



PiCSU25 Final Report

Event: PiCSU2025 symposium

Date: January 14-17, 2025

Location: Plesso Enrica Calabresi - Via Edoardo Detti, 3, Sesto Fiorentino (FI)

1. Summary

This report describes the organisation and execution of the PiCSU25 event, which took place at the Sesto Fiorentino Polo Scientifico from 14 to 17 January 2025. In its fourth year, PiCSU is a scientific conference for doctoral students in Chemical Sciences at the University of Florence, providing an opportunity to share knowledge and present their research findings. As in previous years, the symposium was organised entirely by doctoral students, providing an important opportunity for scientific discussion and engagement with the academic community, as well as interdisciplinary exchange within the Doctoral Programme in Chemical Sciences. In this sense, PiCSU 2025 represented a significant educational opportunity as well as a moment of scientific sharing. The primary objective of the initiative was to promote the dissemination of ongoing research activities and to foster dialogue between the various thematic areas covered in the doctoral programme. The event brought together over 90 doctoral students from all active cycles of the programme, providing them with the opportunity to present their projects and ongoing research in a formal scientific context. The conference was held in a hybrid format, with most participants attending in person and some connecting remotely.

1.1. Organizing Committee:

- Andrea Sodini (XXXVIII cycle)
- Leonardo Tacconi (XXXVIII cycle)
- Silvia Bracci (XXXIX cycle)
- Matilde Rossi (XXXIX cycle)
- Simone Ventisette (XXXIX cycle)



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- Samuele Baldini (XXXIX cycle)
- Lapo Querci (XXXIX cycle)

1.2. Event participants

First-year doctoral students (cycle XL) took part in poster sessions, presenting an overview of their research projects or preliminary results, and engaging with colleagues and faculty during dedicated coffee breaks on 15th and 16th January. Second- and third-year doctoral students, as well as those in the final phase of their programme (cycles XXXIX, XXXVIII and XXXVII), gave oral presentations spread across the four days of the symposium. A total of 73 oral contributions were presented, showcasing the breadth and diversity of the doctoral programme. These covered a broad spectrum of topics, ranging from fundamental to applied research in the chemical sciences. Contributions spanned areas such as molecular design, materials development, analytical methodologies, and emerging technologies for health and sustainability.

The quality and depth of the presentations highlighted the solid scientific training of the doctoral students. Each presentation averaged 10–15 minutes and was followed by a discussion between faculty members and doctoral students, contributing to a dynamic and participatory atmosphere. Each session was coordinated by other doctoral students, an approach that enhanced the collaborative nature of scientific exchange. The session chairs were as follows:

- Opening session: Andrea Sodini and Samuele Baldini
- Second day, morning: Yshtar Tecla Simonini Steiner and Matteo Orlandi.
- Second day, afternoon: Andrea Dali and Lapo Querci
- Third day, morning: Leonardo Tacconi and Matilde Rossi.
- Third day, afternoon: Prem Prakash Sahu and Lorenzo Pacini.
- Fourth day, morning: Simone Ventisette and Silvia Bracci
- Fourth day, afternoon: Leonardo Tacconi and Andrea Sodini

The rotation of session chairs, selected from members of the organising team and doctoral students who volunteered, further emphasised the important role of doctoral students in defining the scientific content and managing the event. The poster sessions, held on Wednesday 15 January and Thursday 16 January, gave first-year doctoral students the chance to present their research



projects and preliminary data in an open and informal setting. With 23 posters on display, these sessions fostered direct and fruitful discussions, as well as significant networking opportunities.

There were 96 participants at the event:

XXXVII Cycle	XXXVIII Cycle
Acar Mert Aquilia Sara Bonechi Marco Bracaglia Lorenzo Bucu Francesca Cabigliera Serena Benedetta Cappitti Alice Casoria Michele Cosottini Lucrezia Dali Andrea Fichera Michelangelo Gerace Alessandro Pacini Lorenzo Porcu Daniela Quagliata Micheal Sarti Chiara Simonini Steiner Yshtar Tecla Soto Bustamante Fernando Spena Riccardo Veneri Alessandro Verrucchi Margherita Vespignani Laura	Baroni Chiara Biffoli Fabio Bonaccorso Giulia Chiarugi Ilaria Cianci Chiara Ciuffi Benedetta Conti Laura De Santis Ilaria El Barkaoui Sofiane Fuochi Neri Gallorini Riccardo Gentilesca Pietro Geri Andrea Mancusi Francesca Mangini Chiara Mariani Elena Marino Margherita Milano Francesca Pappaianni Giulio Pavone Sara Quadrini Lorenzo Querci Leonardo Riccardi Mariano Sahu Prem Prakash Sforzi Laura Sodini Andrea Tacconi Leonardo Tino Angela Sofia Tordi Pietro Vitale Ilaria Antonia Zineddu Stefano



