

Growing a new generation of crystallographers across Europe and beyond

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The European Crystallographic Association (ECA) gathers 37 national crystallographic associations spanning N/S from Norway to South Africa, and W/E from Portugal to Russia, across Europe, Africa and Near East regions [1]; the main aim of the ECA is the promotion of crystallography across this lively and diverse scientific communities. Organizing and empowering crystallographic education and the involvement of young people and especially young women is one of the major priorities that has emerged in the recent years within the ECA in order to strengthen the interest of the young researchers towards our discipline, and to train the next generations of scientists. The burst of outreach and educational initiatives organized within the ECA region during the International Year of Crystallography in 2014 has allowed to identify some lines of action that the ECA is consolidating in the next future.

These actions will be presented and discussed in this contribution, and include: the initiation of the European Crystallographic Schools (ECS) program, addressed to graduated students and young researchers; the activation of a General Interest Group of Young Crystallographers, who are establishing a strong network helping to build the future of our discipline; the activation of a General Interest Group on Education in Crystallography, which supervises and triggers educational and outreach initiatives; the unprecedented attempt to organize children friendly European Crystallographic Meetings, which will be launched in 2018 in Oviedo, allowing researchers' families to actively take part to the ECMs thus facilitating young women participation.

Other remarkable examples of outreach and educational activities in the ECA region will also be reviewed.

[1] ECA website: <http://ecanews.org/>

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