

2020 - 2023

MAIA ACTION PLAN



PREPARED BY

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IN BRIEF

*This Action Plan is based on the MAiA Strategic Plan for the upcoming period 2020/2023. All the planned activities are described and prioritised. The Executive Board started its mandate in **October 2020**, and has already implemented some activities, marked in the following text.*

We identified three main areas of intervention:

- **Community**
- **Opportunities**
- **Partnership**

*Along with a renewed visibility and **communication approach**.*

Moreover, the Executive Board deems necessary to discuss with the Assembly and to amend MAiA Statute to reflect the maturity of the Association.

COMMUNITY



Regular assessments of community



Bureaucracy



Employment preparation

REGULAR ASSESSMENTS OF COMMUNITY

New data is fundamental to support both the Board and the Alumni in identifying new networking and professional opportunities, to better focus and innovate MAiA's activities, to strengthen our relation with UniBO, by suggesting new seminars and courses and proposing adjustments to MIREES didactics. We thus planned to carry out a new Census.

- Between December 2020 and March 2021, we engaged a member of the Association who conducted a new Census aimed at updating the data available
- Between December 2020 and January 2021, we engaged a member of the Association who conducted the first survey. Surveys will be carried out once a year to receive constant updated feedback from MIREES alumni

BUREAUCRACY

In order to help the alumni with certain administrative issues with Bologna University and partner Universities:

- We plan to further investigate the needs of Alumni through focused consultations. Specific questions will be included in MAiA yearly survey, starting 2022.
- We aim at liaising with UniBO for standard operating procedures for recommendation letters and Diploma Supplement. We plan to address these needs during our regular meetings with the MIREES board and partner universities.

Preparing MIREES Alumni to face the “world out there” (i.e. the labour market) is fundamental for this Board. We want to share our own experience and support the youngest MIREES graduates in finding the right opportunities for them.

- Since the beginning of our mandate, we are available to review CVs and Cover letters, to provide guidance to and to support employment preparation of young MIREES graduates. This is an activity that we will continue implementing until the end of our mandate. Former, current, and perspective MIREES students may contact us by email and social media channels.
 - We plan to lay the foundation for a mentorship program within MAiA’s Facebook Group, in collaboration with Alumni willing to share their experience with young graduates, and to be launched in January 2022. Once the Association’s intranet database (below) will be online, the mentorship programme might completely or partially migrate on MAiA website.
 - We plan to establish, in compliance with privacy legislation, a platform that includes MAiA alumni profiles and enables them to exchange information and contacts and also access to contacts of graduates from older generations. This platform will be launched on the new MAiA website. An external contractor will prepare the digital infrastructure within MAiA website (intranet). It will be launched at the beginning of 2023.
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OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MAiA has always invested energies in maintaining a good engagement of older and younger Alumni generation in its activities.

Our goal is to strengthen MAiA's network through targeted formal and informal activities.

MAIA FOCAL POINTS

We plan to identify among members several MAiA Focal Points in locations with higher presence of MIREES alumni. Focal Points will be contact persons, responsible for gatherings and events in the selected locations. Once the COVID-19 restrictions will soften, MIREES Alumni gatherings will be organised in different locations, calling on the cooperation of Focal Points. Gatherings will be informal and provide an opportunity for the community to meet and network. We expect to start organising MIREES Alumni gatherings by 2022. If the budget allows, and according to the Statute, Focal Points could be financially rewarded or reimbursed of expenses.

WEBINARS

We plan to organise a series of webinars with the support of Alumni, selected on the basis of their expertise (NGOs, international organisations, corporate jobs, think-tanks, academia, etc.). During these webinars, Alumni will present their career experiences and/or discuss topics among their field of expertise; an extensive Q&A will follow.

Other webinars may be organised on specific topics proposed by Alumni; experts could be invited, provided that the budget allows.

We intend to hold approximately four webinars yearly (i.e. two for each semester); for a.a. 2021/2022, we plan allot two seminars. This practice will be continued throughout the mandate until 2023.

