



EuCheMS

NEWSLETTER

November 2009

Joint Programming – a EuCheMS view

Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) aim to provide an impetus for European research cooperation in areas of societal importance. EuCheMS supports Joint Programming with some significant reservations.

Whilst EuCheMS believes that Joint Programming introduces a systematic approach to EU research and development by shifting the focus from industry to society, it has reservations as to its overall efficiency and applicability. As a public-policy driven initiative, and in the light of the EU Strategy for Recovery, it could have a major impact not only on national research funding but also on the thematic targeting and design of future Framework Programmes.

EuCheMS supports the scheme as a step towards the creation of a successful and integrated European Research Area but believes that JPIs alone are not sufficient to improve the performance of the European research and development. The following key points are made in the EuCheMS report:

- The real added value of JPIs in a given subject area should be determined prior to launch.
- Participation throughout the scientific community in each member state should be maximised as bottom-up input from the scientific expertise is essential both in the selection and pri-

oritisation of areas for Joint Programming and in the management of a chosen JPI.

- Cooperation schemes beyond the borders of the ERA (European Research Area) should accompany any JPI.
- Top-down funding agencies should be considered as funding partners for the initiative.
- The resources of any national bottom-up funding agency should not be compromised by commitments of member states to a JPI as this will be detrimental to academic freedom at national level.
- Any unavoidable re-allocation of funds at national level should only follow after proper assessment and evaluation of a particular area.
- Any shared research strategy should focus strongly on quality basic research.
- JPIs should be complementary to existing schemes for researcher-driven and industry-driven programmes, not a replacement
- The continuation of curiosity-driven research is imperative and ring-fencing for basic chemistry research at both national and European level.
- Funding of non-thematic schemes, such as ERA chemistry, must be continued as any reallocation of funds from such schemes would compromise the curiosity-driven research; the existing schemes should be supported with the launch of more bottom-up researcher-driven programmes.
- Redirection of funds from an orphan research topic to a popular and JPI-linked area should be avoided as this will compromise academic freedom.

The EuCheMS view on JPIs is on the web at www.euchems.org/News/index.asp.

Employability of chemistry bachelors

An analysis produced by the European Chemistry Thematic Network (ECTN) deals with the employability of chemistry first cycle graduates.



Countries with long tradition of bachelors, such as the UK, face the challenge of attracting enough young people. In most European countries, however, the job market faces a new category of potentially employable graduates. The ECTN study is based on the survey among selected types of employers including large multinational enterprises, SMEs, employers from traditional EU countries, as well as the new EU members.

The study shows that in general bachelors seem to be employable, but in some countries a lot of information about study profile, knowledge, skills and competences gained will still be necessary.

Moreover, quality labels will play an important role in the employment perspectives of the young people. Personal labels which are in use in some countries mark the professional status of the chemist, e.g. Chartered Chemist (CCChem) and Chartered Scientist (CSci) in the UK, or the European Chemist designation (EurChem) awarded by EuCheMS. Institutional labels mark the courses and study programs, e.g. Eurolabels.

The Eurolabel is not only the admission process of any university into the scheme but also a future beneficial factor in the job seeking process. So far, 48 labels for Eurobachelor and 24 labels for Euromaster have been awarded to 39 institutions and three university consortia from 16 European countries.

The study which is edited by Kurt Begitt (German Chemical Society) and Pavel Drasar (Czech Chemical Society) is on the web at ectn-assoc.cpe.fr/archives/lib/2009/WG%20Employability%20Book%20090625.pdf.

Pavel Drasar, Pavel.Drasar@vscht.cz



Photo: European Communities



Round table on photovoltaics

In April 2009 the Royal Dutch Chemical Association (KNCV) organised a round table session in The Hague on the "Acceleration of the introduction of photovoltaic cells". Questions centered on the interest of the general public, subsidy-policies, legal constraints and the storage of electricity coming from photovoltaic cells. Twelve participants in the round table had been recruited from science, industry, sales and installation. A series of expectations was formulated.