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XXXIX Cycle	XL Cycle
Agnoloni Giulia Albanesi Marta Baldini Samuele Beni Alice Bonavolontà Deborah Brenzini Biagioni Francesco Bracci Silvia Campagiorni Luca Ceccherini Valentina Gabellini Lapo Lulli Thomas Mumtaz Amina Orlandi Matteo Pacciani Valentina Prifti Georgia-Myrto Querci Lapo Rossi Matilde Tozzetti Martina Turchi Filippo Ventisette Simone Vieira Pedro Miguel Ascenso	Adamo Céline Baldi Chiara Baranger Emmanuel Bianchi Elisa Bigelli Consuelo Briganti Debora Calozzo Sara Carbone Mattia Chenin Quentin Giovani Claudia Gobbo Mariasole Guiggi Livia Isidoro Lorenzo Lunghi Irene Mohamedzakaria-Shibinasbarveen Naufia Montanari Francesco Morano Alessio Morozzi Sara Sartini Daniele Serventi Francesca Sestaioni Davide Siadohoni Shima Zhou Zhiyi

1.3. Event Objectives

The PiCSU25 event was intended to enhance the doctoral journey by encouraging students to share their experiences and approaches to research. In this sense, the symposium fostered an environment of active discussion, enhancing the visibility of individual works and strengthening dialogue between different scientific fields, while also consolidating a sense of belonging to the doctoral community. Furthermore, the initiative clearly served the purpose of facilitating personal and professional growth, offering participants the opportunity to develop skills in scientific communication, critical discussion and engagement with academic life.

1.4. Structure and Scientific Content

In addition to designing the programme and logistics, the committee edited the Book of Abstract, which contains all the oral and poster contributions and serves as the event's scientific documentation.



1.5. Funding and Financial Results

PiCSU25 was made possible thanks to a combination of institutional contributions and voluntary contributions raised within the academic community. Specifically, the organisation received a €400 grant from Professor Barbara Valtancoli's reference funds, a €300 grant from the Italian Chemical Society (SCI), an additional amount from the Doctoral Programme fund, and a total of €890 raised through the personal contributions of faculty members — equivalent to around €10 per doctoral student in their research groups.

These resources were used to cover the event's main organisational expenses. Specifically, contributions collected directly from faculty members were used to organise coffee breaks, purchase materials for printing badges and holders, produce promotional posters for the event and purchase prizes for the best oral and poster presentations.

The doctoral students organised the coffee breaks directly, personally overseeing the procurement of necessary supplies through purchases made at Coop Superstore, Via Petrosa 19/21/23, 50019 Sesto Fiorentino. This organisational structure enabled independent and flexible management of this aspect of the event, in keeping with the participatory nature of the symposium and the central role played by the doctoral students, including in logistical matters.

The remaining funds from faculty contributions, combined with those from the other funding channels listed above, covered the cost of the social event held at Cartabianca Caffè Firenze Nova on Via Panciatichi 49 in Florence. The event included a personalised buffet with a drink and unlimited water for each participant, costing €20 per person. With 60 confirmed participants, the total cost of this item was €1,200.

The event's budget was supported through shared resource management based on institutional support, voluntary faculty contributions and the direct commitment of doctoral students. This approach covered the costs of the symposium, ensuring the scientific and logistical aspects of the initiative were met, as well as providing a convivial event at the end. This was important for fostering further participation and cohesion within the doctoral community.



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1.6. Organizational activities carried out

Extensive coordination was required throughout all phases of the preparation and implementation of PiCSU25. This included defining the session schedule, collecting and coordinating contributions from participants, preparing information and identification materials for speakers and participants, and coordinating necessary communications before and during the symposium. Particular attention was paid to logistical and operational aspects, including space management, providing technical support for hybrid sessions, organising coffee breaks and the social event, and arranging prizes for the best oral and poster presentations. The organisation also played a significant role in managing the financial contributions raised to support the initiative, as well as procuring the materials necessary for the event to run smoothly. Overall, the organisational work was based on the direct and shared participation of doctoral students, who made a significant contribution to both the planning and the practical management of the symposium.

