



Activity report of the European Crystallographic Association

April 2025 – March 2026

Scope of activities

ECA has continued supporting the crystallographic community in Europe and beyond, especially through its networking activities, conferences, schools, communication, prizes, awards and bursaries. It relies on eighteen Interest Groups either focused on a particular branch of the field or on networking activities.

ECA Interest Groups at the end of the reporting period:

Special Interest Groups

- SIG-01 Macromolecular Crystallography
- SIG-02 Quantum Crystallography
- SIG-03 Aperiodic Crystallography
- SIG-04 Electron Crystallography
- SIG-05 Mineralogical Crystallography
- SIG-06 Instrumentation and Experimental Techniques
- SIG-07 Molecular Interaction and Recognition
- SIG-08 Powder Diffraction
- SIG-09 Crystallographic Computing
- SIG-11 Extreme Conditions
- SIG-12 Materials Science
- SIG-13 Molecular Structures and Chemical Properties
- SIG-14 Dynamics, Disorder, Diffuse scattering
- SIG-15 Crystallography in Art and Cultural Heritage
- SIG-16 Magnetic Crystallography (approved in 2025)

General Interest Groups

- GIG-01 Young Crystallographers
- GIG-02 Senior Crystallographers
- GIG-03 Education in Crystallography

The Interest Groups were involved in planning the scientific program of the European Crystallographic Meeting 35 in Poznań/Lviv, Poland/Ukraine, organization of their own activities, such as poster prizes and schools with focus on their areas. They were also active in preparation of the upcoming ECM36 in Prague in 2027. Six Interest Groups of ECA have elected their new officers and their current representatives are shown at the ECA web pages <https://ecanews.org/current-interest-groups/>.

Conferences and Schools

There are two flagship events – the European Crystallographic Meeting and the European Crystallographic School.

European Crystallographic Meeting 35, Lviv/Poznań, Ukraine/Poland, 25-29 August 2025

At the end of August crystallographers and scientists from adjacent fields met for the 35th edition of the European Crystallographic Meeting. ECM35, initially scheduled to take place in Lviv, Ukraine, was relocated to Poznań, Poland, due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, with the event hosted by the organizers from Adam Mickiewicz University (<https://ecm35.ecanews.org/>).

More than 700 participants contributed to 48 symposia, covering a wide range of topics, ranging from crystallography in drug discovery, room temperature bio-crystallography, interactions key for understanding diseases, development of technologies and tools in electron crystallography, fragment screening, quantum crystallography, aperiodic structures, crystallization, and AI in crystallography to the latest developments in synchrotron and XFEL technologies, time resolved crystallography, magnetic structures, in-situ techniques, and applications in materials science, extreme conditions studies, simulations and predictions, dynamics and disorder across 96 invited lectures, 146 oral presentations, and 275 posters. Several microsymposia focused on general topics, including funding, publishing, and online teaching in crystallography. The plenary lectures by Sven Lidin (Lund University) and Simon Billinge (Columbia University, New York) guided us through “Crystallography – a subject that constantly reinvents itself” and “What I learned about structure from artificial intelligence”. Nineteen keynote lectures brought insights into specific areas of crystallography or its applications. A special keynote “George Sheldrick’s SHELX: success for all” by Isabel Uson and a special session “Remembering George Sheldrick” celebrated the outstanding contributions and impact of our late colleague crystallographer George M. Sheldrick.

The scientific program was accompanied by a concert in the Adam Mickiewicz University Hall, a student mixer, a gala dinner with live jazz music, a science slam and an open lecture for the general public: “Nobel Prize winner Max von Laue was a student in Poznań”. Twelve satellite events included the 6th International School on Aperiodic Crystals, ‘Utilising CCP4 for structure solution’, ‘Understanding solid forms with the CSD’, Synchrotron Intro, Quantum Crystallography Workshop, European Young Crystallographers Satellite Meeting, 3D-deltaPDFs and diffuse scattering analysis, the so-called Frolic Goats High Pressure Workshop, Computing in Crystallography Forum, Highscore Workshop, Crystallography in School (promoting teaching of crystallography with school science teachers), and MACSMIN2025: Mathematics and Computer Science for Materials Innovation.

