Perspectives of Young Chemists

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27 Countries
29 Societies
> 45,000 members
Education at universities
What universities train students in

- How to do good research
- How to solve difficult problems
- How to be successful in academia
Acquired vs. required skills

**Hard skills**
- Knowledge of Chemistry
- Experience in laboratory work
- Knowledge of toxicity and safety
- Knowledge of Intellectual Property (IP)
- Experience in translating research into applications

**Soft skills**
- Patience
- Analytical thinking
- Communication skills
- Leadership experience
- Business understanding
- Knowledge of career options outside academia
Employability gap

• Universities educate students, offer an open discussion space and shall prepare students for the job market in both academia and outside.

• Personal development planning is an important key for students.

• Universities, faculties and graduate supervisors need to embed career guidance and training in relevant skills into the curriculum.
Case examples of good training

• Graduate schools for PhD students
  • Courses in business, intellectual property, start-ups, leadership, innovative thinking as part of the curriculum

• Internships and PhD programs in partnership with industry & non-academic institutions
Challenges graduates are facing

- Little career guidance
- Little mentoring about mobility to other countries
- Relevant skills not trained
- Uncertainty to leave academia
How the EYCN supports Young Chemists

- Provide a platform to exchange new ideas and projects for young chemists around Europe
- Mentoring, educating and supporting young researchers at the beginning of their career
- Promote the exchange of knowledge and experience among young chemists
- Improve the visibility of chemistry and bring it closer to a wider audience

Chemical Sciences for Horizon Europe, education and employability, Brussels, 07.03.2019
How the EYCN supports Young Chemists

• Increase mobility
  • Chemistry across Europe webpage map.eycn.eu
  • Cooperation with ECEG, FECCIA and industriAll
    Mobility Mentoring Portal
    www.mobilitymentoringportal.eu

• Exchange Programme with the US Young Chemists Crossing Borders
How the EYCN supports Young Chemists

• Best poster/oral presentation awards

• Provide training at conferences & through webinars
  • European Funding
  • Work in Industry
  • Scientific Publishing
  • Communication
  • CV and job search
Chances for Horizon Europe

• Consider training of young chemists for funding
  • Graduate Training Centres are a valuable tool

• Encourage greater academia-industry collaboration
  • Increase the innovation potential in Europe

• Enlarge the capabilities of the European Research Council (ERC) and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
  • Support excellent research of young chemists

• Support projects from basic research up to commercialisation
Conclusions

• Student training and career development are key for successful graduates.

• Industry-academia collaboration can benefit students and universities to bridge the employability gap.
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