

## LETTER OF MOTIVATION

Paris, 22 July 2014

Dear Sir / Madam,

I, the undersigned Grigore M. Havârneanu, saw the announcement for the *Young Researcher Award* initiated by the UIC and its International Railway Research Board (IRRB). I was pleased to find out that my profile meets the eligibility criteria. Encouraged by Mr. Jacques Colliard (Head of the Security Division at the UIC), I decided to apply as a potential candidate for this award. Below you can find the main motivations for my application.

I am a 29-year old Romanian researcher with background in Psychology. I am particularly interested in Traffic and Transportation Psychology, namely how psychology can be applied to improve safety and security and how it can be used to optimize the prevention practice by understanding the behaviour of people. Since 2008 my professional career has developed in this field as a young academic and researcher.

In July 2011, I was awarded the Ph.D. title by the University of Rome La Sapienza after defending a doctoral thesis focused on traffic accidents and the social psychology of road users. During this period I learned how to design, write and publish scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, and found out about interdisciplinary research. Until now, I have authored or co-authored more than 20 scientific publications.

In November 2012 I started to work at IFSTTAR (The French Institute of Science and Technology for Transport, Development and Networks) as a post-doc researcher on the RESTRAIL EU FP7 project that aims to reduce suicide and trespass on rail networks. During a 10-month contract at IFSTTAR I worked on several tasks assigned to the project's Work Package focused on measures to prevent railway trespass.

During the project's meetings and mainly during the RESTRAIL mid-term conference, the UIC project coordinator noticed my fresh thinking and innovative skills and proposed me to continue as Research Advisor within the UIC Security Division until the end of the project. At the UIC I was in charge with RESTRAIL dissemination actions and notably with the development of a prevention toolbox for decisions makers.

The RESTRAIL Toolbox is the first guide to best practice which provides evidence-based recommendations for choosing and implementing cost-effective measures to prevent railway suicides and trespassing accidents and to mitigate the consequences of these incidents. It is the main outcome of the project and my major research and innovation contribution.

In addition to the development of the Toolbox, I am also the main author of three submitted deliverables and co-author of another two. My scientific publications related to RESTRAIL include two original-research articles in international peer-reviewed journals, two international conference proceedings and one book chapter for the Romanian readership. Dissemination actions also include seven presentations at international scientific conferences, seminars or workshops and editing one RESTRAIL newsletter.

My past and ongoing activities in RESTRAIL as a young researcher, as well as the successful ending of the project in September this year, have motivated me to apply for the *Young Researcher Award 2014*.

With this Motivation letter please find enclosed: the summary of the primary research focus and contributions to rail industry; two letters of recommendation from professional colleagues; my CV, list of publications and conferences activities; and copies of the most relevant diplomas that I was awarded in the past.

I hope you will find my last two years of research activities original, relevant and useful for the rail industry and that you will consider my application as a potential candidate for this award.

Yours sincerely,

  
Grigore M. Mavărneanu