

## Supplementary Information

# The European Young Chemists' Meeting: A Platform for Connecting and Empowering Early-Career Chemists

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### “Organizing a conference for early-career scientists on the example of the EYChem”

**Timeframe for the organization:** Each EYChem is hosted by a different national chemical society. The organization starts with the expression of interest and a proposal by the organizing committee of the hosting country, which is selected during the EYCN Delegate Assembly (DA). Thereafter, the organizing committee proceeds with the organization by engaging a local support team that operates through task groups. This can involve the scientific committee, who is involved in the preparation of the scientific program, the IT management, responsible for designing and launching the website, and local management, for reserving accommodation and organizing social events, among others. The program is gradually defined through discussions with the invited speakers and the engagement of the committee, as well as based on the final registrations of the participants. A timeframe for these different steps is illustrated in Figure S1.



**Figure S1.** Tentative timeframe for the organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYChem in Fribourg, Switzerland.

**Conference Profile:** Conferences need to keep a coherent profile and, therefore, those organized by and for early-career scientists face the specific challenge that their board has a relatively high turnover-rate. Board members often only remain active for a few years until they move to the next career step. To maintain a coherent profile, it is essential that the previous organizing committee keeps close contact with the organizers of the upcoming conference. This fosters consistency, helps with planning, and ensures knowledge transfer. For many participants, conferences for young scientists, like the EYChem, are their first-ever scientific conference. Therefore, there should be a special focus on providing an inspiring, inclusive, diverse, equitable, and memorable conference experience.

**Local Support:** To realize a successful conference, local support is critical. Multinational conferences, like the EYChem, therefore need national support in setting up and advertising the conference. The pan-European EYCN is based on national member associations and, hence, it organizes the EYChem in close proximity with local groups. Since the conference venue changes regularly, national member associations are an indispensable source of local support. This especially refers to the organization of social activities, such as conference dinners, which requires close contact and communication with the on-site support.

**Organizing Structure:** Besides the local and national support, the selection of the members of the organizing committee is key to ensuring a smooth and successful organization of a scientific conference. They should be motivated, committed, and have complementary knowledge and experience to address the different tasks behind organizing a successful event both prior to and during the conference. Some of the important tasks involve: (i) creating a website and a logo for the conference, (ii) defining a scientific committee; (iii) making a list of scientific topics to define the scope of the conference; (iv) defining the list of plenary and invited speakers, contacting them, and arrange their travel and accommodation; (v) promoting the conference via social media channels, mailing lists, newsletters; (vi) defining the financial strategy to ensure a sustainable event; (vii) defining the technical program; (viii) preparing administrative and conference materials.

**Delegate Assemblies:** In addition to the regular scientific program, many conferences organized by scientific organizations have their annual Delegate Assembly as part of their program. The EYChem conventionally follows the

annual EYCN DA. At the DA, the delegates from member societies present the activities performed locally by their own young chemists' associations in the preceding year, discuss current issues, plan ongoing projects, welcome new members, and elect their team leaders and board members for the upcoming year. Moreover, the team leaders present the team members and communicate the projects and activities developed in the preceding year to all delegates.

**Additional information about the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYChem:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> EYChem has been postponed to 2022 to allow for a safe and healthy scientific exchange and in-person experience for young scientists.<sup>[31]</sup> It will be organized in Fribourg, Switzerland, by the youngSCS and their parent organization, the SCS, with the support of the EYCN. Moreover, being organized in close cooperation with the local groups, the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYChem will be coupled with the Swiss Snow Symposium. It will host exciting speakers and a wide variety of social activities specifically designed to nurture communication, foster networking and collaboration among peers, and promote personal and cultural exchange.<sup>[31]</sup>

**Table S1.** Chemistry conferences for early-career scientists. The conferences labeled as national refer to those mainly advertised on a national level and in which the majority of participants work in the host country.

Name	Topic	Organizational Body	Location	Scope
Annual International Conference of Young Scientists	General	The Global Young Academy	Online	International
ChemCYS – Chemistry Conference for Young Scientists	General Chemistry	The Royal Flemish Chemical Society - KVCV	Blankenberge (Belgium)	International/National
28 <sup>th</sup> SCI Young Chemist in Industry 2021	Chemistry at the Industry/Academia Interface	SCIs Young Chemists' Panel	Online / UK(Past)	National
Young Chemists Summit	General Chemistry	Gesellschaft Österreichischer Chemiker - Jungchemiker	Austria	National
Swiss Snow Symposium	General Chemistry	Swiss Chemical Society - ySCS	Switzerland	National
Frühjahrssymposium	General Chemistry	Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker - Jungchemikerforum JCF	Germany	National
Portuguese Young Chemists Meeting (PYChem)	General Chemistry	Grupo de Químicos Jovens da Sociedade Portuguesa de Química - GQJ/SPQ	Portugal	National
Simposio Jóvenes Investigadores Químicos RSEQ-Sigma Aldrich (Merck)	General Chemistry	Jóvenes Investigadores Químicos de Real Sociedad Española de Química - JIQ-RSEQ	Spain	National