: FP6 site and by Mrs Evi Afentaki (GSRT) who is one of the National Contact Points.

- **NEWS OF MEMBERS AND LOCAL GROUPS OF MCFA-EL**

  - **Local group news**

    The local group of MCFA-EL in Thessaloniki decided to have a meeting on the first Thursday month at 20:30 p.m. at "Mela Café" on the back side of Agia Sofia church (entrance from Paulou Mela) at the center of the city. That schedule was valid until summer 2005. We hope to have such meetings again soon. For more details, please contact Alekos Savvaidis (alekos@itsak.gr).

    After the decision taken at the AGM, local groups will be also established in Patra and Crete, at first, and in Ioannina and Alexandroupoli at a later stage.

    Giorgos Spyroulias (g.a.spyroulias@upatras.gr) volunteered to be the focal person for the subgroup of Patra and Manolis Roditakis (e-roditakis@her.forthnet.gr) has volunteered to be the focal person for the subgroup to be established in Crete. Please get in touch with them for more information.

    Regarding the local groups in Alexandroupoli and Ioannina, please, let us know if you are willing to act as a focal person for the establishment of a subgroup in the above cities.
• **Member news**

Our board member, Alexandra Gogou was elected to hold the position of Assistant Professor at the Department of Marine Science, University of Aegean. She will soon move to Mytilini having in her luggage the wishes of all of us for a successful career in the university.

• **MISCELLANEOUS**

• **Update of your details**

In order to receive the newsletter properly and to keep our regular contact without interruption, please let us know in case your details have been changed, by sending an e-mail to Alexandros Savvaidis (alekos@itsak.gr).

• **Member database in the website**

We are planning to upload a database with the members of MCFA-EL in our website, so as to have a, as much as possible, complete picture about the Greek subgroup of MCFA. The details for each member will include name, occupation and contact details. Please, let us know if your don’t want your details to be posted in the website of MCFA-EL.

• **Useful links**

  - **MCFA-EL Web Site:** [http://www.mariecurie.org/el/](http://www.mariecurie.org/el/)
  - **European MCFA Web Site:** [http://www.mariecurie.org](http://www.mariecurie.org)
  - **The European Researcher’s Mobility Portal:** [http://europa.eu.int/eracareers/index_en.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/eracareers/index_en.cfm)
  - **National Researcher’s Mobility portal in Greece:** [http://www.certh.gr/pls/rmp/mobility.main](http://www.certh.gr/pls/rmp/mobility.main)

For becoming a full member of MCFA-EL please fill in the form at [http://www.mariecurie.org/el/aitisi_mcfa-el.doc](http://www.mariecurie.org/el/aitisi_mcfa-el.doc) and send it to the address indicated in the application.

  - **Marie Curie Actions / Fellowships:** [http://www.cordis.lu/mariecurie-actions/](http://www.cordis.lu/mariecurie-actions/)
  - **[http://www.cordis.lu/improving/fellowships/home.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/improving/fellowships/home.htm)**
  - **Information about mobility issues in FP-6:** [http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/mobility.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/mobility.htm)
  - **Academic and professional conferences worldwide:** [http://www.conferencealerts.com/](http://www.conferencealerts.com/)

• **About this e-newsletter**

This Newsletter is edited by Alexandros Savvaidis and Evanthia Tazoglou. The next edition of the Newsletter will be e-mailed in April 2006. Please send your announcements (e.g. conferences, scientific events), member news or comments before 31st March 2006. All
correspondence concerning the Newsletter should be addressed to Alekos (alekos@itsak.gr) and/or Tetie (etazo@tee.gr).

If you do not wish to receive future issues of the MCFA-EL e-Newsletter or the e-mail address to which it was sent is not your preferred one, please let us know.