



SUOMALAISTEN KEMISTIEN SEURA THE FINNISH CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Annual National Report on Chemical Education in Finland 2015-2016

1. Abstract

The Division of the Chemical Education is the national Society for chemistry teachers. The objective of the division is to inform chemistry teachers at all levels and to offer seminars and other events and to maintain cooperation between teachers and the Finnish industry. The division has about 300 members all over Finland.

2. National Education Policy

Providing equal opportunities for all citizens to high-quality education and training is a long-term objective of the Finnish education policy. The key words in Finnish education policy are quality, efficiency, equality, and internationalization. The basic right to education and culture is recorded in the Constitution. The policy is built on the principles of lifelong learning and free education. Education is seen as a key to competitiveness and wellbeing of the society.

There is a widespread consensus of the main pillars of education policy and the policy is characterized by cooperation and continuity - evolution rather than revolution. Tripartite partnership among Government, trade unions and employer organizations is an integrated part of policymaking. Participation and consultation of a wide range of different stakeholders play a central role in educational reform. Teachers and the Trade Union of Education as their representative are the key players in the development of education. The main objectives and broad lines of the policy are defined at central level, but the implementation of these is the responsibility of the local level. The main steering document in the Finnish education policy is the Government's Development Plan for Education and Research.

3. Events in Chemical Education

Organizations annually arranging seminars, further education, and offering services etc. for chemistry teachers are the following:

- The Finnish National Board of Education, <http://www.oph.fi/english>
- The Finnish Association for Teachers of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Informatics MAOL, <http://www.maol.fi/maol-ry/?L=2> is a pedagogical subject organization which works for the advancement of mathematics and natural sciences in Finnish society) offering local pedagogical club functions, networking, further education, and support material for education.
- The aim of LUMA Centre Finland, <http://www.luma.fi/centre> is to inspire and motivate children and youth into mathematics, natural sciences, and technology through the latest methods and hands-on activities of science and technology education. The aim is also to support the lifelong learning of teachers working on levels of education from early childhood to universities, and strengthen the development of research-based teaching.

4. Activities and Liaison with the Chemical Industry, Organizations, and Schools

The Finnish Chemical Society, <http://kemianseurat.fi>, offers in-service training.

The Division awarded stipends for a number of students and teachers who have showed deep interest in chemistry.

The Division organized a visit to the Waste-to-energy plant in Vantaa <https://www.vantaanenergia.fi/en>. Another visit was organized to the Poison Information Centre. The Poison Information Centre answers questions concerning the prevention and treatment of acute poisonings every day, around the clock. The Centre serves the whole of Finland by telephone and provides guidance to the public and to health care professionals. The Centre also acts as a source of information for authorities and the media whenever necessary. The Poison Information Centre does not treat patients or analyse poisons. <http://www.hus.fi/en/medical-care/medical-services/>

5. International and European Initiatives

Members of the Finnish Chemical Societies and its divisions have participated in numerous international networks, expert committees, and projects for example in the IUPAC Committee on Chemistry Education, Division of Chemical Education of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular

Sciences, and in European Chemistry and Chemical Engineering and Education Network activities.

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