When I first signed up for the European Nuclear Young Generation Forum 2021 (ENYGF 2021), I literally had no idea what to expect from the event and how much it will impact my involvement in the network. I was so engaged with the Forum’s activities that I did not even accomplish my top one To-Do in Tarragona: Drinking fresh Mimosas every day at the beach while seeing the sunset. The forum was an ideal opportunity to start getting to know the goings-on of young professionals in the field of nuclear technologies, all aimed to spread the word: Look ahead and go nuclear.

Prior to the event, I also had the chance to participate in the ENS YGN Core Committee Meeting where I was adventurous enough to run for the last position on the Board as Communications Manager. As the results were in, and I became a part of the Board; I felt some weight on my shoulders instantaneously. Since that moment, I was not only attending the forum, but I was also trying to capture some worth-posting social media moments on the way, which made me enjoy the setting even more!

The ENYGF 2021 started on Monday with some opening statements and speeches of prominent personalities in the field, stating the importance of bringing nuclear technologies back on the table and reiterating some future perspectives in the area for young professionals. Another major point of the plenary sessions was the interest of the organizers in highlighting the possibilities for innovation and startups in nuclear-related areas: A pitch contest along with entrepreneurship workshops and conferences were broadly welcomed in the program. Later on, we had a chance to engage on small-talk with new acquaintances and to check out the poster’s competition. Not to forget were the delicious settings of finger food for lunch and coffee breaks! Excursions to a plant operator simulator and industrial workshops were the cherry on the top of a successful first forum’s day.

The second and third days were the perfect platform for young professionals to present their research in different fields of nuclear technologies. The so-called parallel and hot-topics sessions were spot-on for that purpose. I even presented some preliminary results of my PhD project within these sessions, making the most of practicing presentation techniques and of learning how to deal with the audience's questions efficiently. Remarkable was the dinner gala who took place on Wednesday evening. It has been a while since I took part in a social occasion like this one, mainly due to Covid, but it felt like the very first time! The mood was close to cloud nine and after some speeches, awards, and typical fresh Spanish gourmet cuisine, we shared the dancefloor and partied as a single united European Young Generation Network!

Attention to detail was paid from the organizers throughout the entire event. They did not look like a but like a family. Putting together such an event, especially considering its hybrid format, must not
have been easy. However, they managed to deliver a high-end forum that I am pretty sure will be for the books!