Small scale applications will probably become the breakthrough for photovoltaic cells. Roughly 70 percent of the population has confidence in electricity from photovoltaic cells and would consider building a private installation for personal consumption. Plug and play offers by power-distribution companies would lead to a remarkable acceleration.

General advice regarding subsidies is to replace them by a surcharge on the usual Kwh tariff to pay for delivered photovoltaic electricity. Governmental guarantees on bankloans for photovoltaic cells equipment on house roofs or in gardens would greatly stimulate more rapid uptake.

A remarkable observation was that a surplus of electricity on sunny days could easily be taken up in the electrical grid provided that it should stay under 20 percent of the total required daily electricity output.

Jan Mulderink

In memoriam George Emil Baiulescu

George Emil Baiulescu, who was for many years President of the Romanian Society for Analytical Chemistry and an enthusiastic supporter of EuCheMS, died in June 2009 in Bucharest at the age of 78. He will be remembered for his contributions to the Division of Analytical Chemistry over many years and to analytical chemistry both in Romania and internationally. EuCheMS will remember him and his valuable contributions to our work. *ks*

Working Party on the History of Chemistry: new chair

The Working Party (WP) on the History of Chemistry is the European umbrella organisation for the national groups active in history of chemistry. Its main purpose is to create a platform for the exchange of research results, trends, and opinions. History of chemistry is a small, but thriving and expanding enterprise, connecting scholars active in history of science and technology, other humanities, and above all chemistry itself. In such a field, international cooperation is a real necessity, and the WP arguably serves as the most important node in the international network of historians of chemistry and chemists interested in the history of their field.

The biannual conferences organised by the WP attract historians and chemists from all over the world, not just Europe. The last meeting took place in Sopron, Hungary, in August 2009, and concentrated on the uses and users of chemistry. A special thanks to our wonderful Hungarian hosts! The next

meeting will take place in Rostock, Germany, in September 2011. One of the most important aims of this meeting will be to bring together colleagues from the regions around the Baltic sea.

Taking over the chairmanship from Ernst Homburg, who has served since 2003, is both an honour and a burden, since Ernst Homburg and all the others active in recent years have done such a wonderful job. What we now wish most urgently is to build on these foundations and to further intensify the contact with our colleagues in the member societies. Furthermore, our aim is to reach out to science education, and to prove the importance of our chemical heritage for the modern European identity. I thus encourage members and everyone interested to contact me and discuss matters related to the history of chemistry.

Carsten Reinhardt

carsten.reinhardt@uni-bielefeld.de
www.euchems.org/Divisions/History

Revitalized Working Party on Chemistry for Cultural Heritage

Working Party (WP) on Chemistry for Cultural Heritage is the new name for the revitalized WP for chemists working with cultural heritage. With the decision of the new name it is the intention to cover all areas within the field of chemistry and cultural heritage such as archaeometry, archaeology and conservation. The successful founding meeting was held in May in Copenhagen, Denmark. During the meeting the mission statement for the WP was elaborated together with the plan for future meetings and activities. The mission statement and minutes from the meeting are available on the WP website (see below).

Regarding future activities it was decided that the WP will try to work for an International Congress in Chemistry for Cultural Heritage every second year. The first International Congress in Chemistry for Cultural Heritage will be held on 1 to 3 July 2010 in Ravenna, Italy. Further information can be

obtained on the website and from congress chair Rocco Mazzeo (*rocco.mazzeo@unibo.it*). Chemists interested in joining the WP are welcome to contact WP chair Kim Simonsen.

Kim Simonsen, kps@kons.dk

www.euchems.org/Divisions/Heritage



Statue of King Frederick V in Copenhagen: The pedestal received a new facing of Carrara marble in 1998, and already in 2000 discoloured orange and brown areas marred the surface. The WP members discussed the chemistry of this phenomenon.

60 years GDCh

Again this year the GDCh hosted its Chemistry Forum (30 August to 2 September) with a very impressive opening ceremony. Since the venue this year was Frankfurt am Main, a very special anniversary was also celebrated: sixty years ago, in 1949, the GDCh was founded. At that time the years of fear and destruction were past, and one after another the universities were reopening their departments of chemistry. At the beginning of the decade 1950 to 1960 one could see that research had been taken up again and people caught a glimpse of what seemed to be a better future.

