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**Swedish Chemical Society Annual Report to the EuCheMS Division of Chemical Education for 2015-2016**

1. **Abstract**

The Swedish Chemical Society has during 2016 changed both name, website and emphasis, moving from the old version of the society where the “chemist” was in focus to the new version with “chemistry” in focus (i.e. from Kemistsamfundet to Kemisamfundet). There is a new logotype and a more modern touch of the society that hopefully will attract more members. The whole organization has changed and the division of chemistry education has now a more slim structure. Regarding other events and national education policy, it has been a year with not many happenings. The same activities as always have been realised.

1. **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 2016, 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 or the Technology programme where approximately 8% of an age group study. Both programmes are now in 2016 increasing, regarding students applying to these science programmes.

1. **Events in chemical education**

The 2015 International Year of Light has a Swedish homepage with information and inspiration for chemistry (and physics) education: <http://www.ljus2015.se> There is no Swedish similar website for any International year 2016.

1. **Activities of the Royal Society of Chemistry**

The Swedish Chemical Society has during this year progressed when it comes to focus of the society, moving from the Swedish name Kemistsamfundet (the society of chemists) to Kemisamfundet (the society of chemistry), mainly to broaden the emphasis. The new website can be found at: <http://kemisamfundet.se>

The society has unfortunately had problems to attract new members, there has been a decline the last 10 years and today the society has approximately 3200 members organized in 10 divisions, where the Chemistry Education Division is one with 400 members, mainly chemistry teachers. In the new organization, the division board (with appr 10 members) is a more slim board with only 3 members. Hopefully this will make the process of decision more effective.

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 2015 the prize was given to an inspiring chemistry professor, Ulf Ellervik from Lund university. He has written several popular scientific books and TV-shows, the most recent one is called Grym kemi (Swag chemistry). For an example of his chemistry presentations in English, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btBAdt_cQ1M>.

Last year’s Day of Chemistry was held in October with the theme of light, this year the theme is health. Schools can order free of charge experiment packs with things to do with students in school: <http://www.ikem.se/vi-arbetar-med_1/for-skolan-larare-och-elever/kemins-dag>

In-service training courses for chemistry teachers, for instance courses on experiments are held every year within the society.

1. **Publications**

The Swedish Chemical Society publishes every year 8 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 also 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>.

1. **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.

1. **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.

1. **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 2015 and 2016. Moreover, in combination with the Nobel Prize award ceremony, students are invited to come and meet and listen to the laureates, something very appreciated.

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