1.7. Premiazione

Three awards were given for the best scientific contributions following a vote among event attendees. Specifically, the following were awarded in the Best Oral Presentation category:

- Andrea Sodini (Cycle XXXVIII)
- Matilde Rossi (Cycle XXXIX)
- Sahu Prem Prakash (Cycle XXXVIII)

The following is awarded in the Best Poster category:

- Morano Alessio (Ci Cycle clo XL)



2. Activities Carried Out for the Organization and Realization of the Event

As previously mentioned, the entire organisational process of PiCSU25 was developed through the direct involvement of doctoral students. These students contributed to the planning activities, managed practical needs and coordinated the various phases of the symposium. This section outlines the main activities carried out in preparation for, and during, the symposium, with a focus on coordination, communication, logistical organisation, and operational support.

2.1. General Planning and Coordination

Collaboration between doctoral students from different cycles enabled organisational tasks to be distributed and the activities required for the symposium to be progressively advanced. This approach confirmed the participatory nature of the initiative and represented an important learning experience from organisational and interpersonal perspectives.

2.1.1. Call for Abstracts and Evaluation Process

During the preparatory phase of the symposium, the collection of abstracts from participants began, through a dedicated communication distributed by the organizing committee through the initiative's channels. The contributions received were then reviewed for inclusion in the program, taking into account their scientific relevance, consistency with the thematic areas of the symposium, and the innovative nature of the proposals.

2.1.2. Management of Oral and Poster Contributions

The contributions received were distributed across the various sessions according to a criterion that aimed to mix the different scientific areas represented in the doctoral programme. This made the programme more dynamic and encouraged broader discussion of different approaches and topics. Presentation times and dedicated discussion spaces were allocated to each presentation. Speakers were also provided with support in preparing their contributions and managing the technical aspects. The poster sessions were organised to encourage direct dialogue between authors and participants, promoting open and informal interaction.



2.2. Logistical and Technical Organization

2.2.1. Event Venue and Setup

The choice of venue was based on organisational needs and ensuring the symposium's activities were properly executed. Particular attention was paid to the layout of the rooms, the provision of useful participant orientation materials, and the management of shared spaces to ensure a welcoming and functional environment throughout the event.

2.2.2. Technical Services

Technical management was essential for the symposium to run smoothly, particularly with regard to ensuring continuity between presentations and resolving any operational issues promptly. Providing the tools used during the sessions enabled a consistent workflow and created suitable conditions for presentations and discussions.

2.3. Administrative and Financial Management

Securing the financial resources necessary to ensure the symposium's realisation was particularly important among the organisational activities. Financial support was obtained through collaboration with multiple sources, including institutional contributions and voluntary contributions from the academic community. This diversity of funding channels provided sufficient funds to cover the main expenditure items associated with the event. Budget management was based on the criteria of balance, functionality and organisational priorities. Available resources were allocated to cover the practical needs of hospitality and social events, as well as support materials and final awards. Cost coordination was a key component of the organisational activity within this framework, contributing significantly to the overall success of PiCSU25.

2.4. Communication

Another key aspect of the organisation was managing internal communications related to the symposium. Throughout the various preparatory phases, doctoral students were provided with all the necessary information regarding participation procedures, deadlines, programme



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structure and practical event-related details. Effective communication was crucial in ensuring coordination among participants and fostering informed and orderly participation in the event. Particular attention was paid to the clarity and timeliness of communications to ensure an effective flow of information and constant updates on all organisational aspects.

2.5. Social Event and Collateral Activities

One of the highlights of PiCSU25 was the organisation of the final social event, which was designed to provide a space for meeting outside of the strictly seminar context. This event provided participants with an additional opportunity to interact in a more relaxed setting, encouraging mutual understanding among doctoral students from various research areas and stages of their studies. Thus, the initiative helped to strengthen the community aspect of the doctoral programme by combining scientific activities with a tangible opportunity for socialising and personal interaction.

2.6. Awards and Recognitions

During the symposium, awards were presented for the best oral and poster presentations, to recognise the quality of the contributions and the commitment of the doctoral students to communicating their research. The awards ceremony was a significant part of the event, highlighting the scientific quality of the presentations and increasing engagement among participants throughout the various sessions.



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Place and date: Sesto Fiorentino (FI), 25/05/2025

PiCSU26 Organizing Committee

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Università di Firenze