



# REAL-time monitoring and mitigation of nonlinear effects in optical NETWORKS (REAL-NET)

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## Deliverable 5.6 – TSW II (details on courses provided and ESR attendance record)

### Project details

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## ACRONYMS

ESR(s): Early Stage Researcher(s)

MSCA: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action

REAL-NET: REAL-time monitoring and mitigation of nonlinear effects in optical NETWORKS

TSW: Transferable Skills Training

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**Figure 2** Screenshot of the participant during the first session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the TSWII

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**Figure 4** Twitter of Sergei K. Turitsyn, coordinator of REAL-NET, about the John Dudley's presentation

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## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This present document is a deliverable based on the second Transferable Skills Workshop (TSWII) held on 22-24<sup>th</sup> March 2021, completely online remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the course, the TSWII comprised three-days training addressing topics such as: entrepreneurship skills, project management and finally science communication.

The event addressed ESRs from the REAL-NET and other ITNS FONTE, MOCCA and WON, with a total of 28 ESRs for the first 2 days and 50 ESRs for the third day where two other project MEFISTA and POST-DIGITAL joined the workshop, representing also a great opportunity for the MSCA fellows to connect and interact.

All the 6 REAL-NET ESRs attended the workshop.

## 2 THE EVENT

REAL-NET second Transferable Skills Workshop (TSWII) took place on 22-24<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the entire event was held online and remotely in an interactive format allowing group work and high-level discussions with experienced facilitators.

During the TSWII the fellows understood all the rules behind the development process for creating a business out of an idea, which is usually complex and highly sophisticated. In a high risk environment, create a new business requires the identification and verification of many facts, the elimination of guesswork, and the control of expenditure of limited resources. Besides, during the workshop the ESRs received all the information needed in order to being able to lead the work of a team to achieve goals and meet success criteria within the given constrains and time.

During the last day, particular emphasis has been given to science communication, to instruct the fellows about the importance to communicate science-related topics to non-experts in a simple, easy and effective manner.

The TSWII was widely advertised through REAL-NET website and Twitter.

All the 6 ESRs of REAL-NET participated in the event.

The aim of this 3-days workshop was to give an overview of:

- Entrepreneurship
- Project management

- Science communication

The Speakers for the event comprise:

- Warrick Harniess of Scandinavia Stories
- Dr Robin Henderson of skillfluence
- Prof John Dudley

## 2.1 1<sup>st</sup> day\_Warrick Harniess, Scandinavia Stories

Scandinavia Stories teach and advise entrepreneurs, innovators and change makers. The aim of the entrepreneurship session was to provide the ESRs a tool kit for exploring how they can apply their research output to innovative and enterprising ventures. Warrick as speaker, has a natural ability to connect with the audience and to share his personal experience, encouraged others to engage with the learning.

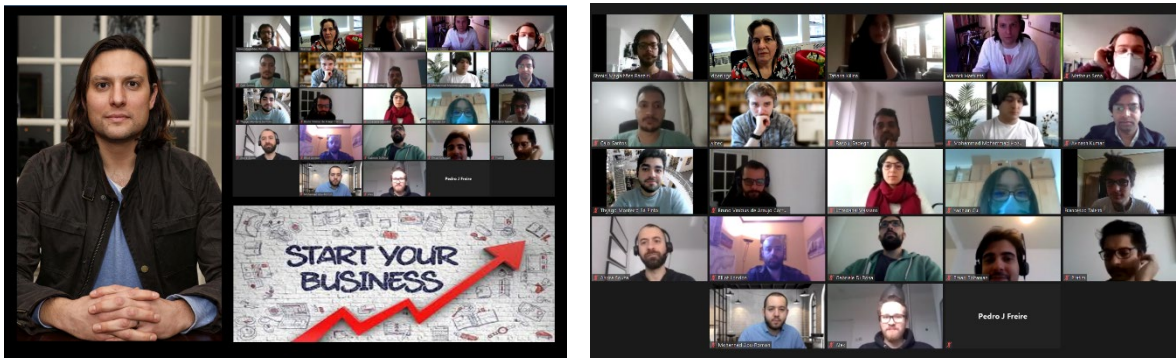
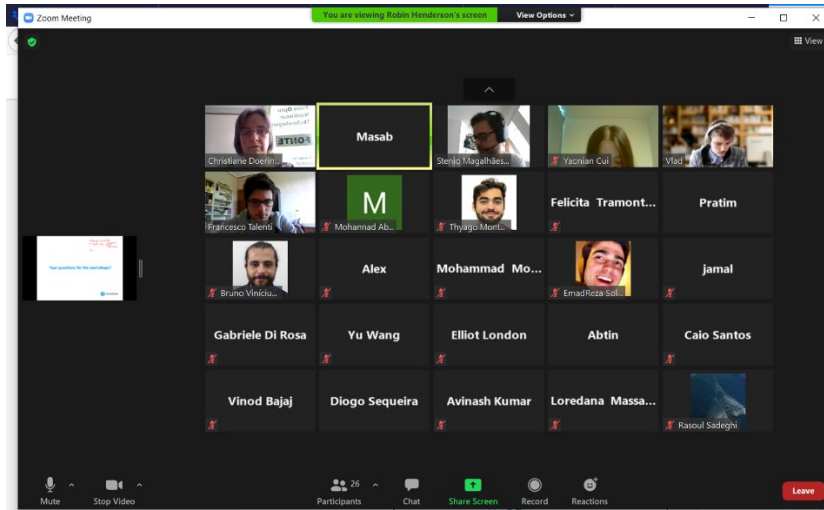