MAIA-SPONSORED INTERNSHIPS

We plan to introduce targeted MAiA-sponsored internships for younger MIREES alumni, through partnerships (see below) with different organisations and institutions. We will carry on the previously established partnership with CRS regarding the promotion of job opportunities among MAiA's database.

In 2021, the first partnership has started with FOMOSO, and foresees two internship scholarships (500€ each) to support recent graduates.

A second partnership with OBC Transeuropa is expected to start in October 2021, with one sponsored internship.

PARTNERSHIPS

We aim at strengthening our already excellent relations with Bologna University, our first and most important donor. We believe that MIREES plays and can play a fundamental role in the contemporary world: MIREES is exceptional in its interdisciplinary nature and in the diversity brought by international students, with different backgrounds but common areas of interest and passions.

- **We plan to continue participating in MIREES Graduation Ceremony, to use this occasion to meet the new Alumni and welcome them with MAiA informative material, offering the opportunity to become MAiA active members. New Members of the Executive Board participated in the Open day of Bologna University and in the MIREES Graduation ceremony, held in February and March online.**
 - **We plan to intensify the opportunity for Alumni to participate as speakers in MIREES-MAiA Open Lectures: Alumni will deliver lectures to contribute to the preparation of students for different career paths. In March 2021, we have started a new cycle of this activity under a renewed format, and the initiative will continue also in the following academic years.**
 - **We plan to promote MIREES Call for Applications. We started and will continue throughout the year the campaign for the promotion of 2021/2022 MIREES Call for Applications in all geographical areas covered by the Master's Degree via social media and ad hoc promotion with platforms/contacts.**
 - **We plan to organise a capacity building project aimed at supporting Alumni from the Bologna University Masters' degree in International Politics and Market create an Alumni Association. The project will be conducted in 2021, in cooperation with the coordinator of IPM degree Prof. Fiori, and with funds provided by Bologna University.**
 - **We plan to develop a structured cooperation with other Alumni Associations within UniBO.**
 - **We want to celebrate MIREES 20th Anniversary in 2023 publishing a commemorative Yearbook.**
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COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

We deem communication with Alumni fundamental for better cooperation and to strengthen MAiA network. We plan to make use of all the communication tools and channels we have at our disposal to:

- **Sharing useful information with the Alumni;**
 - **Giving visibility to MAiA and MIREES, with a specific focus on our Alumni;**
 - **Outreaching and networking opportunities with relevant organisations and potential partners.**
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- **We are actively engaging with our Alumni on the existing social media profiles (Facebook, LinkedIn). We have appreciated an increased engagement on the LinkedIn page of MAiA and MIREES which were both boosted since our work started in 2021. Having acknowledged the estimated impact that LinkedIn can have on MIREES Alumni around the world, organisations and potential job opportunities; we intend to intensify the use of LinkedIn with regular share of posts and MIREES promotion for the entire three-years mandate.**
 - **With the first edition issued in February 2021, we started to distribute a periodical newsletter (MAiA Monthly Bulletin) with useful advice, job opportunities, relevant resources, and other updates. Recipients of the Newsletter are the MIREES Alumni and, occasionally, MIREES students.**

We also want to intensify the updates for the public with a storytelling narrative focused on the Alumni career paths, their stories and experiences after MIREES and publish it on MAiA's web page and on social media.

- **The new website will be launched in June 2021 and we plan to use it as the reference for all activities and information of the Association. It will also host a private microsite with specific information, calls and opportunities to which only MIREES Alumni can have access.**

MAiA promotional material (video, leaflet, etc.) was produced in 2014 and 2017. While its quality is still commendable, data need to be updated.

- **To promote MIREES and MAiA, the Board will rely on different digital tools to create videos, factsheets, infographics and flyers to be shared online. We plan to launch new visuals and record a new video for MIREES promotion and MAiA's visibility. A tender for the best offer will be launched in the second half of 2021.**