

National Institute for Research-Development  
in Chemistry and Petrochemistry - ICECHIM



The exploratory workshop  
“NeXT-Chem INNOVATIVE CROSS-  
SECTORAL TECHNOLOGIES” VIII

Splaiul Independenței 202, district 6, Bucharest



Event organized in collaboration with



**Romanian Chemical Society**



European Chemical Society

*Event organized under the High Patronage of the  
Technical Sciences Academy of Romania.*



**Academia de Stiinte  
Tehnice din Romania**

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# PUBLIC REPORT

## **NeXT-Chem VIII – Innovative Cross-Sectoral Technologies**

**25–26 May 2026, Bucharest, Romania**

### **1. About the Event**

The National Institute for Research and Development in Chemistry and Petrochemistry – ICECHIM Bucharest successfully organized the **8th edition of the Exploratory Workshop “NeXT-Chem: Innovative Cross-Sectoral Technologies”**, held on 25–26 May 2026 in a hybrid format, bringing together young researchers, doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, senior scientists, and innovation stakeholders from Romania and abroad.

Recognized by the **European Chemical Society (EuChemS)** and organized in collaboration with the **Romanian Chemical Society**, under the High Patronage of the **Technical Sciences Academy of Romania**, NeXT-Chem has become one of ICECHIM’s flagship initiatives dedicated to scientific communication, research excellence, and the development of future generations of scientists.

### **2. Participation and international reach**

The 2026 edition gathered in the two days of the workshop:

- **56 onsite participants;**
- **90 online participants;**

including **10 international participants**.

Participants represented universities, research institutes, innovation organizations, and industry partners from Romania and abroad. The event welcomed

contributions from researchers from several countries, including Kazakhstan and Pakistan, further strengthening its international profile.

### **3. Scientific Programme**

NeXT-Chem VIII featured **38 peer-reviewed scientific contributions**, covering a broad range of interdisciplinary topics, including multifunctional materials, nanocomposites, biotechnology, biorefinery, sustainable technologies, cultural heritage conservation, and digital chemistry.

The workshop included keynote lectures delivered by internationally recognized experts:

- Prof. Venkata S. R. Jampani (Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia);
- Dr. Radu Claudiu Fierăscu (ICECHIM Bucharest);
- Dr. Bogdan Ștefan Vasile (National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest);
- Dr. Jelena Djokikj and Tamara Stefanovska (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje);
- representatives of the Romanian Chemical Society and EuChemS.

The programme also addressed emerging topics such as research assessment reform (CoARA), sustainable product design, advanced characterization techniques, and science communication.

### **4. Awards and recognition**

To encourage excellence among young researchers, several awards were granted:

#### **Innovation Award**

- Oana-Adriana Petcuță

- Maria-Antonia Tănase
- Elena Filipoiu

### **Special Award**

- Valentin Virgil
- Ana-Lorena Neagu
- Mihai Răducă

### **Future Science Award**

- Diana Luță
- Ana-Maria Buzatu
- Cătălina-Florentina Ștefan

### **Romanian Chemical Society Award**

- Mihai Bordeiașu
- Emilian Ghibu

### **Europa Award**

- Elnaz Smadyarova
- Ermuhammed Erlik

### **“Raluca Ianchiș” Award**

- Laura-Nicoleta Dragomir.

## **5. Outreach Activity for Secondary School Teachers**

As part of the NeXT-Chem VIII satellite programme, ICECHIM hosted a dedicated outreach event for chemistry and physics teachers from Galați County, Romania (34 teachers participating in the activity).

The initiative aimed to strengthen connections between the research community and the pre-university education sector, offering teachers the opportunity to visit a national research institute, interact directly with researchers, and gain first-hand insight into contemporary scientific research.

During the visit, participants learned about ICECHIM's history, mission, research infrastructure, and recent scientific achievements. Special attention was given to the role of research and innovation in addressing societal challenges and supporting sustainable development.

