What is YEAR?

- **Non-profit organization**

- **Our mission is to:**

  - *Promote International Cooperation and Exchange of knowledge*
  - *Support the development of your career providing them with opportunities to increase their skills, spread their professional network and gain international experience*
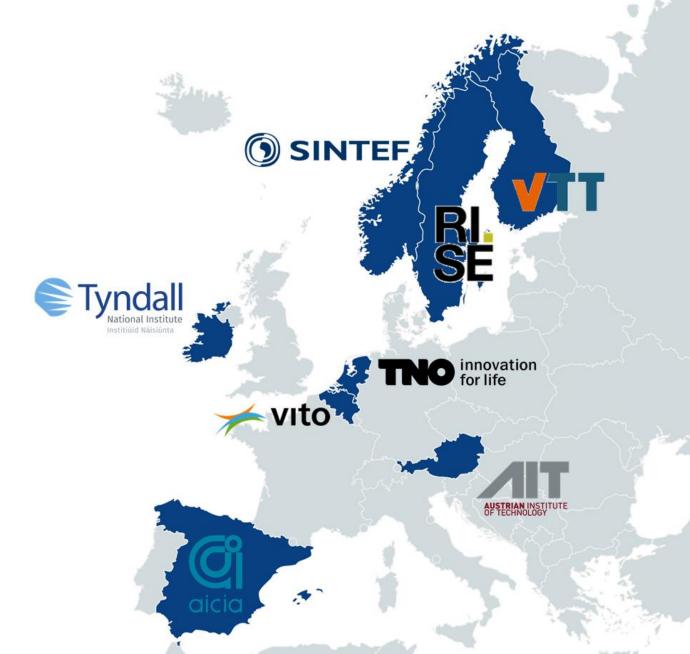
Training

Year
Young European Associated Researchers
www.year-network.com

PILLARS

Networking

Consultancy

Members

TEC-Net was launched in Tyndall in February 2020

https://www.tyndall.ie/tyndall-early-career-researchers-network-tec-net

Our Vision

The vision of the Tyndall Early Career Researchers' Network (TEC-Net) encompasses three aspects:

- Enhancing both the research and business, potential and capabilities, of Tyndall early career researchers by increasing the exchanging of ideas internally and with European peers.

- By exchanging ideas internally and with European peers, our aim is to enhance the research capabilities and business potential of Tyndall early career researchers.

- By promoting internal and European training and collaborations, our aim is to enhance the research capabilities and business potential of Tyndall early career researchers.

Events

TEC-Net Tyndall Early Career Network

TEC-Net Talk Series "Electrochemistry"

TEC-Net Talk Series "COVID-19 diagnosis: Recent advances, pending concerns and need for improvements"

TEC-Net Talk Series "Biosensors with Protein-imprinted Materials"

TEC-Net Talk Series "Scaling-up Nanoparticle Beam Deposition for Green Synthesis of Advanced Materials"

Survey on Entrepreneurship and New Ventures

TEC-Net Technical training series Technical course NI LabVIEW (3 lectures overall

YEAR Webinar – Networking your way to success

YEAR Webinar – Presentation

YEAR Webinar – COVID19

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. Jun. Jul. Aug. Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec.

TEC-Net Webinar series COVID-19 project – "Ventilator Emergency Use Mask for COVID 19 crisis from concept to high volume delivery"

TEC-Net Webinar series Transition to industry "Planning for a career beyond academia – what you should know"

TEC-Net Webinar series. Transition to industry "CV Clinic"

TEC-Net Webinar series . Transition to industry "Career Planning"

TEC-Net Webinar series . Transition to industry "A day in the life..."

YEAR webinar – Personal Mastery

YEAR Webinar - Explainable AI

YEAR Webinar – Horizon Europe

Events (YEAR)

Events type	Titles
Soft skills trainings	"Personal Mastery" "Networking Your Way to Success" "Presenting for an online audience"
Technical webinars	"Explainable and Interpretable AI" "Future of Energy – Ever Changing Energy Landscape" "Industry 4.0 and the Need for AI driven by Explainability"
COVID-19 webinars	"RTOs and the Fight Against COVID-19"
Grant writing	"Getting Ready for Horizon Europe" (Sean McCarthy) "ERC Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grants" (Catherine Halbert)

Events (TEC-Net)

Events type	Titles
Technical talks	Nanomaterials, electrochemistry, and biosensors areas involving well-known researchers in Germany, Belgium, Portugal, and Wales
A "Transition to industry" series	Held by Mary Kate O'Regan and Anne Gannon in UCC
A "A day in the life…" series	Held with industry leaders in Ireland and the United States
Technical lectures series	"NI LabView" (3 lectures) "Machine Learning and Python" (10 lectures)
An "Internal trainings" series	Key operational aspects on the work-life in Tyndall (e.g., risk assessment, QT9, NDAs, SP&S, etc.)
COVID-19 talks	COVID-19 related technical talks

Positives

Related to	Impact
YEAR	• Despite COVID-19, YEAR managed to pivot to a **rich and diverse program** of online events • Reached >**700 participants** overall in 2020/21 • Despite **Tyndall** being one of the **smallest institutes in the YEAR** network (only 5% of the young researchers in YEAR are part of Tyndall), Tyndall represented the **second institute in the network for number of participants** to the organized events (>20% of the overall participants were from Tyndall) • Salvatore has been elected **Vice-President** at the latest General Assembly in June 2021 • Because of TEC-Net, Tyndall will receive a **15% discount** on the YEAR fees starting from next year
TEC-Net	• Despite COVID-19, the active engagement of the board drove the network's vision despite the **new "virtual" reality** we are currently living in • TEC-Net provides a **wide range of events** covering a broad spectrum in the trainings offered to the ECRs • TEC-Net **strongly engaged** with the Business Development team in Tyndall, the HR team, the MarCom Team, and key researchers in Tyndall for the organization of those events. • TEC-Net has organized **>30 events** in 2020/21 to date, attended by overall >600 participants (approx. 15-20 participants per event), which provided positive feedbacks on the events. • **Very limited costs** for Tyndall • **Newsletter** circulated every two weeks (effective collection of external trainings – easy broadcasting) • **Webinars are recorded** and available to everyone in Tyndall on MS Teams

Negatives

Topics	Discussion
Engagement	There is a pool of approx. 250 ECRs, but events' attendance is around 10% of this pool. Those results are better in Tyndall compared to other RTOs (for example, VTT has an attendance rate of 4% of their ERCs, VITO 2.3%, SINTEF 1.6%, AIT 1.6%, TNO 1%, etc.), however we are far from reaching our full potential!
Metrics Analysis	Probably ECRs do not attend because webinars are recorded and they can watch them later on. Webinars are now stored on MS Teams which gives metrics on the number of visualization; however those videos were migrated only in May 2021 so we don't have yet useful metrics on videos' number of visualization
Working-from-home	Zoom fatigue!
Information on participants	At the moment, we only collect the number of participants but not their names. This information could be useful to understand if there are groups in Tyndall whose ECRs are more engaged in the events, and therefore we could try to define a strategy to attract the groups that are not currently engaging
Funding	With future re-opening events will not be held only online and social events and professional speakers will require funding
Systematic feedbacks	We are currently not asking for a systematic feedback to the participants. It would be good to start gauging this information in the short-term after an event, and also in the long-term (i.e., 6 months after the event) to understand if the training was effective