MCAA
MARIE CURIE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Careers beyond academia: bridging science and industry

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Vice-Chair, Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA), France Chapter

MCAA Background

Marie Skłodowska-Curie (1867-1934)

• Founded in 2012 as a restricted-access website, the MCAA today is a dynamic network boasting more than 24000 members.

• Connecting researchers throughout Europe and around the world, the MCAA enables international transdisciplinary collaborations.
It encourages networking, cooperation and mutual understanding among members and external stakeholders.

• Membership is free and open to any past or present Marie Curie researcher (beneficiary of funding under any of the past or present schemes proposed as part of the European Commission's Marie Curie programme) who encourages international mobility among researchers.

• Funding and support for the MCAA is provided by the European Commission Directorate General for Education and Culture.

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MCAA Members

1. 24234 **registered** members
2. 165 nationalities.
3. 41 Chapters
4. 8 Working groups
    1. Artificial Intelligence
    2. Bridging Science and Business
    3. Career Development
    4. Communication
    5. Policy
    6. Genders, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – GEDI
    7. Research Management Working Group
    8. Sustainability

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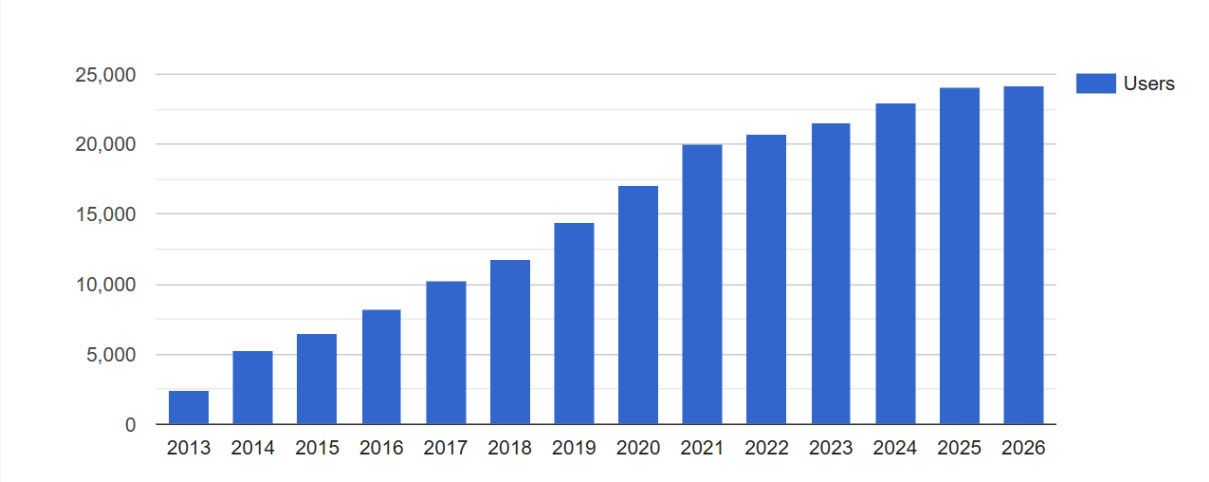
MCAA Members



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MCAA Members

Nationality

Any

- Italy (3461)
- Spain (2586)
- India (1588)
- Germany (1489)
- France (1233)
- China (1068)
- Greece (987)
- United Kingdom (906)
- Portugal (636)

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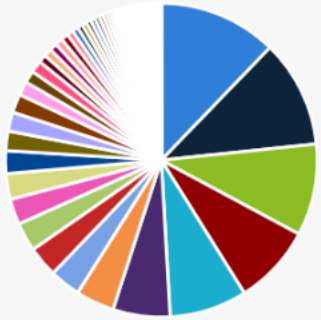
Current Country of Residence

Any



- United Kingdom (2554)
- Spain (2307)
- Germany (1967)
- Italy (1720)
- France (1673)
- Netherlands (1232)
- Belgium (832)
- Denmark (669)
- Ireland (656)

