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## Swedish Chemical Society Annual Report to the EuCheMS Division of Chemical Education for 2014-2015

### 1. Abstract

Regarding both events and national education policy, it has been a year with not many happenings. The same activities as always have been realised.

### 2. National educational policy

In the autumn of 2011, a new formal syllabus and curricula was implemented in the Swedish school system. Now in the summer of 2015, the implementation is completed and at upper secondary level, all students follow this new school system. One major change has been a new grading system with grades (A-F) from grade 6. Within the chemistry subject, not many changes have been made in the new curricula, and the subject can be perceived as having a conventional content focus. Possible future scientists are studying at the Natural Science programme where approximately 14% of an age group study.

### 3. Events in chemical education

The 2014 International Year of Crystallography is apparent in school chemistry, for instance by an essay competition and a photography contest. More information at:

<http://www.kristall2014.se>. The 2015 International Year of Light has a Swedish homepage with information and inspiration for chemistry (and physics) education:

<http://www.ljus2015.se>

### 4. Activities of the Royal Society of Chemistry

The Swedish Chemical Society is unfortunately having problems to attract new members, there has been a decline the last 10 years and today the society has approximately 3500 members organized in 10 divisions, where the Chemistry Education Division is one with 400 members, mainly chemistry teachers. The Division of Chemical Education co-hosts an annual two-day meeting ("Berzelius days") where 300-400 students in the end of upper secondary school from the Natural Science Programme meet and listen to chemistry lectures (often one Nobel laureate or similar). At the "Berzelius days" chemistry teachers are also having a program where they meet and discuss chemistry education. Moreover, one prize is annually given to an important person who has contributed to chemistry education. In 2014 the prize was given to an inspiring chemistry teacher Anders Hansson, Stockholm. In-service training courses for chemistry teachers, for instance courses on experiments are held every year within the society.

### 5. Publications

The Swedish Chemical Society publishes every year 12 numbers of a journal (Kemisk Tidskrift - Kemivärlden Biotech) with chemistry news and articles about chemistry and chemistry education research. Once a year, the journal is published in English. To enhance chemistry education among younger children (4-8 years), two books about the chemistry dragon Berta and her life and experiments have previously been written as stories and are sold together with a glove puppet with explicit lesson plans. Now a book in physics has been published. The first of these books is translated into English and can be found at [http://navet-shop.com/index.php?language\\_id=2](http://navet-shop.com/index.php?language_id=2).

**6. Liaison with the chemical industry**

Educational visits are popular in school and a system to connect schools with chemical industry is needed. The Division of Chemical Education is trying to develop a regional and in the future hopefully national platform where school and industry can meet.

**7. International and European initiatives**

The Division of Chemistry Education has delegates as leaders in the International Chemistry Olympiad and the European Science Olympiad (EUSO) where students participate every year.

**8. Other events and activities**

The society has a pilot-project "chemistry homework-open house" where upper secondary students in Stockholm can get help with their homework in chemistry. This project has been very successful and is enhancing in size throughout 2014 and 2015. Moreover, in combination with the Nobel Prize award ceremony, students are invited to come and meet and listen to the laureates, something very appreciated.

**9. Name of delegate**

Karolina Broman

**10. Contact details of delegate.**

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