The team of local organizers led by Maciej Kubicki stepped in to make it possible to realize a “Ukrainian ECM” in Poland, which was warmly accepted. We also appreciated the efforts of the team from the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, led by Grygoriy Dmytriv and Roman Gladyshevskii, who led the ECM35 Programme Committee. Together, the organizing and program committees and microsymposia chairs and co-chairs prepared an event full of the latest science, outstanding speakers, and friendly atmosphere in the lovely city of Poznań.

Three crystallographic prizes were awarded during the Meeting. The Max Perutz Prize was given to Prof. Gilberto Artioli (University of Padova), accompanied by his lecture “My life as a curious crystallographer”. The Alajos Kálmán Prize was awarded to Felipe Gándara Barragán (Materials Science Institute of Madrid – CSIC), and the George M. Sheldrick prize to Lauren E. Hatcher (Cardiff University). You can find more information about the ECA prizes here: <https://ecanews.org/prizes/>.

Poster prizes were awarded in five categories, supported by IUCr Journals, NanoMEGAS, Rigaku, SIG-06, SIG-13, CCDC, and CrystEngComm, to the best poster presenters in specific fields of research, instrumentation development, or at the start of their careers.



The Max Perutz Prize awardee Prof. Gilberto Artioli during his lecture “My life as a curious crystallographer”

Preparations for the European Crystallographic Meeting 36, Prague, 23-28 August 2027

The team of local organizers, ECA Executive Committee, SIG and GIG representatives, and the scientific program committee of ECM36 initiated preparations of the scientific programme of the next ECM. The Czech and Slovak Crystallographic Association, being in charge of the congress organization, held a workshop ‘*Current trends and future of crystallography II*’ in Prague on February 16, 2026, providing the space to present the latest developments in the field with a view towards assembly of the ECM36 programme. The first meeting of the scientific programme committee was attached to this workshop, on February 17, and first considerations regarding the programme of the congress in 2027 were discussed.

10th European Crystallography School, Ohrid, 22-27 June 2025

ECS10 (<https://ecs10.ecanews.org/>) was focused on the topic “From Nano to Macro: Elucidating Structures at Different Length Scales”, covering theory and hands-on sessions on powder diffraction, real structure, single crystal diffraction analysis, electron crystallography, applications of the CSD, and structure analysis for pharmaceutical research. The school was attended by 52 participants from 17 countries. The School was supported by 8 sponsors and enabled hands-on data collection sessions, lectures on various aspects of single crystal analysis, powder diffraction, real structure, and database exploitation, discussions and informal exchanges between lecturers and attendees. The poster session featured awards, with three main winners and two supporting winners chosen by voting among the lecturers who attended the school.

Prizes and awards

Current portfolio of ECA prizes

ECA awards regularly five different prizes in the field of crystallography:

Max Perutz Prize (awarded each ECM year), Erwin Félix Lewy Bertaut Prize (awarded by ENSA and ECA – agreed schedule), Alajos Kálmán Prize (awarded each ECM year), Lodovico Riva di Sanseverino Prize (awarded once in three years, in an ECM year), George M. Sheldrick Prize (awarded each ECM year). The details of prize awards for the reporting period are given in the chapter on ECM35.

Bursaries and grant support

ECA also supports other conferences and schools with a focus on crystallography and an international impact, mainly in Europe. For this purpose, each year grants are awarded based on individual applications in two rounds. In 2025-2026 ECA supported a number of conferences, workshops and schools with a total grant support of € 14,350:

