

Social media for the growth of a scientific community: the case of the Italian Young Crystallographers Group

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The Italian Young Crystallographers (trad. Giovani Cristallografi Italiani aka GCI) group was formally established in 2018 driven by the need of having a common place for students and young researchers to share their experiences and develop a common sense of affiliation to the main national association.

However, the possibility to meet each other at conferences and congresses are rather modest even without the well-known pandemic constrains, so, we decided to use social media to share information among the community on a regular basis. The social media platforms soon became a virtual place where young generation of crystallographers are informed of job vacancies around the world, promote their latest research and enrich their crystallographic knowledge.

As a consequence, the number of younger scientists associated increased significantly in the last two years and the GCI, fully supported by the national crystallographic association, plays a central role in all the scientific activities organized locally and at the national level.

I here report the strategies used to develop the social media platforms and the initiative promoted by GCI to engage young researchers in crystallography.

Keywords: Social Media; Young Crystallographers; Scientific community growth.

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