

# Perspectives of Young Chemists

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**27 Countries**  
**29 Societies**  
**> 45.000 members**

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# Education at universities



# What universities train students in

How to do good research



How to be successful in academia

How to solve difficult problems



# Acquired vs. required skills

## Hard skills

Knowledge of Chemistry

Knowledge of Intellectual Property (IP)

Experience in laboratory work

Experience in translating research into applications

Knowledge of toxicity and safety

## Soft skills

Patience

Leadership experience

Analytical thinking

Business understanding

Communication skills

Knowledge of career options outside academia

Independence

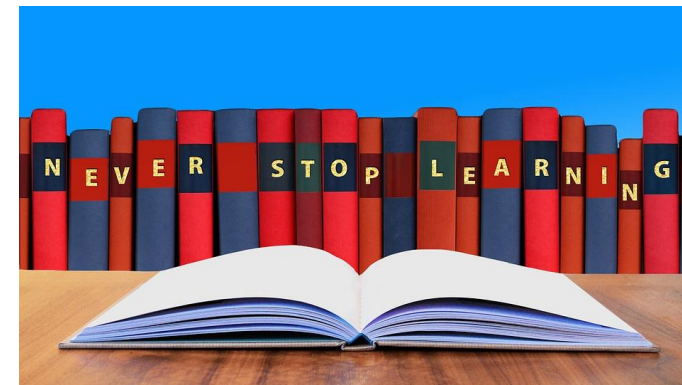


# Employability gap

- 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

Promote the **exchange of knowledge and experience** among young chemists

**Improve the visibility of chemistry** and bring it closer to a wider audience

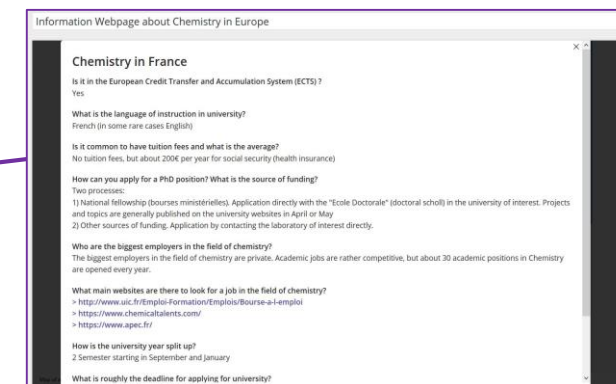
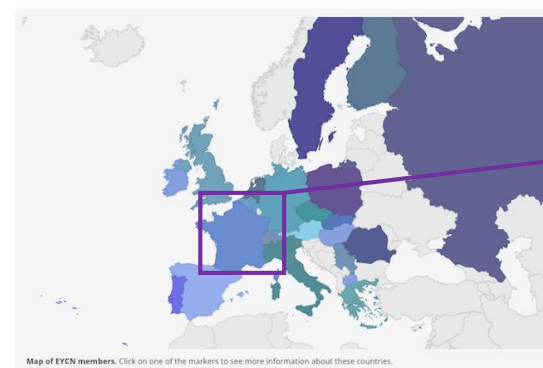
**Mentoring, educating and supporting** young researchers at the beginning of their career





# 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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