- **20th BCA/CCG Intensive Teaching School in X-ray Structure Analysis**, 29 March – 5 April 2025, Durham University, UK
- **60th ERICE School - Electron Crystallography**, 30 May – 7 June 2025, Ettore Majorana Foundation and Center for Scientific, Culture, Erice (TP), Italy
- **61st ERICE School - Quantum Crystallography**, 30 May – 7 June 2025, Ettore Majorana Foundation and Center for Scientific, Culture, Erice (TP), Italy
- **Fourth International School on Porous Materials - MOFschool2025**, 16 - 20 June 2025, Como, Italy
- **10th European Crystallography School, ECS10**, 22 - 29 June 2025, Ohrid, North Macedonia
- **27th Heart of Europe Bio-Crystallography Meeting (HEC27)**, 25 -27 September 2025, K6 Seminarhotel, Halberstadt, Germany
- **3rd CECAM Discussion Meeting on Quantum Crystallography**, 11- 13 February 2026, Lausanne, Switzerland
- **Winter School on Electron Crystallography**, 2 - 6 March 2026, Jülich, Germany

The Association also provided 12 travel grants to young early career researchers to attend the ECM35 in 2025 and to prize winners. The annual European Crystallographic School, in 2025 ECS 10 in Ohrid (North Macedonia), was supported by € 5,000.

In 2025 the direct financial support to women participating in crystallographic conferences or courses continued, using the *Women in Crystallography* fund; in total € 4,114 was awarded to 7 talented young female crystallographers, while the funds were raised by the successful sale of 'Women in Crystallography' t-shirts during different congresses.



ECA Lunchtime Webinars

Since June 2021 the young crystallographers of ECA have run the ECA Lunchtime Webinars focusing on the current and hot topics across the whole field of crystallography. Six monthly webinars were held in the past period regularly attracting 30-60 followers online (the recordings are available online at <https://ecanews.org/education/eca-lunch-webinars-past-events/>):

Webinar 36: **Alke Meents & Paul Klar**, *Structure determination with 3MeV electron crystallography*, 24 April 2025

Webinar 37: **GIG-01, GIG-02, GIG-03**, *GEMS: opening the treasure chest of the European crystallographic community*, 22 May 2025

Webinar 38: **Lyndon Emsley**, *NMR unCrystallography: atomic-level structure determination of crystalline and amorphous molecular solids*, 13 November 2025

Webinar 39: **Andrew Kentaro Inge**, *Greener metal-organic framework synthesis inspired by century-old metallodrugs and promoted by 3D electron diffraction*, 18 December 2025

Webinar 40: **Boriana Mihailova**, *Perovskite-type ferroelectric solid solutions under high pressure: Insights into the nanoscale structure of “green” ferroelectrics*, 15 January 2026

Webinar 41: **Panče Naumov**, *Dynamic Organic Crystals*, 12 February 2026

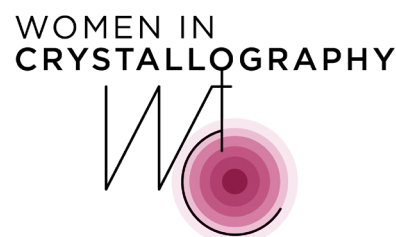
Video series Women in Crystallography

The series continued with four new inspiring stories of women in this field of science, recorded and made available with the help of GIG-03 of ECA and support from The Royal Society of Chemistry (<https://www.youtube.com/@ECA-Crystal/videos>):

Helena Butkiewicz, *Detecting the unseen: living with neurological disorder*
Nabila Jarmouni, *Knowledge knows no borders, no barriers, only endless horizons* and **Vincentia Agbemeh**, *From Ghana to Italy: a journey through my scientific career*

Gihan Kamel, *SESAME: A Pillar of Hope in Times of Turmoil*

Natalia Alvarez, *My scientific roller coaster ride: from imagination to reality*



Video contest for high school students

The video contest for schoolchildren with a focus on crystal growth, organized by GIG-03 of ECA and sponsored by ECA and CCDC, continued for its second year. Three prizes were awarded in two age categories, 11-15 and 15-18. The winners' videos are available here: <https://ecanews.org/blog/2025/07/25/results-of-the-second-european-crystallography-video-contest/>.



students.

