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To work for Thinface was a very special experience for me. Working for an international network with 6 different countries involved is a fantastic opportunity to gain insights into different tempers and habits and made it very enjoyable for me as our network partners are engaged. The young scientists with their enthusiasm motivate and their origin even increased the number of countries involved. As the results become more clear now, we can be proud of many achievements. Scientifically the best overview is given in the book 'Devices from Hybrid and Organic Materials' that involved all partners. It will be available in the beginning of 2018 and you can have a look at its content in the news. A deeper insight into the topics of the network can be found in the Thesis work that is slowly going to appear as the students finish. Please have a look on our [webpage](#).

The Thinface project officially ended but the work continues for most of us. Get some impressions of past and future within the network. And do not miss Shashank and Bernhards stories on the summer school in San Sebastian.



The bonfire in San Sebastian as photographed by Shashank during the summer school on June 23, 2017.

Enjoy reading.

Yours,

Katharina Rubahn

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Paola Pellacani and Weike Wang during their defense.



## Graduations

First one to graduate within the network was Paola Pellacani on 23rd of June, followed by Abhilash Ravikumar in Milan on 10th of July. Then it was Mattia Farronato on 16th of October in Paris and Weike Wang on 27th of October in San Sebastian.

Congratulations to all of you!

## Book: Devices from Hybrid and Organic Materials

with Mato Knez as Editor-in-Chief , Vida Engmann, Morten Madsen and Horst-Günter Rubahn Editors, to appear in 'World Scientific Publishing'

The book focuses on the use of various organic and hybrid materials for developing new devices, and includes many different aspects of device technology, from materials development to device fabrication and integration of reliable devices. In order to realize the 14 different chapters focusing on these areas, world leading experts on devices from hybrid and organic materials are put together to form a comprehensive book suited for new readers as well as those more experienced in this field.

All partners of Thinface contributed to this book. It is accepted for publication and will be published early next year.

Have a look on the [Table of Contents](#).



### **Best Thesis Award**

Paola Pellacani handed in her Thesis to be evaluated by a committee of the Iberian Vacuum Conference RIVA-X, Bilbao, October, 2017. She won the "Best Thesis" award, sponsored by Leybold. The prize gave her the opportunity to give an invited talk and get some of her expenses covered.

A great honor to Paola, congratulations!

You can find her thesis [abstract here](#). The thesis will follow shortly.



### **Chloe Rodriguez received a 'Best Oral Presentation' award**

The award was given for her talk 'Impedance biosensor interface based on nanostructured porous silicon' on Oct. 6 during the Iberian Vacuum Conference, RIVA-X 2017. Congratulations!

Chloe is currently writing up her thesis and will have her defense on the 12th of December 2017.



### **Summer School on Surfaces and Interfaces 2017 at CIC nanoGUNE**

A very special summer school as our Thinface students met for the last time to a school that they were partly organizing and they enjoyed also the social activities in San Sebastian.

Shashank and Bernhard keep it in good remembrance with their articles.



### **My Thinface PhD Project in 180 Seconds**

This is the title for a series of films that were recorded in San Sebastian the day before the summer school. A lot of effort was put into this project. Nadine Witkowski coordinated most of it and gave the students advice



during the preparation. A team from UPMC, Daniel Tanasijevic and Guillaume Oses joined and did the recording and preparation of the films.

## Scientist in Charge Questionnaire

All scientists in charge of the network filled out a questionnaire from the EU about the network and the Marie Skłodowska Curie program. Here are some general findings.

