

Report of the IUPAC Committee of Chemistry Education (CCE) meeting on July 12th 2026

The annual meeting of the IUPAC's Committee of Chemistry Education (CCE) was held in Erzurum, Turkey, on July 12th 2026 in "Tebrizkapı Salonu", Ata Practice Hotel, at Atatürk University, Yakutiye Erzurum. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting. Uday Maitra, as the chair of CCE, opened and chaired the meeting and Felix Ho was acting as the secretary. In total there were 17 participants in person (national representatives and titular members), in addition to 7 observers. 12 people attended by Zoom.

Attention was paid to the role of associate members, on how they could help to bridge the different divisions within IUPAC. Better collaboration between the committees and the divisions are needed and the new structure of IUPAC should help reduce siloing. A briefing by the IUPAC president, Professor Mary Garson was given online. The physical office in North Carolina has closed and is in the process of being moved to Europe (Rome & Malaga). There will be a forthcoming article in *Chemistry International* about the history of the Secretariat in North Carolina. Staff interview in Europe is underway. Mary Garson reported that over 30 new projects have started in 2026 and she strongly encouraged all members to keep this up. During the special online council meeting held online on July 21st 2026 the 2026-27 budget was approved. Reduced staff costs with the site move to Europe, and membership are due to be frozen at 2026 levels.

There has been an increase in IUPAC memberships, with national adhering organizations having increased to 60. There will likely be approximately twice the amount of available (project) funds for the next period. The statutes, bylaws and standing orders will need to be revised. The divisional elections would be deferred until these are finalised and adopted at the Montreal 2027 council meeting. The associate member (AM) position will become mostly obsolete, except potentially for involving specific individuals in some cases.

There was a discussion about the restructuring of IUPAC and concerns about losing the sense of belonging within their division/committee context was raised. Division meetings can be more concise, and CCE (from January 2028 included as a division: the chemistry education and outreach division) will be more embedded and the collaboration with other divisions will be improved. The council approved the following lineup of Divisions of IUPAC, to take effect on 1 January 2028. The complete set of Divisions of the Union are the following: Physical and Computational Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Polymer Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Chemistry and the Environment, Chemistry and Human Health, Digital Standards in Chemistry, and Chemistry Education and Outreach. The complete set of standing committees of the Union are the following: Finance Committee, Committee on Publications, Industry Liaison Group, Committee on Ethics, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, International Younger Chemists'

Network, Project Committee, Evaluation Committee, Interdivisional Committee on Terminology, and Nomenclature and Symbols.

Chemistry education in formal and informal settings was discussed. These are chemistry outreach, research and practice domains of science education and science communication. Discussion on the distinctions and overlaps between formal education, informal education and outreach was carried out. In addition, reflections on how to choose relevant measures of impact, and how to measure these in practice were done. Clearly a challenge in outreach, and both quantitative and qualitative measures are relevant but also important to not only care about impact that can be measured against institutional expectations – there are also more that can be relevant. CCE currently has much expertise in education, but less regarding outreach and scientific communication, which are also own areas of expertise. CCE needs to recruit and involve more members of such experts in the CCE pool of expertise in the proposed new IUPAC structure. Another important aspect to consider is what CCE can bring as added value that is additional to activities and initiatives that other national and regional bodies are already engaged in. Focus should be on where these opportunities and unique contributions of CCE can be, not just overlapping with what is already done.

Seven priority areas have been distilled and proposed for the whole of IUPAC. Currently the most relevant for CCE is “Advance chemistry education as a driver of scientific progress, professional excellence, and sustainable innovation in the chemical sciences and industry (2030)”. The existing aims and priorities of CCE was discussed and compared with the draft of IUPAC priority areas. The reference to “chemical sciences and industries” was also discussed. A working group within CCE will be formed to discuss this in more detail.

The journal Chemistry Teacher International (CTI) was discussed and the issue of expanding into China was elaborated. The issue of challenges in recruiting associate editors was raised, and this is a challenge not only for CTI but also other IUPAC journals.

The 28th ICCE conference (July 13 – 17, 2026) Erzurum, Türkiye had a very good submission rate with ~350 initially accepted. However, due to situations in the region and travel advisories that had been issued by different countries, as well as for financial reasons, around 100 submissions were ultimately withdrawn. About 150 international and 120 Turkish participants were registered and 46 countries were represented.

The next ICCE conference, the 29th ICCE (July 10-14, 2028) will be held in Spain, chaired by Ernesto de Jesús Alcañiz. Two committees need to be created: the international advisory board and the scientific committee. The former to focus on general aspects of the conference’s scientific orientation, symposia, workshops, and potential invited speakers. The latter would be more focused on coming up with the initial proposals for the international advisory board to consider. The preliminary program, budget calculations and coming timeline were outlined. Currently the organizers are working on financial support to keep

the conference registration fee as low as possible for students and schoolteachers, and to allow for possible single day participation fees. The idea was put forward to have associated workshops for schoolteachers even without their attendance at the conference. Possible visa issues for attending in person were also raised.

The current projects and (soon-to-be) concluded projects, led by CCE, were outlined. The project leaders that were present at the meeting presented an overview of the progress of their respective project. The issue of the procedure for becoming part of a project was raised. The communication is not always clear and the procedure for how to express interest and commit to a project should be clarified and harmonized. The project leader can be more explicit about what expertise they are looking for from the CCE, and those interested in becoming part of a project can also be more explicitly justify why they should be involved. A balance needs to be struck between being explicit and clear about the process and not being too administratively burdensome so that it becomes off-putting. Another feedback was broader involvement and representation of committee members, rather than the tendency for the same people to be involved in projects.

CCE's budget allocation was only available until 30 June 2026 and no allocation for the second half of the year has been decided yet. At this stage the calculation of available funds is underway. The CCE has committed all its budget to date.

Upcoming conferences related to chemistry education are the World IUPAC Congress in Montreal on 9-16 July 2027, the NICE conference in Melbourne on 19-22 July 2027, the Australian conference on science and mathematics education in September yearly (mainly Australian and NZ participants), and the African Conference on Research in Chemistry Education on 11-14 Oct 2026 in Ghana. In relation to these conferences, possible increased collaboration between CCE and EuChemS was discussed. The next in-person CCE meeting of the full committee will tentatively be on Thursday, 8th July 2027 in Montreal before the next IUPAC GA meeting.

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