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Scientific Panel

Any

- LIF - Life sciences (5892)
- ENG - Engineering (5119)
- SOC - Social Sciences and Humanities (3350)
- CHE - Chemistry (3289)
- PHY - Physics (2362)
- ENV - Environmental sciences (1971)
- ECO - Economics (663)
- MAT - Mathematics (506)

Gender

Any

- Male (13588)
- Female (10552)
- Other (105)

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Age Group

Any

- 36-50 (11903)
- 25-35 (5072)
- >50 (2719)
- N/A (1167)
- ⩽18 (74)
- 19-24 (7)

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Chart showing participation action

Any

- FP7 - ITN (2326)
- H2020 - IF (Individual Fellowships) (1072)
- FP7 - IEF (905)
- H2020 - ITN (Research Networks) (779)
- FP7 - COFUND (499)
- FP7 - IOF (299)
- FP7 - IAPP (279)
- FP7 - IIF (270)
- FP7 - CIG (256)

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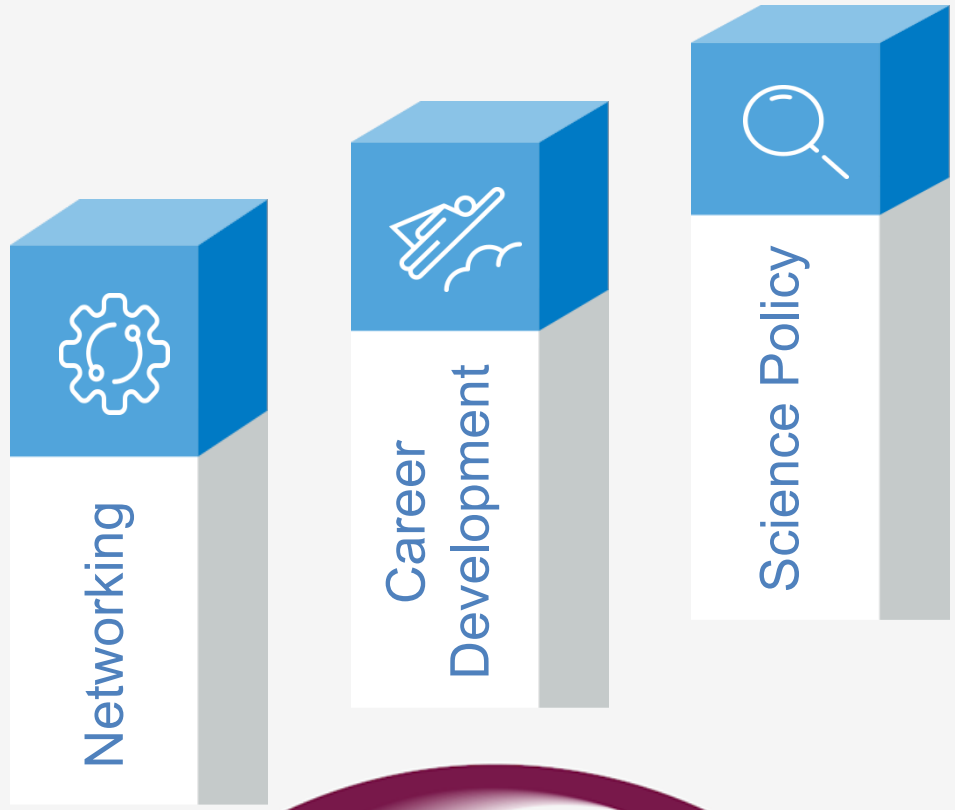
MCAA Mission and Vision

Mission:
Our mission is to bring together the MSCA community, support the career development of present and past MSCA beneficiaries at all career stages, and be a voice for researchers across regions and disciplines

Vision:
Our vision is an inclusive and sustainable research environment that enables knowledge to benefit society

Goals:
1. Connecting the MSCA community
2. Career development for MCAA members
3. Advocacy for researchers



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Events

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Projects

Academic Whistleblower

ecs european citizen science

CoARA Boost

MEDNIGHT

Open Universal Science OpUS

SECURE Sustainable Careers for Researcher Empowerment

MSCA GLOPOL

CUSP CONSOLIDATING EUROPEAN SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

