

# (Re)searching for Jobs



**EuCheMS**   
European Chemical Sciences

## (Re)searching for Jobs

**EuCheMS Brussels offices**  
**Rue du Trône 62, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Brussels**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2015**  
Chaired by Catherine Stihler, MEP

Registration is available at <http://bit.ly/1GFOcax>

**9:30 Coffee and Registration**

**10:00 Setting the Scene** - *Catherine Stihler, MEP*

**10:15 Helping Students into the Job Market** - *David Cole-Hamilton, EuCheMS President, University of St Andrews*

**10:30 The Professional Status of European Chemists and Chemical Engineers** - *Reiner Salzer, Dresden University of Technology*

**11:00 Employability for Graduates and the Role of the EU** - *Margaret Waters, European Commission, DG Education and Culture*

**11:15 A View of a Young Scientist** - *Cristina Todasca, University Politehnica of Bucharest*

**11:30 Industrial Employability: Soft Skills Enhancing Scientific Know-How** - *Viviana Fluxà, CSL Behring*

**11:45 Employment Trends among Chemists in the US** - *Elizabeth C. McGaha, American Chemical Society (video presentation)*

**12:00 Panel Discussion and Conclusions**

**12:20 Closing Remarks** - *Catherine Stihler, MEP*

**12:30** Light Buffet Lunch

During this workshop, the first European Employability Survey for Chemists and Chemical Engineers will be presented and participants will have the opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities that young university graduates face when entering the labour market.

For more information please contact [secretariat\(at\)euchems.eu](mailto:secretariat(at)euchems.eu)

### **Chair**

*Catherine Stihler, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) since 1999. Catherine Stihler is the Labour's European Consumer Rights Spokesperson, the Vice-Chair of the Internal Market Committee and a Member of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee.*



### **Helping Students into the Job Market**

*David Cole-Hamilton, EuCheMS President*

The most important attribute for students in the job market is that they have excellent knowledge and understanding in their own subject, but being an excellent employee requires much more than this. In this presentation, the non-subject specific skills that most employers value will be discussed in the light of the Scottish Qualifications Assurance Agency Enhancement Theme on Employability.



### **The Professional Status of European Chemists and Chemical Engineers – Results of the European Employment Survey**

*Reiner Salzer, TU Dresden, Germany, and European Chemistry Thematic Network*

The survey was commissioned by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and executed by the European Chemistry Thematic Network (ECTN). It was supported by the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS), the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and the European Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Education Network (EC2E2N). Almost 4500 responses were obtained.

The questionnaire was offered in 24 European languages. It had six general pages: Personal – Education – Employment – Job – Training – Salary. Industry employees found special questions on an additional page. The final report provides details on the level of education owned by the interviewed people, as well as on the job of their first employment, the country of work, the contractual forms, the employment sector, the requested qualifications, the job functions, the continuing education and the salary. The report is the most updated and complete radiogram of chemists' employment in Europe.



### **Employability for Graduates and the Role of the EU**

*Margaret Waters*

*European Commission, Directorate General for Education and Culture*

As part of its Europe 2020 strategy for growth, the European Commission has consistently reiterated the importance of human capital as a factor for the EU's future economic prosperity. The Commission argues that high quality



and relevant education is important at all levels and the EU as a whole needs to improve its skills base to promote social inclusion and compete effectively in a globalised knowledge economy. This is the rationale underpinning the headline target that 40% of 30-34 year olds should have a tertiary qualification by 2020 and the accompanying national targets set by Member States. But numbers of graduates alone are not enough – how can the EU stimulate policy reform that ensures that higher education provides graduates with employable skills, and are equipped to thrive in an ever more fluid labour market?

### **A View of a Young Scientist**

*Cristina Todasca*

*University Politehnica of Bucharest, Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science, Bucharest, Romania*



In recent years, young chemists at the beginning of their careers, above all other challenges, have had to face the economic crises at different levels. Considered to be one of the big threats when in pursuit of a new job, this has turned out to be a trigger for the better training of the young chemist.