The first GDCh President was Karl Ziegler, a tremendously successful chemist in his own right, who also carried over scientific results into very commercially viable products. At that time the image of the GDCh and its member chemists was still somewhat that of an exclusive academia, but times were fast changing. Chemical disasters such as the Seveso accident in 1976 did a lot of damage to the image of chemistry.

In 1995 the GDCh created a code of behaviour for its members; every member must affirm the very responsible role of the natural sciences for mankind and nature alike. Our society's membership was formerly restricted to chemists only, but was opened up in 2007 to include everybody interested in chemistry, thus declaring that nobody can stand alone in a globalised world. In keeping with these principles, the motto of this year's Chemistry Forum was



GDCh managing director Wolfram Koch.

(Photo: Dietrich vom Berge)

“Chemistry for a better life”, focusing on sustainability and feedstock exchange as well as on biochemistry, chemical biology and biological chemistry.

Today mankind faces a different challenge than 60 years ago. Now it is called climate change, dwindling of traditional energy resources, and the old enemy hunger (still in so many parts of the world).

The GDCh itself has modernized to contribute its share towards facing these challenges, the Chemistry Forum being part of this effort. Looking back on the past 60 years we therefore paused for a minute during our Chemistry Forum. We all came together and in the stillness of our many memories drank a glass of sparkling wine.

Barbara Köhler, b.koehler@gdch.de

Applications invited for the Sustainable Chemistry Award

Individuals and small research groups which make a significant contribution to sustainable development by applying green and sustainable chemistry are invited to submit applications for the European Sustainable Chemistry Award. This new Award recognises innovation that delivers clear improvements in the sustainable production and use of chemicals and chemical pro-

ducts. The deadline for applications is 31 January 2010 and application forms can be downloaded from the Award website (see below). The Award, a prize of 10,000 Euro, will be presented during the EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, on 29 August to 2 September 2010 in Nürnberg, Germany.

Igor Tkatchenko, tkatchen@u-bourgogne.fr
www.euchems.org/esca

EYCN Delegates Assembly 2010 in Switzerland

Every year, all member societies of the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN) get together to discuss their activities and future plans. As a tradition this Delegates Assembly is connected to a main national Young Chemists Event and rotates through the member societies of EuCheMS. Several highly attractive proposals for hosting the 5th Delegates Assembly from 19 to 21 February 2010 were made, and the national representatives of the EYCN finally chose the proposal of the Swiss Young Chemists Association (SYCA).

In Parpan, Switzerland a two days meeting will be combined with the 8th Swiss Snow Symposium, which has become a notable event on the European calendar for chemists. The Snow Symposium takes place every year and gives an opportunity to Ph.D. students, post-docs and industrial chemists to intensify their connections and help them to create a scientific network. It offers a familiar and informal atmosphere to present and discuss their scientific work. To learn more about the 8th Swiss Snow Symposium visit www.youngchemists.ch. To involve the EYCN in the Snow Symposium, EYCN invited Ernst Gesing from Bayer CropScience to give a plenary lecture. As closing event a coaching workshop is planned.

As main goals of EYCN are to connect young chemists across Europe and strengthen the communication between society, academia and industry, principal topics in 2010 will be the preparations for the International Year of Chemistry 2011 and the EuCheMS Chemistry Congress 2010 in Nürnberg, Germany.

Sergej Toews, toews@tc.upb.de

Viviana Fluxà, viviana.fluxa@ioc.unibe.ch

www.eycn.eu



The Snow Symposium: Chemistry and sports.



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7th International School of Organometallic Chemistry

The 7th International School of Organometallic Chemistry (ISOC 2009) was held in Camerino, Italy from 5 to 9 September 2009, successfully organised by Augusto Cingolani and Claudio Pettinari from the University of Camerino with the support of the Interdivisional Group of Organometallic Chemistry (GICO) and the Italian Chemical Society (SCI). The conference was sponsored in part by EuCheMS and several other companies, organisations and institutions. The goal of the school was to provide students with the background necessary to understand modern principles of organometallic chemistry.

