The conference was organized under the auspices of the Polish branch of the European Microbeam Analysis Society (EMAS), with the collaboration of the rector of the Jagiellonian University, the Polish Society for Microscopy, the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Mineralogical Society of Poland. The anniversary of the laboratory provided a good occasion to present the results of fruitful collaborations between the laboratory and scientists in the biological and geological fields. The geological session of the meeting consisted of lectures and poster presentations focused on SEM-CL imaging and spectroscopy applied to accessory minerals; accessory mineral reactions and dating in petrology; applications of electron microprobe and SEM-EDS methods in the petrology of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks; the reconstruction of diagenetic processes supported by microanalytical methods; results from the study of gold deposits and occurrences in the western Carpathians; environmental problems (studies of carbonaceous aerosols using TEM, HRTEM, and optical microscopy; deterioration of building stones in polluted atmosphere); and the applications of electron microscopy in studies of coal and coke.

Before the conference, the workshop “Accessory Minerals In Situ: Microanalytical Methods and Petrological Applications” gathered mineralogists and petrologists from Poland and abroad. The workshop was organized by the Mineralogical Society of Poland; the Institute of Geological Sciences, the Jagiellonian University (Kraków, Poland); the Faculty of Geology, Geophysics and Environmental Protection, AGH – University of Science and Technology (Kraków, Poland); and the Department of Geosciences, University of Massachusetts (Amherst, MA, USA). Fifteen lectures covering the microanalysis of accessory minerals and their dating, transformations, and role in petrological and geological interpretations were presented by a number of lecturers: Igor Broska, Alain Cocherie, Peter S. Dahl, Daniel J. Dunkley, Marek Faryna, Friedrich Finger, Daniel E. Harlov, Callum J. Hetherington, Matthew S.A. Horstwood, Emilie Janots, Erwin Krenn, Janusz Lekki, Tamás Mikes, John F. Rakovan, Daniela Rubatto, and Michael L. Williams. This workshop was a forum for discussing the increased precision and accuracy of geochronological methods, as well as new analytical techniques and their application to accessory minerals research.

Geological abstracts of the conference and workshop proceedings are published in volume 30 of Mineralogia Polonica – Special Papers. The event was financially supported by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Mineralogical Society of Poland, and the companies Labsoft, Comef, EDAX, FEI Company, Art-Vac, and JEOL.