

Individual Member Representatives report to the ECA Council (2025)

This report concerns the period August 2024 - July 2025. We as IM Representatives are satisfied about the following developments in the ECA regarding individual member (IM) visibility and prioritisation:

- A meeting for the IM will take place on Wednesday, 27th of August 2025. Here we want to appreciate the close synchronization with the ECM35 organizers and cooperation, making this possible..
- Finally, a green bar on the conference badge indicating if an ECM participant is a (paying) ECA IM, has been implemented. We think that importantly, this creates awareness and engages people in discussion. We are convinced that this can be an excellent vehicle to better connect the community. We are aware though that it is a big and important task to evaluate how to motivate crystallographers to become IMs.
- We also appreciate and highly value the creation of a dedicated ECA Webmaster (Andrea Ienco was assigned).
- The newly announced GEMS (GIGs ECA Mentoring Scheme) and the condition of being an ECA member to become either a mentor or a mentee.

In the next period new IM representative elections will take place. In the current constellation, we want to:

- spark discussion about the payment modalities and accessibility of the ECA membership fee (currently 25€ for one year, or 20€ per year if the membership is subscribed to for 5 consecutive years) on the ECA website. This should be maximally easy.
- The distinctive signs for IMs on badges should be introduced also at other ECA-supported meetings, including European Crystallography Schools, to show the importance and impact of the IM financial contributions.
- We want to devise a strategy to determine how ECA membership could be rendered more attractive for individuals (to not only be a “community” service). We have prices and programs now, but this might not be sufficient to attract “regular seniors”. Perhaps some dissemination or function to increase an individual’s visibility e.g., on the ECA web presence, could be considered. This involves a major review of the website and the preparation of a list of ideas.
- Foster connections to national members, and being informed about local, national meetings where ECA could be advertised (perhaps also by customizing conference badges) and promoted to a greater extent, helped by the national representatives and find out reasons for different levels of dedication across Europe.

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