

## **ECTN: Student Mobility and MOBICCHEMS database Working Group.**

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Mobility that favours exchanges between students and researchers is extremely important for the scientific community, and recently the number of students moving abroad in Higher Education Institutions (HEI) is increasing. Indeed, a study or training period abroad enhances personal development and strengthens the academic and cultural cooperation [1].

The European Chemistry Thematic Network (ECTN) association (<http://ectn.eu/>), which includes about 100 associated Universities or their Departments, is engaged in improving student mobility in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering educational programs. To this end, the ECTN created a number of working groups (WG) as to promote excellence in chemical education.

The “Student Mobility and MOBICCHEMS database” WG aims to enhance the quality and attractiveness of higher education in Europe, by promoting tools to aid mobility and providing quality assurance parameters for mobility in all three cycles in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering.

During the past twenty years several educational projects proposed by ECTN have been supported by the EU. One of the outcomes of these projects was the MOBICCHEMS database (<http://transparency.inp-toulouse.fr/>). This tool has been developed in Toulouse, and helps students select the most suitable Institution for their study or training period abroad during their Bachelor, Master or Doctorate programmes in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering.

Information about the WG activities can also be found in the booklet "Compatibility of Course Structures of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering in the EU" [2] and in the paper “Tools available to aid mobility: help for students and institutions. Case-studies of internships in Chemical Engineering at Porto University and in Chemistry at the University of Cologne” [3].

On the ECTN website (<http://ectn.eu/>), students will be able to find students’ forums as well as information about events (Summer Schools, Networking, Intensive Schools, Internship opportunities, links to teaching material for chemistry students and teachers, English language course for chemists, etc.).

It is worthy to mention that ECTN developed a framework defining requirements for Institutions to be eligible to receive the Eurolabels for the 3 cycles in Chemistry: “Chemistry Eurobachelor®”, “Chemistry Euromaster®” and “Chemistry Doctorate Eurolabel®”.

Students should be aware of the importance of these Eurolabels which ensure the quality and standards of programmes in Chemistry, across Institutions in Europe. Eurolabels are an added value for Institutions and can increase enrolment of students from abroad, enhancing and helping the students' mobility.

If Institution has been awarded one or more Eurolabels, we highly recommend mentioning this clearly in the Learning Agreement.

## References

[1] European Ministers Responsible for Higher Education (2009). The Bologna Process 2020 – The European Higher Education Area in the new decade. Retrieved from <https://www.vlaanderen.be/sites/default/files/nieuwsberichten/NB%20090429%20Bijlage%20-%20The%20Bologna%20Process%202020.pdf>

[2] "Compatibility of Course Structures of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering in the EU", G. Borzone Ed., July 2015, <http://www.ec2e2n.net/wp06>

[3] L. F. A. Martins, L. M. Madeira, H. Henneken, G. Borzone, “Tools available to aid mobility: help for students and institutions. Case-studies of internships in Chemical Engineering at Porto University and in Chemistry at the University of Cologne.”, VIRT&L-COMM.8.2015.1, <http://services.chm.unipg.it/ojs/index.php/virtlcomm/issue/view/12>