



CHEMISTRY in Europe

Newsletter for European Chemistry, published by EuChemS

EDITORIAL



2019: a year to celebrate Chemistry

As we celebrate a new year, our first thoughts immediately turn to the commemoration of the International Year of the Periodic Table (IYPT2019), a wonderful and significant worldwide celebration and of particular relevance to EuChemS. This initiative which already began in 2017 is the result of the

efforts of several associations, including IUPAC, IUPAP, ICSU, IAU, IUHPS and of course EuChemS. From the very beginning, we have played an active part in promoting the IYPT, recognising it as a great opportunity to transmit to society the importance of chemistry, and to highlight its role in providing solutions to the many challenges humankind is facing, and will continue to face in coming years.

As we celebrate the Periodic Table, a truly iconic symbol in science, EuChemS decided that it would be interesting to design and provide our own icon. The result is a unique and different periodic table that aims to be thought-provoking and stimulate debate on sustainability. If we want future generations to study a periodic table as we have known it, we need to be very careful with how we use, misuse and recycle the 90 elements that make up everything. This is the message behind our table. We wish to highlight the real threat for many elements and in addition, show the unsustainable use of endangered elements in our smartphones.

This table of element scarcity has been very well received by our member societies, and we can already boast of having had it translated in over 20 languages, with more expected soon. The EuChemS Periodic Table was officially [launched](#) on 22nd January 2019 at the European Parliament.

Another important initiative to promote the Periodic Table and in particular to reach younger generations is the very recent video game we have developed. The target audience is 11-15-year-old children and the aim is to explain the basis of the periodic table and compound formation while engaging in a fun and otherworldly adventure. Everything you need to know about the game can be found [here](#).

Read the full editorial online:

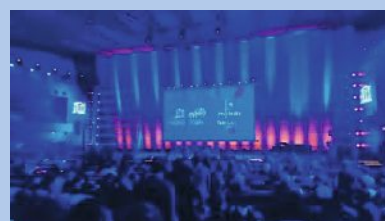
<https://www.euchems.eu/newsletters/chemistry-in-europe-2019-1/>

*Pilar Goya Laza
President, European Chemical Society*

FOCUS

EuChemS at IYPT2019 Opening Ceremony

On 29 January 2019, EuChemS President Pilar Goya, together with the EuChemS Secretariat made their way to Paris for the opening ceremony of the International Year of the Periodic Table (IYPT2019). The celebrations drew over 700 participants from around the world, and included an outstanding line-up of speakers, led by Ben Feringa, Chemistry Nobel Laureate 2016, Yuri Oganessian, best known for discovering element 118, and Sir Martyn Poliakoff, who delivered an entertaining and educational talk on the various Periodic Tables in his office – including the recent EuChemS Periodic Table of element scarcity. In the exhibition area, our latest initiative, the video game ‘Elemental Escapades!’ was available to try out, whilst a framed EuChemS Periodic Table was on display. The many inspiring discussions that took place, and the numerous upcoming activities to celebrate the IYPT2019, bode well for making this year an especially important one for Chemistry and science in the world. EuChemS is one of the founding partners of the IYPT2019.



POLICY

Employment Survey for European Chemists (ESEC2): a brief overview

Employment conditions and career opportunities are in the focus of the recent Employment Survey for European Chemists. The questionnaire on employment conditions for European chemists in Europe was developed and the survey executed by the [European Chemistry Thematic Network Association](#) and the European Chemical Society. EuChemS and the American Chemical Society (ACS) agreed to harmonise their respective surveys as the first step towards a future cooperation in this field.

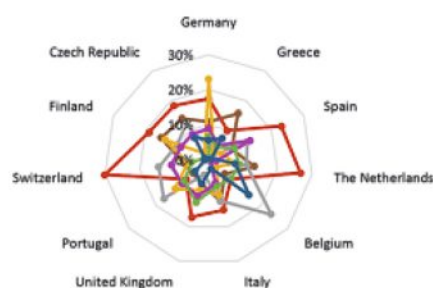
The report is freely accessible online [here](#).

