

***SIG8: Powder Diffraction***

***Reported Period: 2013-2014***

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***Reported by: Paolo Scardi (Chair of SIG 8 and EPDIC Committee)***

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SIG8 is a joint committee steering the organization of EPDIC (European Powder Diffraction Conference) events and promoting actions to support Powder Diffraction within ECA-IUCr. Broadly speaking, the mission of SIG8 has always been to promote access, awareness and collaborations in the powder community. This covers many areas including high resolution polycrystalline structure solution and refinement; stress-strain analysis; nanocrystalline and disordered materials; materials in extreme environments and imaging with diffraction signals. SIG8-EPDIC Committee has actively supported ECM organizations (ECM-28 in Warwick, 2013; and the forthcoming ECM-29, Rovinj, 2014), proposing microsymbosia, speakers and Chairs. SIG8 members have organised schools, conferences and workshops.

A website is available with essential information: <http://epdic.ing.unitn.it/>

Last meeting of SIG8-EPDIC Committee took place at Aarhus (Denmark) on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, during the EPDIC-14 conference. Of interest to the ECA/IUCr, the SIG8-EPDIC Committee discussed the possibility to hold joint ECM-EPDIC events, as it happened at Darmstadt on 2010. Apparently there was an option for the ECM in Switzerland (Basel 2016), but the Swiss organizers are already fully committed to organize the ECM event and have no possibility to take care of the EPDIC part as well. No member of the EPDIC Committee was available to organize the EPDIC event in Basel, just before the planned ECM.

Several members of SIG8/EPDIC expressed a desire to organize ECM-EPDIC joint meeting in future, but that will only be possible if a suitable location and team of local organizers will be available. The SIG8-EPDIC Committee is open to consider proposals. For the time being, next EPDIC event (EPDIC-15) was announced as usual at the end of last EPDIC conference (Aarhus), and will take place on 2016 in Bari (Italy), with the local organization by the CNR Istituto Italiano di Cristallografia.

The composition SIG8-EPDIC Committee is still the same (see the website), even if H. Fuess, B. Palosz and R. Cerný decided to quit. However, they kindly agreed to stay in the committee until suitably replaced by new members. Names are being scrutinized and will be voted in the coming months.