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PhD skills

1. Project Management
•Planning and prioritizing work
•Managing timelines and deliverables
•Risk identification and mitigation

2. Communication Skills
•Explaining complex ideas to non-experts
•Writing concise reports and recommendations
•Storytelling with data

3. Collaboration and Teamwork
•Working in cross-functional teams
•Giving and receiving feedback
•Building professional relationships

4. Adaptability and Learning Agility
•Learning new tools and technologies quickly
•Working in fast-paced environments
•Resilience during organizational change

5. Leadership Skills
•Leading projects without formal authority
•Mentoring junior colleagues
•Strategic thinking

6. Decision-Making Under Uncertainty
•Making recommendations with incomplete information
•Prioritizing practical solutions over perfect solutions
•Evaluating trade-offs

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Transition to industry

PhD researchers have deep technical expertise, but industry roles often require a broader mix of business, communication, and execution skills.

Particularly Important Skills Often Missing from PhD Training

- Business awareness
- Industry-specific knowledge
- Stakeholder communication
- Product/customer orientation
- Cross-functional collaboration

These skills complement the strengths most PhD researchers already possess: analytical thinking, problem solving, independent learning, and deep subject-matter expertise.

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Missing connections

1. Business and Commercial Awareness
•Understanding markets and business models
•Ability to connect research outcomes to business value
•Basic financial literacy

2. Product Thinking
•Understanding user needs
•Translating research into products or services
•Measuring impact through business metrics

3. Industry-Specific Knowledge
•Regulatory and compliance requirements
•Industry standards and best practices
•Domain-specific technologies and methodologies

4. Stakeholder Management
•Understanding stakeholder needs
•Negotiation and persuasion
•Balancing technical excellence with business constraints

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My career between industry and academia

- Musician and teacher
- Waiter
- Basketball coach
- Research engineer
- PhD candidate

- Project engineer
- Project manager
- Product manager
- Senior consultant
- Senior researcher

2011 2012 2016 2018 2019 2023 2024 2025

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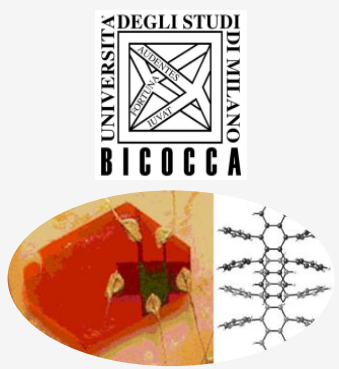
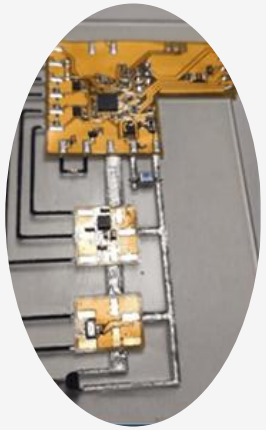
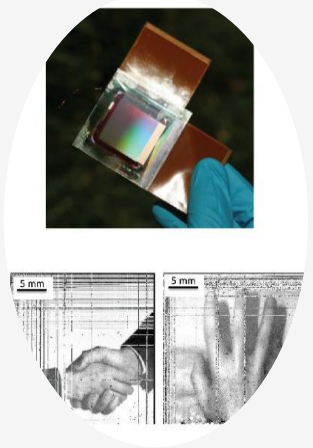
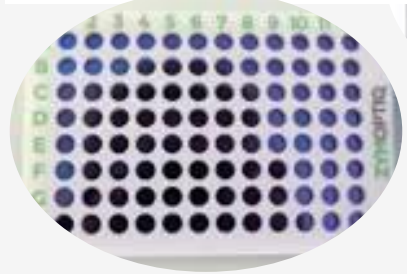
My career in TRL









1 Basic Observations

2 Technology Conceptualized

3 Proof-of-Concept Validation

4 Partial-Scale Prototype &Modeling

5 Partial-Scale Prototype Validation

6 Full-Scale Prototype Field Demonstration

7 Full-Scale Prototype in Commercial Conditions

8 Final Commercial Product Certification

9 Final Commercial Product is Bank-Financeable

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the European Union

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