Satellite meeting Crystallography in School

The third edition of an ECM satellite meeting focused on crystallography teaching in schools “Crystallography in School” was held by GIG-03 of ECA in Poznań, Poland, on 25-26 August 2025. The workshop offered shared experience from crystallography teaching, talks on application of crystallography in different areas, and hands-on tutorials for

Distinguished Lectures on Quantum Crystallography and Complementary Fields

The very successful series of online lectures “Distinguished Lectures on Quantum Crystallography and Complementary Fields”, delivered by SIG-02 of ECA, has continued with a rich portfolio of lectures touching some basic questions and applications of quantum crystallography across many other fields of science (<https://qcrwebinar.chem.uw.edu.pl/>)

Lecture 47: **Benoît Guillot**, *Quantum Crystallography for Macromolecular Systems: Applications and Recent Developments*, April 10, 2025

Lecture 48: **Malgorzata Biczysko**, *Optimal Clustering for Quantum-Based Refinement of Biomacromolecules*, April 10, 2025

Lecture 49: **Deepak Chopra**, *The Role of Quantum Crystallography in the Understanding of the Role of Weak Intermolecular Interactions Involving Organic Fluorine*, May 22, 2025

Lecture 50: **Christopher J. Bardeen**, *Photomechanical Molecular Crystals as Actuators and Motors*, May 22, 2025

Lecture 51: **Yuri Grin**, *Chemical Bond in Intermetallic Compounds: an Electron Density-Based Position-Space Approach*, October 16, 2025

Lecture 52: **Florian Kleemiss**, *Enabling Everyday Chemical Applications of Quantum Crystallography - Spin-State Determination and Fast Results*, November 20, 2025

Lecture 53: **Jane S. Murray**, *The Electrostatic Potential and Its Use in Quantum Crystallography: A Timeline*, November 20, 2025

Lecture 54: **Venkatesha R. Hathwar**, *Quantifying Weak Interactions in Organic and Hybrid Solids to Understand the Structure-Property Correlations*, January 29, 2026

Lecture 55: **Russell J. Hemley**, *Emergent Phenomena Under Pressure: Toward Hot Superconductivity*, January 29, 2026

Lecture 56: **Bartolomeo Civalleri**, *Hybrid HF/DFT Composite Methods for Large-Scale Solid State Calculations with Localized Basis Functions*, March 5, 2026

Lecture 57: **Anna I. Krylov**, *The Magic of X-Rays*, March 5, 2026

ECA Governance

Executive Committee members (as elected in August 2024)

President – Dr Arie van der Lee (Université de Montpellier)

Immediate past president – Prof. Marijana Đaković (University of Zagreb)

Vice-president – Dr Jan Dohnálek (Institute of Biotechnology AS CR, Vestec near Prague)

Secretary – Dr Andy Maloney (Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre)

Treasurer – Prof. Antonia Neels (Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, Dübendorf; University of Fribourg)

Education coordinator – Dr Maria José Sanchez Barrena (Instituto de Química Física “Blas Cabrera”, Madrid)

Officer (SIG, GIG, IM) – Prof. Chiara Massera (University of Parma)

Officer (National members) – Assoc. Prof. Katarzyna Jarzemska (University of Warsaw)

Officer (Grants) – Dr Klaudia Hradil (TU Wien)

Officer (Webmaster) – Dr Andrea Ienco (Istituto di Chimica dei Composti Organo-Metallici, Sesto Fiorentino)



Executive Committee members present at the winter meeting, Prague Congress Centre, February 2026.

Council meeting

The ECA Council met at the occasion of the ECM35 congress in Poznań on 26 and 28 August 2025. The following key decisions/changes were approved by voting, apart from the annual reports:

- Approval of a new SIG-16 - Magnetic Crystallography
- Approval of the bid for organization of ECS12 (June 2027) at the Diamond Light Source, United Kingdom
- Approval of the ECA Scholarship program, including the financial limits for scholarship awards
- Approval of the GEMS: GIGs ECA Mentoring Scheme

Other issues discussed based on reports and proposals (without binding decisions) included: student accommodation during ECMs, national memberships of several countries, and the possibility to make national crystallographic events visible via the ECA website.

