

Minutes of Special interest group for Early career investigators meeting  
March 08, from 11:00 to 13:00

Participants: Bradley Good, Corina Balaban, Stefan de Jong, Karolina Lendák-Kabók, Agnè Girkontaitė, Marc Vanholsbeeck, Antun Plenković, Georgios Afxentiou, Michael Ochsner, Filippo Nereo, Mimi Urbanc, Jolanta Šinkūnienė

The meeting started with the recap on each of the four sub-group's status quo with the interview analysis.

Group 2 (Marc, Jolanta, Karolina, Haris) was represented by Marc Vanholsbeeck who explained that the group works on information channels for early career investigators (ECI). Since the meeting in Ljubljana the group created fiche structure to analyse interviews. The fiche includes specific questions about the information ECIs receive, the support they get, the support they miss, their perception of the recruitment situation in their country, their professional and personal qualities that might relate to the support they receive or need. Marc explained that the group has been working on the fiches and that the current problem lies in relating the more objective first part of the fiche (various information channels) with the second more conceptual part of the fiche (how ECI perceive transparency or recruitment, their critical reflexivity). Jolanta explained that during her STSM she worked on individual country reports derived from the fiches and that the reports show that many aspects are similar between different countries (types of support received or types of support needed, information channels). Marc noted that there is a difference in that ECI who are at the center of the institution (for example, keep full time funded positions) vs young researchers who are at the periphery (for example, independent researchers or researchers with part time grant, doing teaching and research) do not have the same access to the information. The young scholars at the center make use of more and more diverse information channels. Marc and Jolanta also mentioned that they work on recommendations for ECI support based on the information from the fiches. Group 2 explained that they work on the first article which will be on information channels and perhaps the focus will be on the role of the supervisor which is becoming increasingly less important). The second part of the fiches is related to the lack of transparency in recruitment and that could be the basis for the second article, but Group 2 has to see whether this is not too much overlapping with what the other three groups are doing.

Karolina presented the status quo of Group 1 (Stephanie, Karolina, Marc) who has been working on aspects of geopolitics and gender. The title of their draft paper is *Are young researchers equally captured by "everyday neoliberalism"?* Information on the status quo is in the attached slides of Karolina's presentation. The foreseen time frame for Group 1: finishing the paper until June 2019, the preliminary target journal is *Gender, Work and Organization*.

Michael presented the status quo of Group 3 (Michael, Rita, Reetta, Emanuel, Katya, Jose Gabriel, Fil, Bradley). He mentioned that probably the group will have to rethink the original methodology and this will be best done as a double STSM in September. The STSM will be most probably hosted by Emanuel in Poznan, Poland.

Georgios presented the status quo of Group 4 (Gemma, Stefan, Reetta, Mimi, Georgios, Stevo), *Bounded rationality in the description of research excellence in Early Career*

*Reseachers in the SSH*. Information on the status quo is in the attached slides of Georgios' presentation. The group also might think about a potential STSM during the next GP.

Groups 3 and 4 agreed to communicate together to check for overlaps.

Jolanta reminded everyone that according to the ethical agreement members of SIG ECI signed we have to share the drafts within the SIG ECI before submitting them to publisher.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to the Questionnaire, which is a planned deliverable of the Action. Michael presented the concept of the questionnaire (see attached slides by Michael).

The distribution of the questionnaire will be done in three stages.

**Stage 1.** SIG ECI members will send Michael and Jolanta a list of universities and research institutes in their countries with a short note next to those universities which are small in the SSH fields. From the list of each country Michael randomly will select one or two institutions (depending on the size of the country). We have to have the lists from each country by **March 29**.

**Stage 2.** At the beginning of April Michael will give us the selected one or two universities and we need to extract names, surnames, e-mail addresses and some additional info (name, surname, sex, mail, date of receiving a PhD) of all researchers who work in certain selected disciplines (see Michael's slides). This will be the list of potential respondents. We need to get at least 200 e-mail addresses from each country. We need to give the list of potential respondents to Michael by **April 19**.

**Stage 3.** Michael will send the questionnaire to all the potential respondents at the beginning of May in one go.

In the meeting the potential problem of data protection was discussed. It was decided that since we will use the e-mail addresses that are publicly available on the web the data protection should not become a problem. In any case, we will create a short text introducing the Questionnaire to potential respondents where we will explain that this is a research project the results of which are not related to any commercial activities.