"How to find a proper job?" is one of the most common questions of a new graduate, but the first question should be "what are the jobs that I could apply for with my degree in chemistry?" Before starting a job hunt a good view on the available positions on the labor market should be acquired.

Apart from a good scientific knowledge, passion and the transferable skills are the core aspects that give young chemists a better chance to receive a position and overcome the challenges of a fresh start. Unfortunately the basic academic training does not give young graduates sufficient support in: article writing, making good presentations, communication within a team or with the general public, time management, leading a group and many other aspects which once you start working you are expected to know. Therefore developing transferable skills (a.k.a soft skills) is one specific task to fulfill, once a new job is sought. This talk will emphasize on the need of these soft skills as the key to delivering excellent young chemists at the end of their academic career and therefore bridging the gap between academia and industry.

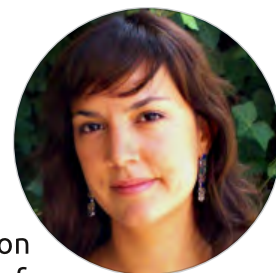
### **Industrial Employability: Soft Skills Enhancing Scientific Know-How**

*Viviana Fluxà, CSL Behring*

The presentation will focus on the factors that bridge the gap between young graduates and the job market.

Attributes such as working well in teams, being able to motivate others and desire to learn are welcome skills in a job candidate.

But what are the exceptional skills that will add value to that specific position in industry? What are the key elements in a Curriculum, motivation letter or interview what will make you stand out and catch the attention of a future employer?



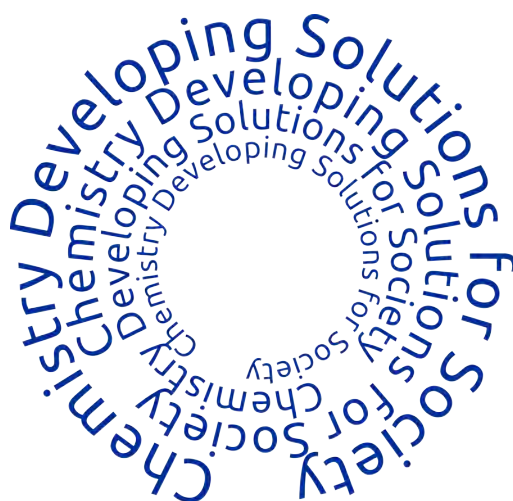
## Employment Trends among Chemists in the US

Elizabeth McGaha

American Chemical Society, Research & Market Insights,



American Chemical Society (ACS) research leaders will discuss the salary and employment data collection efforts conducted by the society. Starting yearly in 1972, the American Chemical Society has distributed salary surveys to its membership and has shared the results with U.S. Chemists. Their efforts collect data on employment, compensation, consulting, bonuses, degrees and demographics and informed the creation of the ACS Salary Calculator™, published articles in Chemical & Engineering News, and reports available to members and the public. The ACS has been a trusted resource for US chemical labor market data for more than four decades.



**EuCheMS**, the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences, aims to nurture a platform for scientific discussion and to provide a single, unbiased European voice on key policy issues in chemistry and related fields.

Representing more than 160,000 chemists from more than 40 Member Societies and other chemistry related organisations, EuCheMS relies on a unique network of active researchers involved in all the fields of chemistry. Through this network, EuCheMS organises several specialised academic conferences as well as the biannual EuCheMS Chemistry Congress, the European congress of chemical sciences. EuCheMS also promotes the role and image of the chemical sciences among the general public and policy-makers through social media, newsletters and through the organisation of conferences and workshops open to the society. Through the promotion of chemistry and by providing expert and scientific advice, EuCheMS aims to take part of the solution to today's major societal challenges.

[www.euchems.eu](http://www.euchems.eu)



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