

EChemTest® NEW-BULLETIN 2021 n.1

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SUMMARY

- 1) The sustainable EChemTest® is up and running
 - 2) The Chem Learn portal and debits/credits offset
 - 3) VIRT&L-COMM OJS: improving the support to EChemTest®
 - 4) Next step: library maintenance
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1) THE SUSTAINABLE EChemTest® PROSUMER SCHEME IS UP AND RUNNING

1.1 THE MODEL: Following the deliberate of the ECTN Administrative Council (AC) of Rome (Dec., 2019) on the sustainability of the **Producer-Consumer (Prosumer)** model adopted to run EchemTest® Self Evaluation Sessions (SES)s after the 5 year long ECHEMTEST+ trial period, the relevant scheme was adopted by the 2020 General Assembly (GA) and costs and benefits are now distributed among:

- a) the Test Centres (TC)s** (or the Accredited Test Sites (ATS)s) through the examiners,
- b) ECTN** through its Secretariat and its Virtual Education Community (VEC) committee (taking care of the managerial support of the Chem Learn portal and of the LibreEOL service of the University of Perugia <https://echemtest.libreeol.org>) and
- c) the external** supporters, providers and Agencies through their representatives.

1.2 NEW ANNEX: After 3 months of hard work and negotiations on the unclear formulation of the previous ANNEX to the Budapest EchemTest®-TC MoU, a new version was formulated for both in presence and on line SESs. Despite COVID 19, the **new ANNEX is in force starting from January 2021 after explicit acceptance by Budapest, Genoa, Kazan, Krakow, La Paz, Ljubljana, Madrid, Milan, Naples, Perugia and Vienna.** In addition, a new MoU establishing Local ECTN Advisors (LEA) to handle school students when running on line SESs through TCs/ATSs (before admitting schools to act as Agencies) was signed for the first time by the **Technical Institute of Chemistry of Crotona (IT)** and is available for extension to other Schools.

YOUR ACTIONS: DO YOU WISH: a) START A TC/ATS?, b) RUN ON LINE SESs FOR YOURS AND/OR SCHOOL STUDENTS? **Write to lagana05@gmail.com**

2) THE CHEM LEARN (www.chem-learn.com) PORTAL AND DEBITS/CREDITS OFFSET

NEED CLARIFICATIONS? Contact info@chem-learn.com, (SCRIPTS ARE STILL PROVISIONAL)

2.1 PLANNING: Every solar year before starting any activities the examiner submits for VEC approval on the Chem Learn portal (using his/her own login and password) the TC/ATS plan by specifying:

- a) the number of SESs to be carried out: Q1 (by itself for its own purpose), Q2 (by itself on behalf of another ECTN member), Q3 (by itself on behalf of ECTN), Q4 (by itself on behalf of a third party), Q5 (by another TC/ATS on its behalf);
- b) the number of proposed Q6 (to create) and Q7 (to revise/translate) Questions&Answers (Q&A)s;
- c) the number Q8 of hours proposed for running dissemination activities.

2.2 REPORTING: At the end of each performed activity, the examiner inputs on the Chem Learn portal (using his/her own login and password) the actual increment in Q1-Q8. **On outcomes of the last updating** (within a month from the end of the solar year) Chem Learn issues the following data:

- a) the number and type (Q1-Q5) of the SESs reported by the TCs/ATSs and their comparison with the LibreEOL registered ones;
- b) the number (Q6 and Q7) of Q&As reported as created and modified by the TCs/ATSs;
- c) the number (Q8) of dissemination hours reported as provided (by each TC/ATS);

2.3 BALANCE AND DEBITS/CREDITS OFFSETTING: Two weeks after the reporting, the Chem Learn portal provides the ECTN Secretariat with data relevant to the drawing of the balance sheet and to the debits offsetting through credits. Gained credits in excess to debits can be spent to support costs listed in the ANNEX. They can also be spent (after authorization by the VEC) for reimbursing travel expenses met when attending meetings, initiatives and conferences relevant to EChemTest®. This applies also to incomes from Individual proficiency certificates (IPC)s and third party paid activities.

YOUR ACTIONS: DO YOU WISH: A) START COLLABORATING ON EchemTest® ACTIVITIES?, B) CLARIFY A DOUBT ON THE DEBIT/CREDIT OFFSETTING? Write to lagana05@gmail.com

3) VIRT&L-COMM OJS: IMPROVING THE SUPPORT TO EChemTest® ACTIVITIES

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES: A few times a year the VEC circulates an issue of the present **EchemTest® BULLETIN** and regularly contributes to the ECTN Newsletter. The VEC has also a special link to the Open Journal System (OJS) Virt&l-Comm magazine which publishes in its Education section (register at <http://services.chm.unipg.it/ojs/index.php/virtlcomm/login> or contact srampino84@gmail.com or lagana05@gmail.com) papers on ECTN projects, working groups and dissemination activities.

SPECIAL ISSUES: **Virt&l-Comm** publishes every year on the occasion of the ECTN General Assembly a special issue on ECTN activities. As deliberated at the last VEC Committee meeting, a more regular interaction with the magazine is going to be implemented this year. To this end self candidatures to become member of the Virt&l-Comm Editorial Board are welcome (contact lagana05@gmail.com) and technical support of the ECTN Secretariat is going to be planned to promote dissemination of ECTN activities and inclusion of paid adverts.

YOUR ACTIONS: DO YOU WISH: A) SUBMIT A CONTRIBUTION ON YOUR ECTN ACTIVITIES FOR PUBLICATION ON VIRT&L-COMM?, B) OPEN A DEBATE IN VIRT&L-COMM ON SOME SPECIFIC ISSUES (LEARNING OBJECTS, MOOCS, STEM, ...)? Write to lagana05@gmail.com

4) RE-LAUNCHING Q&A LIBRARIES: MAINTENANCE AND TRANSLATIONS

Q&A TRANSLATIONS: Michal Wozniakiewicz (MW), the new coordinator of the Analytical Chemistry Echemtest® Library, reported at the last joint VEC and TC/ATS-Library coordinators on the Q&A translations of the Chemistry for Everyday Life (CEL) Library into several languages (**Finnish, French, German, Italian, Polish, Spanish, Slovenian**). Translators who would like to commit themselves with this project are welcome (contact michal.wozniakiewicz@uj.edu.pl). This is of vital importance for ECTN dissemination activities and if planned through the TC/ATS allows to earn credits. The VEC is considering adopting the same methodology for extending the translations to other libraries.

Q&A MAINTENANCE: The VEC is planning to revise all the existing Echemtest® Q&A Libraries for which no maintenance has been done in the recent years. All interested people are invited to submit proposals for it. Among the proposers the new library coordinators will be appointed. Activities on dissemination and Q&A Libraries maintenance/translations entitle relevant TC/ATS to gain credits.

YOUR ACTIONS: DO YOU WISH TO BECOME ACTIVE IN VEC FOR AN EXISTING Q&A LIBRARY? (AT PRESENT CANDIDATURES FOR GENERAL CHEMISTRY 1 AND 2 ARE PARTICULARLY WELCOME) Write to lagana05@gmail.com