Final Conference

Parma (University of Parma), Italy

May 10-12, 2017

THE END OF THE JOURNEY… MORE Fun IS WAITING FOR US

After almost four intense and stimulating years even our journey is coming to the end. And what a better celebration for our project than an international symposium?

Indeed, the Final Conference of *Nano2Fun* Project "**Nanochemistry of Molecular Materials for 2-photon Functional Applications**" took place in Parma at the premises of the University on May 10-12, 2017.

The Conference, organized with the precious collaboration of the Associazione Alumni e Amici dell'Università di Parma and the scientific support of Parma Photonics and the IEEE Photonics Society, saw the participation of the majority of the early stage and the experienced researchers – the real key players of Nano2Fun! - even if most of them have already concluded their work experience within the project. But, of course, we don't want to forget the scientists: almost every group was represented. Moreover, about 30 external participants (students and professors) of Parma University attended, along the three days of the scientific sessions of the meeting divided based on different topics: Theoretical modelling; Optical Spectroscopy; 2-Photon Absorbers & Fluorophores; 2-Photon Polymerization; Nonlinear Spectroscopy; Fluorescent Organic Nanoparticles & Imaging.

Once again our young researchers had the opportunity to present their work followed by a profitable exchange of views with the other participants.

In addition, a poster session was organized consisting of about 20 posters, the majority from external participants.

Also, to make the meeting even more interesting, a good number of external experts were invited to give their contribution: **Fabrizio Santoro** from ICCOM-CNR, Pisa, Italy; **Daniel T. Gryko** from Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland; **Ioanna Sakellari** from Foundation for Research and Technology, Greece; **Yulia Kiyan** from Medical School , Hannover, Germany and **Giuseppe Vicidomini** from Italian Institute of Technology, Genova, Italy.

The Conference was not only a scientific meeting; as a matter of fact we had the pleasure and the great opportunity to host 2 events with the participation of **Klaus-Günther Barthel**, Head of Unit of Marie Skłodowska Curie – Innovative Training Network at Research Executive Agency, European Commission.

The first event "*Marie Skłodowska-Curie in Action: research & innovation opportunities for all*" took place on May 11 and consisted in in a round table with Mr. Barthel chaired by Prof. Sforza (delegate of the Dean for International Research of Parma University). The ITN projects were discussed based on different experiences: the perspective of US scientists, the point of view of the industrial world and the academia one. It was a profitable conversation through which we had the opportunity to listen different opinions and experiences with all their pro and con as well as the replies of the EC representative. The event was open to professors, researchers and personnel of Parma University: about 45 externals attended the meeting making it a big success.

The day after, May 12, another important and successful event (with around 60 external participants) took place: "*Marie Skłodowska-Curie in Action: boosting your career"* dedicated mostly to students and young researchers. Klaus- Günther Barthel illustrated what the MSCA can offer to early stage and experienced researchers and answered the questions of the participants. His speech was followed by Matthias Gester (principal scientist at Gillette-Procter&Gamble - associated partner of Nano2Fun) who offered a very interesting and fresh perspective to the students on how to plan their career. The day ended with the great contribution of some of the Nano2Funners fellows who, also with the "help" of a video, described their experience within the network.

So, at the end of these 3 days, we can say that, yes, *Nano2Fun* project is ending, but a brilliant future is ahead of us and so much more *Fun* awaits…we have just to grab it!