

## EuChemS-DAC Task Force Annual Report for 2019-2020

<b>Task Force Name: Sample Preparation</b>
<b>Task Force Members and Affiliations:</b> Elia Psillakis, TUCrete, Greece (Head) Manuel Miró, UBalearic Islands, Spain Stig Pedersen-Bjergaard, UOslo, Norway Marcela Segundo, UPorto, Portugal Charlotta Turner, LundUni, Sweden Sibel A. Ozkan, UAnkara, Turkey BarbaraBojko, NicolausCopernicusUni, Poland Ezel Boyacı, METU, Turkey International members: J. Pawliszyn, UWaterloo, Canada; G. Ouyang, SYSU, China
<b>Objectives:</b> The objectives of the Sample Preparation Task force are the promotion of Sample Preparation in Europe through the organization of events, facilitation of communication, information exchange and networking, and the promotion of fundamental studies and cross-disciplinary collaboration. To further benefit the area, efforts were placed on promoting innovation and entrepreneurship next to promote early stage researchers' involvement.
<b>Activities and Outputs in 2019-2020:</b> As planned we have created the Sample Preparation Network that works under the umbrella of our Task Force. We have invited several renowned European experts in the area to serve as <a href="#">committee members</a> in this network. The invitation of prominent <a href="#">non-European experts</a> also took place and allowed transparency and dissemination of the European efforts to promote sample preparation. Today we count <a href="#">114 members</a> from 25 countries (Europe, America and Asia). In order to increase the impact of our activities, coordinate efforts and facilitate information exchange we created three working groups (WG: <a href="#">WG1. Science and Fundamentals</a> ; <a href="#">WG2. Automation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship</a> ; <a href="#">WG3. Information Exchange and Networking</a> ) that represent the three most important directions we must follow so as to meet our objectives as a Task Force. We assigned WG Leaders and a Communication Manager to increase impact. Special attention was paid to invite younger members of our academic community as Leaders. The Task Force creates and approves activities of the network at all times. We have created a <a href="#">website</a> that contains all information and gets constantly updated with our news. We have a very strong presence in the social media and regularly post news in our <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> and <a href="#">Twitter</a> accounts. Our Task Force has been acknowledged in <a href="#">15 scientific papers</a> published by our members in ISI Journals. We are currently supporting <a href="#">9 special issues</a> in scientific journals covering different aspects of Sample Preparation. We have advertised two free short courses within our community. We organized <a href="#">a special session</a> in the 44th International Symposium on Capillary Chromatography ( <a href="#">ISCC, May 24-29, 2020, Riva del Garda, Italy</a> ) but the event was cancelled due to the pandemic. We successfully organized a <a href="#">Sample Preparation Summer Course</a> from 25-27 September 2019 at Bydgoszcz, Poland, but had to postpone the 2020 version of this course due to the COVID-19 outbreak. During the past year we initiated collaboration with two major global scientific magazines ( <a href="#">LCGC</a> and <a href="#">The Analytical Scientist</a> ). We presented our EuChemS-DAC Task Force in the latter magazine in the form of a <a href="#">Feature Article</a> . The EuChemS-DAC Sample Prep Task Force was also presented during the annual meeting of PortASAP COST Action by E. Psillakis.
<b>Activities planned for 2020-2021:</b> In collaboration with LCGC, two video discussion panels are scheduled for 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2020. Panellists are members of our WG1 and WG2 and will present the importance of Sample Preparation and the automation features of Sample Preparation. These will be the first of a series of webinars scheduled for 2020-2021, focusing on sample preparation applications and fundamentals. In collaboration with "The Analytical Scientist", we plan a series of articles to appear in this magazine, presenting sample preparation and our view on the future of this scientific discipline. An annual e-conference free for all our members is scheduled for the 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2021. The meeting will take place on an e-platform and participants will have the chance to present their latest findings and exchange ideas with other members of our Task Force and Network. All members of our Task Force are invited to participate as invited speakers at the 4th STARSS meeting (30.11 - 1.12.2020, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic). We will take the opportunity to have our annual Task Force meeting during the event. Based on an online survey we conducted within our community, we now explore the possibility of organizing special sessions during <a href="#">Euroanalysis2021</a> and ExTech2021. We wait for the reply of the organizers of Euroanalysis. The organizers of ExTech2021 (International Symposium on Extraction Technologies, 29th June to 2nd July 2021, Alicante, Spain) accepted our proposal and a special session will be included. Finally, our course ( <a href="#">Sample Preparation Summer Course</a> ) is scheduled to take place in Bydgoszcz, Poland during Spring 2021 and will have a focus on Biological Matrices.
<b>Report submitted by:</b>  Professor Elia Psillakis, TUCrete, Head of the Task Force
<b>Date submitted: 31 July 2020</b>