### Recent publications:

**36. Cu(II) and Zn(II) based Phthalocyanine as Hole selective layers for Perovskite Solar Cells**, L. Calio, J. Follana-Berná, S. Kazim, M. Madsen, H.-G. Rubahn, Á. Sastre-Santos and S. Ahmad, Sustainable Energy Fuels, 2017  
DOI: 10.1039/C7SE00367F (2017)

**35. Conductive Polymer-Inorganic Hybrid Materials through Synergistic Mutual Doping of the Constituents**, Weike Wang, Chaoqiu Chen, Christopher Tollan, Fan Yang, Mikel Beltrán, Yong Qin, and Mato Knez, ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, 9(33), 27964-27971, 2017  
DOI: 10.1021/acsami.7b09270

**34. Identifying the charge generation dynamics in Cs<sup>+</sup>-based triple cation mixed perovskite solar cells**, Manuel Salado, Ramesh K. Kokal, Laura Calio, Samrana Kazim, Melepurath Deepa and Shahzada Ahmad, Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., 19, 22905-22914 (2017)  
DOI: 10.1039/C7CP03760K

**33. Utilizing Schottky barriers to suppress short-channel effects in organic transistors**, Anton F. Fernández and Karin Zojer, Appl.

Phys. Lett. **111**, 173302 (2017)

DOI: 10.1063/1.4997405

**32. The influence of electrical effects on device performance of organic solar cells with nano-structured electrodes**, M. Mirsafaei,

A. H. Fallahpour, P. Lugli, H.-G.

Rubahn, J. Adam and M.

Madsen, *Sci. Rep.*, **7**, 5300 (2017)

DOI: 10.1038/s41598-017-05591-8

[Get an overview on all publications.](#)



## EU Calls of interest

MSCA ITN

Call closes on January 17, 2018

There was an update of the programme, please check the

[webpage.](#)

## Events

February 20-23, 2018 SEPV 2018 - Stability of Emerging

Photovoltaics, Barcelona, Spain

[Webpage](#)

August 27-31, 2018 PCAM Summer school on 'Material Sciences' in Palanga, a resort on the Baltic Sea. The school will mainly be organized by Kaunas University of Technology. Details will follow.

More information and all events on our [webpage.](#)

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## Summer School in San Sebastian





The annual summer school organized under the aegis of the Thinface project was held from June 20th to 23rd, 2017 in Donostia/San Sebastián in Basque Country (Spain) – the European Capital of Culture in 2016.

This last edition was remarkably different from the previous ones because, this time, behind the scenes, all ThinFace ESRs were active participants in organization of the summer school. We began discussions about the Summer School in September last year when it was decided that CIC nanoGUNE will be hosting the school. What followed was an online discussion among the ESRs on the broad topics and the potential speakers that they would like to be at the school. Eventually, the stage was all set by February this year when the event website was launched and participation was thrown open. Fortunately, we were also able to announce ten scholarships for deserving student candidates to participate in the school. From the number and diversity of applicants who applied for this opportunity, it was clear that the school was excitedly received by the scientific community, pointing towards the network strength of PCAM.

Most ESRs were gathered in Donostia by June 19th and shared the excitement for what the summer school held for all of us. We began, in the English-style somewhat-neogothic Miramar Palace, on Tuesday morning with a two hour tutorial talk on 2D materials by Prof. Oliver Monti (of University of Arizona) which was then later continued for two more hours on the Wednesday. A similar format was followed for three more tutorial topics and the remaining school comprised of invited talks and oral contributions. Having a total of four hours on a single topic but splitting it over two days was greatly appreciated by the participants because this gave the required depth as well as perspective to the topics that were covered.

On Thursday we had a very special seminar by Dr. Jean-Luc Doumont on "Making the most of your Presentation". It covered the big and the small on how to make effective presentations and communicate the message to audience. The talk was well attended and evoked a response from well-seasoned academics as well as students and was source of much discussion all the way to weekend.

### **Alongside the lectures**

San Sebastian or Donostia as it is called in the local Basque language welcomed us with two days of beautiful sunshine. After an exhausting filming day on Monday, many of the ESRs used the opportunity to recover at the beach or to calm down from the excitement taking a bath in the fresh sea of Bahía de la Concha. After sunset the evenings were mainly spent in the narrow streets of the old town where plenty of bars offering the typical Pintxos and Basque cider are located.

