

SIG8: Powder Diffraction
Reported Period: 2015-2015
Report Date: 31 July 2015
Reported by: Paolo Scardi

1. Introduction. (50 words max.)

SIG8 has operated as in the past years, continuing the positive interaction with the powder diffraction community in Europe. It is important to take all possible actions to keep the positive relationships with the EPDIC community, if not with joint events, promoting synergy between ECMs and EPDICs

2. SIG web site:

SIG8 url: <http://sig8.ecanews.org/> see also <http://epdic.ing.unitn.it/>

3. Number of ECA individual members registered with the SIG according to
(<http://www.xray.cz/eca/im-payment.htm>)

SIG8	Powder Diffraction	224
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4. Existence of a SIG mailing list: refer to EPDIC events

Address of the mailing list: with the chairperson of each EPDIC event

Number of members in the SIG mailing list: about 400

5. Approximate total number of researchers involved in the SIG (please indicate the basis for the estimate)

SIG8 currently has 224 registered members (from <http://www.xray.cz/eca/eca-sig.asp?id=SIG8>), while meetings are normally attended by fewer individuals. The last EPDIC Conference was attended by 350 scientists.

6. List of MS organized by the SIG at ECM29 in Rovinj

MS 29 Quasi crystals and aperiodic materials (with SIGs 2, 3, 9, 12)

MS 38 Combining crystallographic information with other methods (with GIG1, SIGs 4, 9)

MS 39 Recent advances in diffraction instruments, detectors and data processing (with GIG1, SIGs 6, 9)

MS 41 Advanced powder diffraction: from proteins to organic and inorganic functional materials (with SIGs 1, 12)

MS 42 Imaging and tomography techniques by neutrons and X-rays

MS 43 Thin films, stresses and textures

7. Past Activities other than Microsymposia at ECM

Most actions stem from decisions taken at last meeting of SIG-8 / EPDIC Committee, held at Aarhus (Denmark) during the EPDIC conference (June 2014). SIG-8, being identical with the EPDIC Committee, has the double role of steering the European Powder diffraction Conference and consulting for ECA/IUCr and, more generally, the powder diffraction community in Europe.

8. Future/Programmed Activities.

So far the main decision was to program next EPDIC at Bari, Italy (June 2016); this decision was not straightforward, as there were other candidates (in UK), but also a possibility to make a joint EPDIC-ECM meeting at next ECM in Switzerland, like the joint event at Darmstadt a few years ago. Unfortunately there has been little compatibility this time, between the needs of the two organizations. The SIG-8 / EPDIC Committee recommends that more consideration is given to the needs of the EPDIC events, considering this is a classic event nowadays, after the first one held 25

years ago. There is no way to compress the program or to make different arrangements, so the organization of a joint event, if this is considered as a good idea / scientifically valid / accepted by the sponsor and communities, should be tried with an open mind and on a totally fair basis – same ‘importance’ to each meeting.

9. Other matters.

SIG-8 has provided suggestions to all ECM conferences over the past years, and has always responded the requests by the different ECM organizers, even if EPDIC events were programmed on the same year. We all think there is full compatibility between EPDIC and all ECA/IUCr initiatives, and it is this double appointment which avoids conflicts and duplications. However, SIG-8 does not appreciate the strict rules which ask for a different SIG delegate at each new ECM. It would help to keep in charge the same person for at least a few conferences.

It is underlined that all of this is a voluntary work; we all know it is more and more difficult to find time and means nowadays to carry out these commitments; also participation in events is somehow declining because of costs, increasing importance of alternatives (internet). So the rules – all rules of scientific organizations - should try to make life easier, possibly, to all volunteers in SIGs as well as any other committees. Critical issues at ECMs are: (1) the above mentioned rule of changing the SIG delegate every new ECM; (2) total lack of any support to invited speakers at ECMs (more and more difficult to find good speakers), not to speak of chair persons. Waiving some fee would help, as it is a practice of all EPDIC events.

Next meeting of the SIG-8 / EPDIC Committee will be at Bari next June 2016.

10. Brief annual activity report (100 words max.)

(1) Contacts with ECM organizers and required organizations; (2) evaluation of several requests of endorsements (conferences, workshops, schools); (3) ongoing activities, collaboration and relations with the ICDD; (4) running the EPDIC events, programming the next one. We keep underlying the importance of what written above, as critical issues.

11. List SIG officers, name and e-mail, and specify their main function in the SIG:

Chair: Paolo Scardi, Trento, Italy, paolo.scardi@unitn.it

Vice-Chair: Robert Cernik, Manchester, United Kingdom, r.cernik@manchester.ac.uk

Secretary: Acting-secretary is Michela Brunelli, Grenoble, France, in most meetings of the SIG8-EPDIC committee, michela.brunelli@esrf.fr