Figure 2 Screenshots of the 1<sup>st</sup> day session of the TSWII

## 2.2 2<sup>nd</sup> day\_Dr Robin Henderson of skillfluence

This interactive workshop will explore the practical application of project management to research projects. The ESRs worked through a project lifecycle exploring: i) how to work with collaborators and stakeholders to define project success; ii) how to effectively plan projects taking into account the iterative nature of research; iii) how to pre-empt issues and risk manage the project and iv) how to assess progress and resolve issues with the project. Throughout the workshop the students discussed how the same skills that can be applied within research can be applied to future projects both within

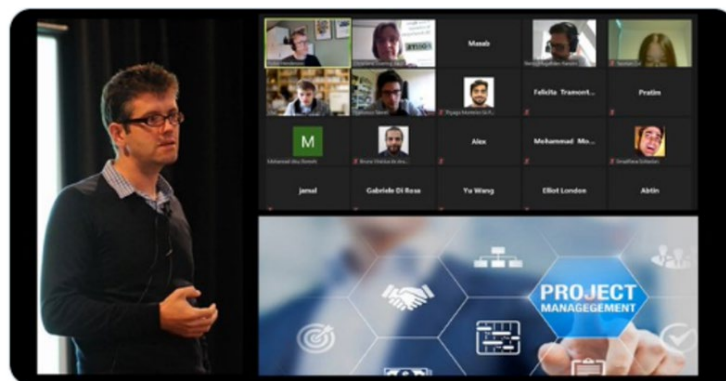
and beyond academia with a variety of stakeholders including in industry, business start-up and public sector.



**Figure 2** Screenshot of the participant during the first session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the TSWII

Day 2 of our Transferable Skills Workshop.  
Today the 28 PhD students in projects @EidFonte, @EtnWon, @REALNET\_EID and @MOCCA\_EID are getting insight to Project Management with expert Dr Robin Henderson of @skillfluence

#business #EU #employability #MSCA #H2020  
#FONTETTraining



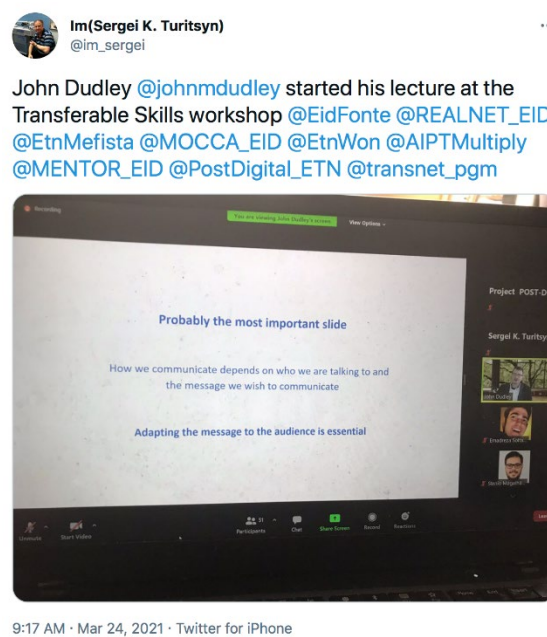
**Figure 3** Tweet about the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the REAL-NET TSWII

### 2.3 3<sup>rd</sup> day\_Prof John Dudley

Prof John Dudley gave a really interesting lecture on Science Communication focusing on how effectively communicating science to different audiences is essential for all researchers.

