

## **“European Area of Skills and Qualifications”**

Public consultation

Joint EuCheMS-ECTN statement

### **1. How to place a stronger focus on higher and more relevant skills?**

Based on the demand from industry and SMEs, and also in accordance with the survey findings published by CEFIC in the area of chemistry the demands and objectives are well defined in two ways. Firstly, there is widely used the quality standard, defined already in 2002 as the Chemistry Eurolabel® ([http://ectn-assoc.cpe.fr/chemistry-eurolabels/srvc/cel\\_Documentation.htm](http://ectn-assoc.cpe.fr/chemistry-eurolabels/srvc/cel_Documentation.htm)), for all three cycles of HEI education. Secondly, the requirements and definition of standards for individual professional recognition (registration) has been defined since 1992 as rules for implementation of chemistry professional in the European register of “European Chemists (EurChem)”.

Currently, Employment survey is on going. The survey received almost 4500 responses from 19 countries. Responses are now under evaluation ([http://www.euchems.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/news/EuCheMS\\_Newsletter/Euchems1\\_1\\_2013.pdf](http://www.euchems.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/news/EuCheMS_Newsletter/Euchems1_1_2013.pdf)).

### **2. Further strengthening links between education/training, mobility and the labour market**

Both the systems EuroLabels and EurChem require combination of education, practical training and mobility. Accordance with the labour market requirements was verified by the independent study of IFOK GmbH Munich (2009, Eds: K. Begitt, P. Drasar, Czech Chemical Society, ISBN 978-80-86238-66-1)

### **3. Adapting to internationalisation trends**

International character of both systems is acknowledged by over 50 national chemical societies and associations and over 150 chemistry educating universities across Europe.

### **4. Ensuring overall coherence of tools and policies and further implementing the learning outcomes approach**

Learning outcomes in the area of chemistry are based on pan-European survey of teaching programmes across Europe and from the other side verified by the above mentioned independent study of IFOK GmbH Munich.

Furthermore, there is a need for development in a few areas, in particular in the area of “entrepreneurial attitude”, which means behavior in a professional environment (industry, administration, academia) and not only formation of a start-up company. Some people start

to separate entrepreneurial attitude and soft skills because of the increasing importance of the former.

### **5. Ensuring clarity of rules and procedures for the recognition of skills and qualifications for further learning**

As the rules of both systems, the EuroLabels and EurChem are under day-to-day scrutiny of not only the participating associations, societies and universities and moreover three independent accreditation agencies performing assessments for EuroLabels in franchise scheme (UKA – Poland; SCI – Italy, and ASIIN – Germany) the clarity, rules and procedures are continuously polished and sharpened.

### **6. Increasing the focus on quality assurance**

Increasing the focus on quality assurance is seen in growing collaboration of EuCheMS and ECTN both with partners from industry and SMEs and with the European quality associations.

### **7. Providing learners and workers with a single access point to obtain information and services supporting a European area of skills and qualifications**

Both ECTN and EuCheMS are continuously informing the individual chemists and all institutions and businesses about straightforward procedures with the single access point to obtain both the information as well as the quality label or EurChem registration.

European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS)

[www.euchems.eu](http://www.euchems.eu)

European Chemistry Thematic Network (ECTN)

<http://ectn-assoc.cpe.fr>

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