

*Educational and outreach projects of the croatian association of crystallographers*

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Croatian Association of Crystallographers (CAC) [1] is a professional association founded in 2012 with an objective to endorse excellence, encourage co-operation, facilitate international contacts and exchange and support career developments within the Croatian crystallographic community, as well as to promote the achievements and importance of crystallography towards the general public. These goals are being achieved by an intense programme of international workshops, summer schools, seminars, conferences and other scientific and professional gatherings, as well as educational activities oriented towards the school children and promotional activities in the mainstream media. From Sep. 2017 to Sep. 2018 CAC, endorsed by the city of Zagreb, will organize a series of ten monthly seminars under the brand name International crystallographic seminars in Zagreb, where the successful PhD students and postdocs working in the field of crystallography and related disciplines at the universities and public research centres across the region of South Eastern Europe will have the opportunity to present their research. In order to tackle fascinating recent achievements and developments, which put crystallography to the front lines of the natural sciences CAC has developed the a unique concept of a high level workshop under the brand Hot Topics in Contemporary Crystallography [2]. It is intended to the utterly ambitious PhD students and postdocs, as well as to the young crystallographers in the early stages of their autonomous carriers, conducting their research within the broad spectrum of disciplines and sub disciplines related to crystallography. The first edition, with 6 lecturers and 27 students, was held from May 10th to 15th, 2014 in Šibenik, Croatia and it was a central event to mark the UN proclaimed International year of crystallography in Croatia. The second edition - HTCC2017, was held in Poreč, from Apr. 22nd to 26th, 2017 with the participation of 7 lecturers and 25 students. In 2014 and in 2017, CAC has, with the generous support of Pliva Inc. – member of TEVA group, co-organized the school contest in crystal growth called "The beauty of crystal faces" intended to students of elementary and secondary schools across Croatia. Both contests were amazingly popular among the children and young people, as more than 150 schools were involved in both contests. The chemicals were distributed to those who had applied, the school teams were established, led by chemistry or physics teachers, and the experiments were conducted. 3rd European Crystallographic School (ECS3) [3], organized jointly by ECA and CAC, was held in Bol, Croatia, from Sep. 25th to Nov. 2nd, 2016. ECS3 had 116 registered participants. 29th European Crystallographic Meeting (ECM29), organized jointly by CAC and ECA was held under the patronage of the Ministry of science, education and sports of the Republic of Croatia, in Rovinj, Croatia, from Aug. 23rd to Aug. 28th, 2015.

[1] <http://hrvatska-udruga-kristalograf.hr>

[2] <http://htcc2017.org>

[3] <http://ecs3.ecanews.org>



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