

Study Group: Quality Assurance

Study Group Members and Affiliations: Jens E.T. Andersen/Danish Chemical Society, Hendrik Emons/IRMM and Heiner Korte/ACQUAL

Objectives: Report on activities in Metrology, quality assurance, accreditation and all areas related to quality issues of analytical chemistry. Liaison to other Divisions, working groups, working parties and governmental bodies.

Activities and Outputs in 2011-2012 (e.g. reports, publications, seminars, meetings):

- 1) Accreditation of analytical laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025 is clearly on the rise and there is a move within the EU to more harmonisation regarding the interpretation of the requirements of this documentary standard by accreditation bodies (stipulated by Regulation 765/2008/EC and coordinated by EA - European co-operation for Accreditation). This development should be reflected also in university curricula!
- 2) A very successful conference BERM-13 on reference materials has been held at the IAEA in Vienna (AT) with more than 200 participants from 54 countries. The emphasis was on knowledge transfer about the role and proper use of RMs in the laboratory as well as on broadening the cross-communication on quality assurance between 'application sectors' from environmental, food, nutrition, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, nanotechnology to nuclear safeguards.
- 3) The lecture course (MS level) "Metrology in Chemistry - From data evaluation to traceability in chemical analysis" at the University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany) with the major focus on modern concepts and tools of analytical quality assurance is increasingly attracting students (further information available from Hendrik Emons)
- 4) Since January 2012 the journal "Accreditation and Quality Assurance" (ACQUAL) is led by a new editorial team (see attached). The free-of-charge online accessible Editorials in the journal issues of this year elaborate on the ACQUAL scope and reflect on its position among other journals. As an example the recent editorial on "Teaching & Training" is attached.
- 5) Meeting of the Eurachem Education and Training Working Group on May 23 at BAM, Berlin, Germany
- 6) Questionnaire. Circulated to professionals at universities. Provision of education and training in chemical/biochemical metrology
- 7) VIM3 survey circulated to Delegates, Guests and Observers. The survey was also available online at Eurachem website. DAC has not formally approved VIM3 but it is available at Eurachem website.
- 8) Delegates of DAC participated in application to COST with the aim of forming a network of expert scientists of QA. The application was rejected by COST.

Activities planned for 2012-2013:

1. Follow activities of Eurachem and contribute to meetings and publications, e.g. VIM3/4
2. Publish results of quality assurance
3. Contribute to conferences
4. New head of Study Group QA

Report submitted by: Jens Andersen

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