

The road to the association of albanian crystallographers

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The IUCr-UNESCO Bruker OpenLab Albania [1], held at Tirana (Albania) on May 30 - June 3, 2016, represented a fundamental step in the process for the establishment of the Association of Albanian Crystallographers (AAC, www.aac-cryst.eu), which has now formally been founded and includes crystallographers from both Albania and Kosovo. The OpenLab followed the success of events organized in Albania during IYCr2014, namely the International Conference "New Frontiers of Nanomaterial Technologies for Applications in Biology and Medicine" and the 1st Workshop on Crystallography, held in conjunction with the 20th Congress of the Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association. At that time, the local community of crystallographers, with Dritan Siliqi (IC-CNR, Bari, Italy and member of AIC) and Michele Zema (IUCr and member of AIC) as facilitators, formed the OPAL (Organization for the Promotion of Crystallography in Albania) working group, which was then extended thanks to the participation of crystallographers from Kosovo, and finally converged into the AAC. The AAC is now a national member of the ECA and has applied for membership of the IUCr. Challenging the needs for crystallographic research, the AAC is supported by Ministry of Education and Science of Albania, the Polytechnic University of Tirana (Albania) and the University of Prishtina (Kosovo). With more than 30 senior researches active in crystallography interdisciplinary studies, part of departments or research institutes of universities in Albania and Kosovo, the network in the region is gaining more supports. The AAC wish to thank the IUCr, UNESCO, the Italian Crystallographic Association (AIC), the European Crystallographic Association (ECA) and the IC-CNR, Bari for their continuous support to all the activities held in Albania during the past years.

[1] Dida, B., Siliqi, D & Zema, M. (2016). IUCr Newsletter, Volume 24, Number 3.

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