



9<sup>th</sup> International Scientific School

## School of XFEL, Synchrotron and Neutron Radiation Users 2026 "SFEL2026"



28. 09. – 02. 10. 2026

Stará Lesná

Congress center of SAS Academia

## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

[www.sfel.sk](http://www.sfel.sk)

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The Slovak Republic, as part of the European Research Area, had and is interested in participating in the use of large international research infrastructures (Large Scale Facilities - LSFs), the construction and operation of which are far beyond the economic capabilities of individual EU countries, including the Slovak Republic. The most important LSFs, where Slovak scientists are interested in implementing cutting-edge scientific experiments, undoubtedly include: the extremely hard laser beam source **European XFEL Facility in Hamburg**, the most powerful neutron source - **ILL in Grenoble**, international synchrotron centers in Hamburg (**DESY**), Oxford (**Diamond**), Grenoble (**ESRF**), the European Solar Telescope (**EST**) planned for the Canary Islands, as well as others. With the participation of invited domestic and foreign experts, the priority objectives of the **SFEL2026** school include awareness of the latest technological developments and strategic development plans of the LSFs, their priority research topics for the period 2030+, as well as discussions on the method of preparing projects for applications for the implementation of experiments.

**The main organizers** of the event are the Faculty of Science at UPJŠ Košice, its National Contact Point for XFEL and European Research Infrastructures (NCP-XFEL) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic, European XFEL GmbH in Hamburg and ILL in Grenoble. Other cooperating institutions are published on the SFEL2026 website. The guarantor of the top scientific quality of SFEL2026 is the **International Advisory Committee**, the composition of which is published on the SFEL2026 website.

### Programme Committee:

Pavol Sovák (chairman)	NCPXFEL & UPJŠ, Košice
Karel Saksl (vice-chairman)	NCPXFEL & TUKE, Košice
Jozef Bednarčík (vice-chairman)	UPJŠ, Košice
Jozef Uličný	UPJŠ, Košice
Adriana Zeleňáková	UPJŠ, Košice
Sakura Pascarelli	E-XFEL, Hamburg
Norbert Kučerka	NCPXFEL & CU, Bratislava
Daniela Uhríková	CU, Bratislava
Nad'a Mrkývková	NCPXFEL & IP SAS, Bratislava

Imrich Barák  
Peter Gömöry  
Juraj Krempaský

NCPXFEL & IMB SAS, Bratislava  
NCPXFEL & AsI SAS, Vysoké Tatry  
PSI, Villigen, Switzerland

**The school program** will allow the presentation of unique experimental techniques that use FEL sources and sources of synchrotron and neutron radiation. A thematically specialized satellite meeting will serve to present the importance of the EST solar telescope for the Slovak Republic. Attention will be paid to breakthrough discoveries in biological, biophysical and material sciences, in solar activity research. We also expect contributions in priority EU topics, such as energy production, transmission and storage, or nuclear fusion. The transfer of experience and knowledge from renowned foreign and domestic invited experts to the participants of **SFEL2026** will be carried out in the form of invited plenary lectures and shorter oral presentations. For the participants, we are preparing the possibility of poster presentations, as well as several practical exercises with XRD techniques, or exercises in the field of data processing.

### Deadlines:

Scientific program	until 10.04.2026
Registration of participants	13.04. – 31.05.2026
Application for grants	13.04. – 31.05.2026
Registration of abstracts	13.04. – 15.07.2026
Grant award decision	16.08. – 30.08.2026
Implementation of <b>SFEL2026</b>	28.09. – 02.10.2026

The participation fee is **500 EUR** and fully covers the costs of the stay. Thanks to the financial support of the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic, European XFEL and ILL Grenoble, upon submission of an application in the registration form, **grant support is possible for students, young researchers and other active participants** of Slovak universities and institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences **in the form of a waiver of the participation fee.**

Read more: <https://indico.science.upjs.sk/event/223/>