Executive Committee meetings

The Executive Committee of ECA met three times during the reporting period to discuss all ECA matters, including reporting and planning of events, grant applications, changes in organization and finances.

Online meeting, 6 June 2025

The main agenda points of this online meeting included preparations for the upcoming ECM35 in Poznań, upcoming prize awards, the proposal for the new SIG-16 Magnetic Crystallography, discussion on the proposal for the ECA Scholarship programme, potential venue and organization of ECS12, and suspension of national memberships of Tunisia, Turkey, and Algeria.

Poznań, 25 & 29 August 2025

The Executive Committee met twice on the occasion of ECM35 in Poznań. The main points discussed were a change of the Scholarship Fund to “donations”, the national memberships of Algeria, Tunisia, and Romania, proposal, financial support, and organization of the proposed ECA Scholarship programme, progress reports for ECM36 in Prague in 2027 and ECM37 in Athens in 2028, potential bids for ECM38, publicity of ECA at ECMs, reports, progress reports and bids for ECS organization, communication with SIGs and GIGs and preparation of IPC meeting for ECM36, grants for workshops and conferences, Travel and Accommodation grants, and options for opening an ECA savings account. Details of key points to be presented to the ECA Council were agreed, including the presentation of the proposals of the ECA Scholarship programme and of the GEMS mentoring scheme.

Prague, 14 & 15 February 2026

A primary focus of the meeting was the ECA's core activities: ECMs and ECSs, grants and financial assistance for schools, workshops, and outreach initiatives, overall financial strategy, including a resolution to open a savings account, and discussion of some national memberships. The organizers of ECM35 (Lviv/Poznań, Ukraine/Poland) presented a report on the congress's organization, while the organizers of the upcoming ECM36 in Prague and ECM37 in Athens provided updates on their progress since August 2025. Additionally, ECA booths and visibility at conferences, and ECM38 options were discussed. There was also discussion of a new Sheldrick Award initiated by the American Union of Crystallography and recent communication between ECA and AUC to work toward a more unified approach regarding the ECA and AUC Sheldrick prizes. Organizational details and amendments for the 2026 round of ECA Scholarships were agreed. Other topics covered were communication with IGs, new proposal for a SIG focused on Mathematical Crystallography, ECS11 and ECS12 preparation progress, and potential bids for ECS13 and ECS14, ECA website management, changes to the presence of ECA on social media, and a new LinkedIn account of ECA and its management.

New activities

ECA Scholarships

To support early career crystallographers, exchange of knowledge and development of the field of crystallography, a new ECA Scholarship program was launched, inviting PhD students and young post-docs (ECA Individual Members) to apply for support of stays in a laboratory of another country within the ECA region (https://ecanews.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/ECA_Scholarship_program-2025.pdf). The program was formulated by the Executive Committee and approved by the Council in Poznań in August 2025. The first round of the call and applications was realized in September-November 2025 and two scholarships were awarded for realization in 2026, supporting projects of Sebastian Friedl, University of Göttingen and Giovanna Barrionuevo Martins, Newcastle University (<https://ecanews.org/blog/2025/12/06/eca-scholarship-2026-awards/>).

ECA Mentoring Scheme

A new mentoring scheme called GEMS (GIGs ECA Mentoring Scheme) was approved in August 2025 by the Council, to provide mentoring opportunities for association members, primarily early-stage crystallographers (<https://ecanews.org/gig-01/gems/>). It started its pilot season in October 2025, with three pairs of mentors and mentees and covered various topics, ranging from facing career challenges to setting realistic goals, establishing a group, or writing grants.



Outlook for the upcoming period

The calendar of the ECA-related future events has been extended by the newly approved organization of the European Crystallographic School 12 at the Diamond Light Source, June, 2027.

Upcoming events of ECA

ECS11, Stockholm, Sweden, 28 June - 4 July 2026
ECA Council meeting, on-line, 21 and 22 September 2026
ECS12, Diamond Light Source, United Kingdom, June 2027
ECM36, Prague, Czech Republic, 23-28 August 2027
ECM37, Athens, Greece, 27-31 August 2028