The third day workshop, opened the discussion at what makes effective science communication. “How we communicate depends on who we are talking to and the message we wish to communicate” (Figure 4).

During the presentation of Prof John Dudley, 2 other ITNs joined the event, MEFISTA and POST-DIGITAL, scaling up the number of ESRs participating to 50.



**Figure 4** Twitter of Sergei K. Turitsyn, coordinator of REAL-NET) about the John Dudley’s presentation

### **3 Agenda**

The complete agenda of the TSWI is available at the REAL-NET website: <https://real-net.astonphotonics.uk/transferable-skills-workshop-i-tsw-i/> and also in annex 1.

### **4 Post event organization**

With the purpose of improve the focus and results of the workshops we have created a feedback form for the TSWII, in order to collect feedbacks and comments from the ESRs. The feedback form with all the questions can be found in Annex II.



**ANNEX I: TSWI agenda**

*CET, Paris, Berlin, Rome time*

**Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Entrepreneurship Skills** Speaker: Warrick Harniess of [Scandinavia Stories](#)

**09:00 – 13:00 Session 1: Designer the customer experience (4 hours)**

- Introduction
- Activity 1: Understanding Customers
- Activity 2: Mapping the buying journey
- Activity 3: Designing a brand and a business model
- Presentation and discussion

**14:00 – 18:00 Session 2: Designing the operating model (4 hours)**

- Introduction
- Activity 1: Creating the company value chain
- Activity 2: Staffing the value chain
- Activity 3: Preparing the pitches
- Presentation and discussion
- Closure

**Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Project management** Speaker: Dr. Robin Henderson of [skillfluence](#)

**09:45 – 13:00 Session 1: project management: your PhD and beyond (3.15 hours)**

- The workshop will explore the practical application of project management to a research project lifecycle.

**14:00 – 17:15 Session 2: Continuation (3.15 hours)**

- A blend of plenary input and lots of small group discussions (project success), group work (identifying and mapping stakeholders, work breakdown structures, risk management), and signposting to additional resources (including project management tools, sector specific resources, project management best practice).

**Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Science communication** Speaker: Prof. John Dudley

**10:00 – 12:00 Science communication for Early Career Researchers (ESRs)**

– Effectively communicating science to different audiences is essential for all researchers. This workshop and open discussion will look at what makes effective science communication to a variety of different audiences.

**ANNEX II: feedback questionnaire**

**Feedback sheet for the  
Transferable skills workshop II  
(22<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021)**

	Disagree					Agree
<b>A. Relevance of workshop</b>						
1. Relevance of the workshop to your PhD	1	2	3	4	5	
2. The programme was well placed within the allotted time	1	2	3	4	5	
3. Good speakers	1	2	3	4	5	
4. The information/skills presented were relevant and useful	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>B. Workshop Logistics</b>						
1. Information provided to help with logistics for attending the workshop	1	2	3	4	5	
2. Support during the workshop	1	2	3	4	5	
3. Time allocated for the talks and ask questions	1	2	3	4	5	
<b>C. Training deliverable</b>						
I am satisfied with						
1. Number of days allocated to the course	1	2	3	4	5	
2. Delivery methods used	1	2	3	4	5	
3. Workshop materials and aids	1	2	3	4	5	
4. Speakers' knowledge of the subject matter	1	2	3	4	5	
5. Overall speakers presentation	1	2	3	4	5	
6. 1 <sup>st</sup> day workshop: Warrick Harniess of Scandinavia Stories	1	2	3	4	5	
7. 2 <sup>nd</sup> day workshop: Dr Robin Henderson of skillfluence	1	2	3	4	5	
8. 3 <sup>rd</sup> day workshop: Prof John Dudley	1	2	3	4	5	

**D. Overall**

1. The overall delivery and content of the workshop	1	2	3	4	5
2. How this workshop met my expectations	1	2	3	4	5
3. The workshop increase my knowledge	1	2	3	4	5
4. How do you rate the usefulness of the event	1	2	3	4	5

**E. What did you like best about the workshop?****F. What did you like least about the workshop?****G. Please state things you would like to see improved in future workshops****H. Please suggest other possible topics/speakers for future workshops**

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