The programme also included demonstrations of digital educational tools and innovative teaching approaches designed to increase students' interest in chemistry and physics. Discussions highlighted the importance of effective science communication and modern educational practices in inspiring future generations of scientists.

For many participants, this was their first visit to a research institute, making the event an important step towards strengthening the dialogue between research organizations and the educational community.

By including dedicated outreach activities alongside its scientific programme, NeXT-Chem VIII reaffirmed ICECHIM's commitment not only to scientific excellence, but also to public engagement, science education, and the promotion of scientific culture among future generations.

## **6. Impact and Legacy**

NeXT-Chem VIII continued ICECHIM's mission of supporting open, inclusive, and responsible scientific development. The workshop provided a valuable environment for presenting research results, exchanging ideas, building professional networks, and developing communication and leadership skills among young scientists.

By fostering dialogue between academia, research organizations, industry, and professional societies, NeXT-Chem contributes directly to strengthening Romania's scientific ecosystem and to integrating young researchers into the European Research Area.

ICECHIM remains committed to expanding this initiative and further developing NeXT-Chem as a regional platform for scientific excellence, innovation, and international collaboration.











Event recognized by



**EuChemS (the European Chemical Society)** serves as a platform for scientific exchange and as a unified, impartial voice on chemistry-related policy matters across Europe. Bringing together over 160,000 chemists from more than 40 member societies and chemistry related organisations, EuChemS benefits from a diverse and active network of researchers across all areas of chemistry. This network supports the organisation of various specialised scientific conferences, as well as the EuChemS Chemistry Congress, a major European event held every two years that brings together chemists from across the continent.

In addition to its scientific mission, EuChemS is committed to raising awareness of the role and importance of chemistry. It engages with both the public and policy-makers through social media, newsletters, events, and open workshops. By promoting chemistry and offering reliable scientific input, EuChemS aims to contribute meaningfully to addressing key societal challenges.

For more information, please visit [www.euchems.eu](http://www.euchems.eu) or contact EuChemS at:

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[twitter.com/EuCheMS](https://twitter.com/EuCheMS)

Event held under high patronage of the Technical Sciences Academy of Romania



# Academia de Științe Tehnice din România

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## Technical Sciences Academy of Romania

The **Technical Sciences Academy of Romania (ASTR)**, an academic forum for the professional consecration of elites in the field of engineering, an institution of public interest, with legal personality under public law, autonomous, is involved in important scientific and technical issues of society, at the request of the authorities or on its own initiative. ASTR's mission is to promote engineering sciences, technical creation, industrial development and the improvement of engineering education for the benefit of society.

For more information, please visit [www.astr.ro](http://www.astr.ro) or contact ASTR at:

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<https://www.facebook.com/astr1997>

Partner:



## Societatea de Chimie din ROMANIA

The Romanian Chemical Society (SChR), a long-standing partner of scientific events organized by the National Institute for Research & Development in Chemistry and Petrochemistry – ICECHIM Bucharest, and a proud member of EuChemS, brings together professionals with a background in higher education working in research, education, industry, and other sectors relevant to chemistry and society.

Its goals include promoting chemistry in all its aspects and organizing scientific events such as communication sessions, symposia, seminars, workshops, conferences, and congresses, both nationally and internationally.

SChR has been organizing annual scientific events for both early-career and established chemists, and publishing materials of interest to the chemistry community since 1992. Noteworthy is the initiative to compile the “Chemical Bibliography in Romania”, which records all original works published nationally, complete with accurate references. Additionally, significant scientific results have been published in the “Bulletin of Pure and Applied Chemistry”, in international languages.

The Romanian Chemical Society is strongly committed to supporting not only established researchers but also young scientists at the beginning of their careers. It does so by offering awards for outstanding contributions during the scientific events it co-organizes and supports.

For more information, please visit [www.schr.ro](http://www.schr.ro) or contact the Romanian Chemical Society at:

Romanian Chemical Society (Societatea de Chimie din România)

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