Unfortunately the weather was not always as nice as it was on the first two days, which helped in following the interesting lectures and tutorials of the summer school, but also made the beach less attractive in the second half of the week. Luckily, San Sebastian has many things to offer and an alternative program for the free afternoon on Thursday was easy to find. Whether it was climbing the hills of San Telmo or Monte Igueldo to enjoy the beautiful view over the city, making a boat trip to Isla de Santa Clara or visiting the picturesque village of Pasaia, where famous French writer Victor Hugo was living, San Sebastian made up for the clouds once the right bus was found.



Friday, being the last day of this last summer school was a day that will be well-remembered by all the ESRs. It was, most possibly, the last time that almost all of us were together (Paola and her newborn were dearly missed); however the word 'reunion' was oft-mentioned on that very day 😊. Since Friday was the Eve of San Juan (Midsummer Night) in Spain, Bonfires were lit all over the beach accompanied by typical Basque music. Also some of the Thinface ESRs followed the tradition and jumped over the bonfires or burned a piece of paper containing their wishes for the last phase of their PhD.

Details about the school such as program and book of abstract can be found [here](#).

## My Thinface PhD Project in 180 seconds



It was a long day of recordings as many videos had to be repeated but it was worth it. Weeks of preparation and instructions laid behind the participants, and it all had to work in this one day of June 2017. The result is a brilliant set of 8 films that were chosen and presented on our Thinface homepage. The films can serve to introduce our work to new students and to explain in an easy understandable way what our partners work with. So these films can promote not only the Thinface project but also the institutions behind. It takes a lot of courage and engagement to compress your complex topic into 3 minutes, simplifying it, but not too much, and present it in one go and this for the first time in their life. A really excellent work that the students did and we thank them a lot for taking this challenge. Many thanks also to Nadine Witkowski for taking the lead in this, the two of the filmteam Daniel and Guillaume and thanks to CIC nanoGUNE for providing the space and assistance during recording. Have a look at the [films here](#).

## Paola won 'Best Thesis Award' on the Iberian Vacuum Conference RIVA-X in October 2017 and presented her work

The conference is a meeting of the Spanish Vacuum Society (ASEVA) and the Portuguese Vacuum Society (SOPORVAC) focused on vacuum and its applications. It covered recent developments in the fields of Applied Surface Science and Thin Films. During the "Biointerfaces" session, Paola had the possibility to present her work

entitled "Study of colloidal crystalline monolayers for a versatile nanofabrication process", which was the core of her PhD thesis. Indeed, the work was focused on the investigation of Langmuir-Blodgett monolayers (made of polystyrene and silica beads). These monolayers were then used as sacrificial mask and conditioned through different reactive ion etching processes to nanostructure the underlying substrate. The sequential gold deposition and particle lift off provided a plasmonic surface made of gold cavities. The versatility of the fabrication method allowed tailoring the spectral response of the surface by easily tuning the nanostructure features, leading to a wide range of selection of plasmonic surfaces, especially in terms of shape, diameter and periodicity. The optimized surfaces were efficiently tested as efficient platforms for biosensing in SPR and SERS experiments.

## Scientist in Charge Questionnaire

Most people involved in the ITN Thinface knew about the programme before and all state that they like the activities and think that they are valuable. As particularly valuable were named the generic and scientific training, summerschools and workshops and the fact that courses were taken at host as well as institutions abroad. The level of the employed researches was ranked in general very good.

The researchers contributed to an enhancement of the scientific interaction with the partners. The network and especially the fact that the students come from abroad to the host institution gave an impulse to internationalisation. Also named was the good collaboration and many new contacts to institutions worldwide. A total of 31 new university contacts, contacts to 5 research centers and 5 industry partners were counted.

The recruitment of the researchers was in general rather difficult and resulted in lower than expected application rates and difficulties to judge the qualifications of the researchers. Here many partners see the need for improvement within the MSC programme.



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