By providing a total of 54 grants for financial assistance, the organisers strongly encouraged the attendance of young researchers and Ph. D. students both from university and industry, including those not directly involved in organometallic research projects. The school was attended by 138 Ph. D. students and researchers from 20 different countries. The program was organised into 14 formal sessions with invited speakers of high international reputation in the field of organometallic chemistry and 30 additional flash presentation sessions and 80 posters presented by selected participants. ISOC 2009 was focused on the relevance of basic research in organometallic chemistry as a fundamental tool for new applications. Such an event is ideally suited for constructive dialog between inorganic and organic chemists, and also for comparisons between different didactical methodologies. The Camerino team and the GICO committee thank Augusto Cingolani, director of the School since 1997, who retires in 2010.

Claudio Pettinari

Events

14 – 19 March 2010, Bamberg, Germany

EUCHEM 2010 Conference on Molten Salts and Ionic Liquids, <http://events.dechema.de/en/euchem2010>

6 – 10 June 2010, Belgrade, Serbia

Second Regional Symposium on Electrochemistry (South-East), <http://rse-see.net>

7 – 11 June 2010, Stockholm, Sweden

Formula VI
www.chemsoc.se/sidor/KK/formulaVI/index.htm

13 – 16 June 2010, Oviedo, Spain

7th International Congress of ANQUE, Integral Water Cycle: Present and Future, www.anque2010.org

28 June – 2 July 2010, Bologna, Italy

EUCHEM Conference on Organic Free Radicals
www.isof.cnr.it/biofreeradicals/Euchem.html

1 – 3 July 2010, Ravenna, Italy

Chemistry for Cultural Heritage (CHEMCH)
rocco.mazzeo@unibo.it, website to follow

29 August – 2 September 2010, Nürnberg, Germany

3rd EuCheMS Chemistry Congress: Chemistry – the Creative Force, www.euchems-congress2010.org

19 – 23 September 2010, Gdansk, Poland

15th International Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment (ICHMET), www.pg.gda.pl/chem/ichmet

Chemistry Congress 2010: EuCheMS in the movies

Chemists in film are sometimes the heroes, often the villains, but nearly always misunderstood. Whatever the media do to our science, their power should not be underestimated. But why not turn the tables and produce a film to promote the EuCheMS Chemistry Congress in Nürnberg 2010?

The GDCh organisational team has produced two videos for the event. Visit the congress homepage www.euchems-congress2010.org, and one of the films will start almost immediately. Listen to the invitations given by the presidents of the EuCheMS member societies, and share the enthusiasm about the congress with your colleagues.

Gerhard Karger, g.karger@gdch.de
www.euchems-congress2010.org

European Energy Conference in Barcelona 2010

Abstract submission for the European Energy Conference on 19 to 23 April 2010 in Barcelona is open until 15 November. This event, the first of its kind, offers a new multidisciplinary forum where chemical and molecular scientists can interact with colleagues from the physics and materials sciences communities in discussing the latest energy-related research and exploit opportunities to increase collaborations.

It is jointly sponsored by EuCheMS, the European Physical Society, the European Materials Research Society and the European Science Foundation.

www.e2c-2010.org

EuCheMS Newsletter

Newsletter coordinator: Karin Schmitz
Please send all correspondence and manuscripts to k.schmitz@gdch.de

Editors: Wolfram Koch (responsible), Uta Neubauer, Frankfurt am Main

Advisory board: Reto Battaglia (Switzerland), Claudine Buess Herman (Belgium), Pavel Drasar (Czech Republic), Philippe Garrigues (France), Wolfram Koch (Germany), Minos Leontidis (Cyprus), Evelyn McEwan (EuCheMS Secretariat) and Giovanni Natile (Italy).

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Postfach 900440, D-60444 Frankfurt am Main
euchems@gdch.de

EuCheMS General Secretary:
Evelyn McEwan, c/o RSC, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BA, UK
secretariat@euchems.org
www.euchems.org

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AISBL-Registered office: Avenue E. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4, B-1160 Brussels