

2. RC FEMS Retreat

Day 1 – Monday, October 5th, 2026

09:00 AM – Arrival

09:45 AM – Welcome by RC FEMS Coordination Office and RC FEMS Director

10:00 AM – Keynote by Matthias Grotevent

Perovskites for Next-Gen Photovoltaics: Hype or Soon-to-Be Reality?

10:45 AM – Coffee Break

11:00 AM – Incubator Talks by Incubator Postdocs (15 min each + 5 min questions)

- 11:00 – 11:20 AM:
Sheila Hernandez (RUB; supervisor: Andrea Kirsch, Kristina Tschulik)
Mapping the electrocatalytic oxygen evolution reaction (OER) of spinel oxide catalysts by operando Raman scattering
- 11:20 – 11:40 AM:
Rafael Ricardo Rojas López (TUD; supervisor: Anna Isaeva, Silvana Botti, Mirko Cinchetti, Stefan Tappertzhofen)
Machine learning for sample fabrication and physics-guided analysis of 2D heterostructures
- 11:40 – 12:00 PM:
Marius Scholten (RUB; supervisor: Christian Liebscher, Ilya Eremin)
Emergent electronic properties of microstructures emerging at natural interfaces and across displacive phase transitions
- 12:00 – 12:20 PM:
Pavlo Sai (UDE; supervisor: Gabi Schierning, Martin Mittendorf)
Impact of Hydrogen Deposition on the THz Conductivity of Metals

12:30 PM – Lunch

02:00 PM – Lightning Talks (5 min pitch + max. 3 min questions)

- Carlos Eugenio Gómez (Oxidic Functional Materials)
- Nikola Hajdin (Colloidal Nanostructures)
- Dylan Jennings (Advanced Transmission Electron Microscopy)
- Klara Lünser (Applied Quantum Materials)
- Rukma Nevgi (Quantum Materials)
- Nicolas Tancogne-Dejean (Computational Design of Functional Interfaces)
- Ewout van der Veer (Functional Ferroic Systems)
- Haichen Wang (Artificial Intelligence for Integrated Material Science)

03:30 PM – Check into the hotel room and getting ready for teambuilding

04:00 PM – Teambuilding

- Walk to park at “Ruhrfestspielhaus Recklinghausen” (ca. 15 minutes walk)
- “Walk and talk” through the park (ca. 30 minutes)
- Picnic + Games (ca. 90 minutes)
- Walk back to Parkhotel Engelsburg (ca. 15 minutes walk)

07:00 PM – Dinner

08.30 PM – Individual Get-Together

Day 2 – Tuesday, October 6th, 2026

09:00 AM – Cross-Disciplinary Poster Session

Walk around and get an impression of cross-disciplinary potentials

10:30 AM – Coffee Break and Check-Out

11:00 AM – Workshop Part 1

World-Café

Topics:

1. Scientific Profile: What is the common scientific core of RC FEMS?
2. From Individual Projects to Genuine RC FEMS Collaborations
3. Shared Research Infrastructure, Methods and Access
4. AI, Automation and Data-Driven Materials Research
5. From Fundamental Materials Science to Scale-Up, Application and Transfer
6. Developing People and a Genuine RC FEMS Research Community
7. External Positioning, Visibility and Strategic Growth

12:30 PM – Lunch

02:00 PM – Workshop Part 2

Action Lab

- Goal: Formulate 3 concrete action points per table topic
- Room 1: Five remaining topic tables with fixed hosts, where the other participants distribute themselves as they like
- Room 2: PIs meet to discuss topics of overarching strategic relevance (output from table 1 and 7) in more detail

03:30 PM – Coffee Break

03.50 PM – Individual Interaction

Connect individually or gather in small discussion groups

04:30 PM – Feedback on Retreat + Good-Bye

05:00 PM – Departure