Strong employability can be a driving force for society and should be a priority for all policymakers. EuChemS, the European Chemical Society, addressed this issue in a panel session on 7 March featuring a diversity of speakers, who, through their different perspectives, highlighted key challenges ahead. Speakers included representatives from academia and industry, early career researchers, and representatives from the European Commission and the European Parliament.

Throughout the discussion, several common aspects were repeated by the speakers, namely:

- Improved academia-industry collaboration
- Recognising the precursor role of high quality (higher) education
- Recognising the importance of closer collaboration on an equal basis across Europe and beyond
- Addressing gender bias in everyday practices
- The urgent need for better communication
- Taking notice of the diminishing borders between different scientific disciplines
- Education, employability, and research funding are interconnected aspects that European scientists will need to navigate at some stage in their life. But many issues continue to withhold talent, deny opportunities to certain social groups, or by preparing future generations with inadequate skills and knowledge.
- The EU can encourage and provide quality opportunities for scientists, but the right environment needs to be fostered. Only with the involvement of all stakeholders, that talk to each other, listen, and perhaps more pertinently, hear each other, can we ensure results that move in the right direction.

http://bit.ly/ChemEm7-3-19 for further info, speaker bios & presentations