

European Crystallographic Association



Policy Plan 2026-2027

April 2026



Name:	European Crystallographic Association
Statutory address:	European Crystallographic Association (ECA), Zeist, The Netherlands
Date of incorporation:	25 August 1997
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The **European Crystallographic Association (ECA)** is a non-profit scientific association committed to its goals of advancing crystallography in all aspects and promoting cooperation in crystallography between the countries of Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. The association is legally registered in the Netherlands.

ECA is one of the five regional affiliates of the [International Union of Crystallography \(IUCr\)](#), together with the American Crystallographic Association (ACA), the Latin American Crystallographic Association (LACA), the Asian Crystallographic Association (AsCA), and the African Crystallographic Association (AfCA).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the European Crystallographic Association are to:

- promote the science of crystallography;
- promote the development of crystallography;
- promote European collaboration in the field of crystallography, and also with countries outside Europe.

To pursue its objectives, ECA undertakes the following activities:

- promoting scientific research in the field of crystallography at a European level;
- organizing and supporting scientific congresses, schools and other meetings in the field of crystallography;
- initiating and stimulating collaboration between scientists and scientific organizations in the field of crystallography;
- participating in associations of similar and related organizations;
- collaborating with similar and related organizations;
- acting as a member of organizations contributing to the realization of the objectives of the association;
- awarding prizes to persons and organizations having made a substantial contribution to the science of crystallography.

METHODS OF ACQUIRING INCOME

For its income, ECA is entirely dependent on membership fees and donations from natural persons, institutions and companies.

ECA acknowledges three types of membership:

- Individual Members: Individual scientists joining ECA as members of the association;
- Corporate Affiliate Members: Legal bodies (institutions or corporations);
- National Members: National adhering bodies, usually Crystallography Associations or Committees.

Major contributions towards donations come from crystallographic meetings, in particular European Crystallographic Meetings (ECMs), while smaller contributions come from natural persons.

The income is entirely used to organize the activities conducted to pursue the association's statutory objectives.

MANAGEMENT AND ALLOCATION OF ASSETS

ECA has no paid employees and does not have the objective of making a profit.

The members of ECA commit themselves voluntarily and receive no remuneration, salary, or financial compensation for their work. The Executive Committee Officers will in that capacity not receive any remuneration, either directly or indirectly. They may, at the discretion of the Council, be entitled to reimbursement of the reasonable costs incurred by them when carrying out their duties.

At the end of the financial year (which runs from April 1st to March 31st the following year), the Treasurer draws up the financial report (consisting of the balance sheet and the statement of income and expenditure with explanatory notes) which is submitted to the Council for approval.

On an annual basis, ECA is spending its budget on:

- ECA Prizes that are awarded at each European Crystallographic Meeting (ECM): the Max Perutz Prize with €5000, the Bertaut Prize with €1500, and the George M. Sheldrick Prize with €3.000; in addition, ECA can support the participation of the award winners in ECMs, where they are to give the award talks, by subsidizing the travel costs (up to a total of approx. €2000). The
- One or two scholarship grants (approximately 9-10k€ in total) to permit talented young crystallographers to do research in another European country for a period between three and six months.
- The European Crystallography Schools (ECS) that are taking place annually and are co-

financed by ECA by approximately €3000 per school;

- Schools, congresses, workshops and outreach activities are supported with a total of approximately €10000. The budget for the schools, congresses, and workshops is used for travel grants for young students and other meeting-related expenses.
- Administrations costs including website and leaflets: approximately €2000.

Every year, the Executive Committee draws up a Policy Plan and corresponding budget and submits these documents to the Council for approval.

MAIN EVENTS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The flagship of ECA activities is the European Crystallographic Meeting (ECM). It is held on an annual basis, except when an IUCr Congress is taking place. The ECMs are the main meeting points for crystallographers in the ECA area to present and discuss their recent research. Microsymposia at ECMs are proposed and organized by ECA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and General Interest Groups (GIGs), which are in this way the main scientific platforms of ECA.

ECA is committed to promoting continuous high-level education in crystallography. European Crystallography Schools (ECS) are the central components of ECA's educational activities. These Schools are regular events hosted annually or biannually, each time in a different country.

On the occasion of ECMs, ECA awards two prizes: the ECA Prize, named after Max Perutz since 2004, for outstanding leadership, scientific contributions or both, and the Erwin Félix Lewy Bertaut Prize, in association with the European Neutron Scattering Association (ENSA), to a young crystallographer in recognition of notable experimental theoretical or methodological contributions using crystallographic or neutron scattering methods. ECA also participates in awarding the Alajos Kálmán Prize together with the Hungarian Chemical Society. The prize is awarded in recognition of outstanding scientific contributions in the field of structural sciences. In 2026, the only prize that ECA will award is the Erwin Félix Lewy Bertaut Prize together with ENSA.

The annual ECA Council and Executive Committee meetings are held around the ECMs or IUCr Congresses. The Executive Committee interim meetings (i.e. Executive Committee Winter/Spring meetings) are held in February or early spring.

In the period April 2026–March 2027, ECA will conduct and support the following activities:

- the annual meetings of the ECA Council and Executive Committee will take place on-line in September 2026;
- the Executive Committee Winter Meeting will take place in February/early March 2027 in Athens, Greece, venue for the European Crystallographic Meeting in 2028;

- the ECA/ENSA Erwin Félix Lewy Bertaut Prize will be awarded during the International Conference on Neutron Scattering xxxxxxxx;
- evaluation of the mentorship program that has started in 2025;
- evaluation of the scholarship program that has started in 2025;
- call for new proposals for the scholarship program
- travel grants and financial support will be attributed as in previous years;
- plans for a new special interest group on mathematical crystallography will be presented and submitted for approval at the Council Meeting in September 2026;

The Executive Committee will work in 2026 on improving the communication tools for SIGs and GIGs and will remain in close contact with the local organizers of the two future European Crystallographic Meetings (ECM36 in 2027 and ECM37 in 2028), as well as with the local organizers of the two upcoming European Crystallographic Schools (ECS11 in 2026 and ECS12 in 2027). A possible venue for ECS13 in 2028 has been found and the bid is submitted for approval by the Council.

GOVERNANCE

The ECA Executive Committee is in charge of administering the Association, carrying out the decisions of the Council and giving effect to the general policy of the Association as determined by the Council.

The ECA Executive Committee consists of at least seven natural persons, with the total number of members to be determined by the Council. The Executive Committee members are appointed by the ECA Council every three years, lastly in 2024. The current Executive Committee counts 10 members.

The work of the Association is directed by the Council which is composed of delegates appointed by the National Members and elected representatives of Affiliate and Individual Members. The International Union of Crystallography may send a non-voting delegate (Observer) to meetings of the Council.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (PERIOD: 2024-2027)

President:	Arie van der Lee, <i>France</i>
Vice-President:	Jan Dohnálek, <i>Czech Republic</i>
Past-President:	Marijana Đaković, <i>Croatia</i>
Secretary/ECA webmaster:	Andrew Maloney, <i>United Kingdom</i>
Treasurer:	Antonia Neels, <i>Switzerland</i>

Officer: Chiara Massera, *Italy*
Officer: Katarzyna Jarzemska, *Poland*
Officer: Klaudia Hradil, *Austria*
Officer-webmaster: Andrea Ienco, *Italy*
Education Coordinator: Maria José Sanchez Barrena, *Spain*

ANNUAL REPORTS

Find more information – previous and current policy plans, activity and financial reports and other ECA related information – [here](#).