

August, 2025

Report of activities of GIG-03 “Education on Crystallography” General Interest Group

This report summarizes the main activities carried out by GIG-03 during the past year, reflecting the group’s continued commitment to promoting crystallographic education and outreach across Europe and beyond.

1.- Change of GIG-03 Officers and Board

A new board and set of officers were elected this year. Kamil Dziubek was appointed as Chair, Josefina Perles as Vice-Chair, and Pilar García Orduña as Secretary. The new Board is composed of Alessia Bacchi, Erhard Irmer, and Izabela Madura.

The newly elected officers warmly thank Annalisa Guerri and Chiara Masera for their dedicated work and valuable contributions to the group over the past years.

2.- 34th ECA Lunchtime Webinar

GIG-03 hosted the 34th edition of the ECA Lunchtime Webinar, featuring a talk by Erhard Irmer on 20th February, entitled “Crystallography at School?!”

The session attracted a wide audience and sparked interesting discussions on educational approaches and outreach practices in crystallography.

3.- New Videos Released – Women in Crystallography Series

New videos in the *Women in Crystallography* series were released, highlighting the work and personal story of a female crystallographer, to celebrate the importance of women in the field of crystallography and science, while, at the same time, raising awareness about the pitfalls and obstacles on the way to reach gender parity in science, eliminate stereotypes, increase sensitivity, and facilitate equal treatment of everyone at all stages of a scientific career.

New contributions of this project supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry Inclusion and Diversity Fund were:

4th Anna Pakhomova (European Synchrotron Radiation Facilit , ESRF, France)

5th Bart Kahr (Molecular Design Institute at New York University, USA)

6th Natalia Alvarez (Universidad de la República, Uruguay)

7th Gihan Kamel (SESAME synchrotron, Jordan)

This initiative continues to celebrate diversity and inspire young scientists.

4.- Second Crystal-Growing Competition

Following the success of the first edition, GIG-03 launched the second *Crystal-Growing Competition*, sponsored by the ECA and supported by the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) with a CCDC Engagement Grant. The contest was opened to all schoolchildren from European countries. The event engaged students of different age groups, encouraging participation in experimental science through hands-on crystal growth.

5.- Mentoring Program (with GIG-01 and GIG-02)

GIG-03 collaborated with GIG-01 and GIG-02 to develop the ECA mentoring program. This initiative aims to support early-career crystallographers by connecting them with experienced mentors for career development and networking opportunities.

6.- "Crystallography in School" – Satellite Event at ECM35

As part of the ECM satellite program, GIG-03 organized the event *Crystallography in School*, aimed at promoting crystallographic concepts among school students and educators, focusing on the integration of crystallography elements into STEM subjects (chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics) curricula in schools. The event included hands-on demonstrations and educational materials tailored for young audiences.

7.- Coordination of Microsymposia at ECM

GIG-03 coordinated several microsymposia MS48 “Potential of online courses in crystallography“ during the ECM35, focused on educational tools and innovations in crystallography teaching. Additional contributions to other education-related sessions were also made in collaboration with other SIGs and GIGs.