Education, career planning, requested qualification, important employer sectors, job satisfaction, job success, and salaries have been analysed for Europe as a whole as well as for all countries with a statistically significant number of responses.

63% of all answers came from chemists who graduated within the last 15 years, hence the report illustrates the current employment conditions for European chemists very well. The participation of industry employees accounted for 38% of the responses. The total share of women in the survey was 41 %.

You can read the full article online: <https://www.euchems.eu/newsletters/chemistry-in-europe-2019-1/policy/>

*Reiner Salzer,
ECTN and TU Dresden*



RESEARCH

Listen to chemists on the EYCN YouTube Channel

Do you want to know the favourite chemical reaction of this year's Chemistry Nobel Laureate? Or are you interested to hear about the EuChemS President's view on women in science? If so, you absolutely need to [watch the interviews](#) conducted with a variety of researchers during the 7th EuChemS Chemistry Congress (7ECC) in Liverpool last August. Keynote speakers, awardees, renowned researchers, Nobel Prize winners, early stage researchers and finalists of the European Young Chemist Award (EYCA) took part in the new web series "EYCN Interviews". The interviewees include well-known scientists, such as Pilar Goya (EuChemS President), David Cole-Hamilton (EuChemS Vice-President), Peter Dorhout (ACS President), Dame Carol Robinson (RSC President) and Nobel Prize winners Ben Feringa and Frances Arnold, among others.

The questions capture a variety of topics from discussing important tasks, such as establishing equal opportunities for women in science, to public outreach to build a positive attitude towards chemistry in the community. Additionally, our interviewees shared several stories and entertaining moments with us. Highlights include Frances Arnold's inspiring opinion on the future of science and the position of women therein, Ben Feringa discussing better outreach to younger generations and Peter Stang's and Peter Dorhout's advice for early career researchers.

You can read the full article online: <http://bit.ly/2SI0kbl>

*Antonio Manuel Rodríguez García,
European Young Chemists' Network*

MEMBERS' PERSPECTIVES

125th Anniversary of the Norwegian Chemical Society

In 2018 the Norwegian Chemical Society (Norsk Kjemisk Selskap – NKS) celebrated its 125th anniversary. The NKS was founded on the 2 May 1893, in Oslo – known at the time as Kristiania. Today, the NKS has 10 divisions spanning most sub-disciplines of chemistry, as well as 7 regional groups. Membership numbers have been slowly declining for the last decade and presently the Society has approximately 1,700 members. In earlier years several activities were to a considerable extent linked to chemical industry, but setbacks have led to a lower number of chemists in industry.

The larger share of meetings take place within the regional groups and divisions, and several divisions organise annual national meetings.

You can read the full article online: <http://bit.ly/2TYJ8us>

Harald Walderhaug
 Secretary General, Norwegian Chemical Society

Open Access: GDCh demands improvement in “Plan S”

On 6 December 2018, the Executive Board of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (German Chemical Society, GDCh) released a statement on the so-called “Plan S”. The GDCh supports the basic intention of Plan S but criticises some of the points presented.

The cOAlition S, an association of eleven European research funding organisations, published Plan S on 4 September 2018. This plan defines [ten principles](#) for publishing research results under the conditions of Open Access. The GDCh supports the basic intention of Plan S and welcomes some of the principles. For others, however, it fears that some of the key points will have significant harmful effects on the scientists concerned and on Europe as a research location.

You can read the full article online: <http://bit.ly/2TYJ8us>

Karin J. Schmitz
 Head of Public Relations, GDCh

MEET...



Marc Taillefer is the President of the French Chemical Society and Research Director at the Institut Charles Gerhardt de Montpellier.



Izabela Nowak is the President of the Polish Chemical Society. She is Professor at the Faculty of Chemistry of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan.

NOTES

The Periodic Table of Chemical Elements and us

The EuChemS Periodic Table depicting element scarcity was unveiled and discussed at a EuChemS event in the European Parliament on 22 January 2019. The event, chaired by MEPs Catherine Stihler and Clare Moody, presented an encompassing overview of what element scarcity means for us: both on a scientific level, but also economically and politically.

You can read the full article online: <http://bit.ly/2Nmwp8x>

