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ACTIVITIES OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY CAREER, TECHNOLOGY FACULTY UNIVERSIDAD MAYOR DE SAN ANDRÉS, ECTN MEMBER

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In Bolivia, the fourth wave of the COVID pandemic has been overcome and normalization and face-to-face return to all activities are being faced, keeping the biosafety measures recommended by health institutions. Priority is being given to the education sector to recover teaching-learning levels that have been seriously affected by the limitations imposed by virtual work.

Secondary schools and colleges are returning to face-to-face classes following a specific schedule according to their infrastructure. Universities, in general, are adopting a mixed system, with virtual and face-to-face assistance.

In the UMSA Faculty of Technology, 2022 academic activities have begun with virtual classes for theoretical subjects and face-to-face classes for 50% of the program of each subject in laboratories and workshops. All exams must be done in person.

The return to face-to-face classes both in secondary schools and universities will also allow the execution of the activities that we have proposed within the framework of the UMSA-ECTN project, especially the EChemTest program, we also want to participate in the new programs, to improve the quality of our teaching and learning system for chemistry subjects at the university level, starting at our university and then working with public and private universities in the country.

With the support of the Director of the Industrial Chemistry Career, Lic. Patricia Duchén Uriarte, meetings have been held to explain the EChemTest program and its scope, to form groups of lecturers and students who introduce in the programs of the subjects of chemistry, the contents of General Chemistry 1 and 2, GQ1, GQ2, then support classes will be given initially in these subjects and finally SES will be held with interested students, to the following groups and people:

- National Association of Private Schools of Bolivia (ANDECOP), this group will initially work with teachers.
- Department of Basic Subjects of our faculty, an academic body that provides teaching services for mathematics, physics and chemistry in the first two semesters of all careers in the Faculty of Technology. It has been indicated to his director that, in our internal accreditation plan, we are working with ECTN to improve the teaching of chemistry in all areas.
- Group of the best students of the chemistry subjects of our career, to work initially with GQ1 and GQ2 and then with the subjects AC3, IC3, OC3 and PC3.
- Group of students who have the teaching assistant for the chemistry subjects of our career.

UMSA has supported the creation of the Scientific Society of Industrial Chemistry Students (SCEQI), its directors consider it very important for UMSA to have ECTN membership, they support and will participate in the SES. They have suggested that academic authorities give students incentives to participate in the EChemTest tests. Our career is organizing with the Chemistry career, the realization of the 1st Congress of Young Researchers in Chemistry, in June 2022, to encourage young professionals to carry out research in the various areas of chemistry, in this event will show the results of completed work that today they are running. The European Young Chemist Net (ECYN) will

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be contacted to share their experience and guidance, also considering the possibility of having a cooperation and exchange program.

The institutional participation in the 1st STEM-CPD Ambassadors@EUni Project Summer School Krakow 2021 in October 2021, at the invitation of Prof. Natasa Brouwer to the ECTN member institutions, has allowed us to learn about the realization of several European university projects on different topics related to university education, through the presentation of user cases. Options have been opened to integrate working groups to share experiences and propose new projects. This program is a great opportunity to promote and project ECTN internationally in the fulfillment of its objectives of contributing to the improvement of university chemistry teaching.

Our institutional participation through the personal invitation of Prof. Marek Frankowicz, whom I thank for his attention, in the DISTINCT Kick-Off Meeting (virtual event on February 2, 2022), in which the DISTINCT Project officially began, has been a very motivating experience. It is important to note that ECTN is a Partner Institution of this project, which will sponsor research initiatives and support for the improvement of university teaching at an international level.

The recent communication by Prof. Anthony Smith on the creation of a new work group to look at Core Chemistry and see if updating is necessary is an opportunity to work as a group seeking to strengthen the EchemTest program and therefore ECTN, in its mission to lead at an international level the improvement of the teaching of Chemistry in secondary schools and universities, with the consequent benefit for the new generations of chemical professionals.

The consideration of these new programs at the ECTN General Assembly in Budapest from April 8 to 10, and the reports of the achievements of the other work groups, augur a successful event, in which ECTN, will come out stronger in its projection and will allow us to feel proud of belonging to this institution and contributing to its development.