The first Test Centre Coordinators Meeting: the EChemtest® Infrastructure stakeholders

A. Laganà, VEC Chair, University of Perugia and CNR ISTM - UOS Perugia, 06100 Perugia, Italy
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AIMS OF THE TEST CENTRE COORDINATORS MEETING

The adoption of the Prosumer (Producer - Consumer) model brought an important novelty into the EChemtest® organization (see http://services.chm.unipg.it/ojs/index.php/virtlcomm/issue/view/29): its Test Centres (TCs) have taken the key role of main stakeholders of the operating infrastructure. Accordingly the first meeting of their coordinators held in Krakow the day before the General Assembly was of extreme importance for shaping the future of EChemtest® and for designing a solid strategy for achieving sustainability. The meeting was attended by the TC coordinators of AMSTERDAM (Natasa Brouwer), BUDAPEST (Eva Tudos deputy of Gergely Toth), KAZAN (Natalya Bashkircheva), KRAKOW (Krzysztof Szczeponek deputy of Artur Mikalak), LIJUBLJANA (Jurij Rescic), MADRID (Javier Sanchez Benitez) and by the invited VEC member Sergio Tasso and the EChemtest® expert Osvaldo Gervasi. Apologies for absence were received from the TC coordinators of GENOVA (Marina Rui), LA PAZ (Franz Velasco), MILANO (Michele Ceotto), NAPOLI (Riccardo Tesser), SIENA (Alessandro Donati) and VIENNA (Heinz Krebs).

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR 2018

♦ The 2018 outcomes of the process of reactivating the National Test Centre (NTC) of the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain) was reported by Javier Sanchez Benitez who mentioned the support provided by the Dean M. Villalba, by the VEC Standing Committee (SC) member S. Prashar of the RJC University (Madrid) and by O. Gervasi. Javier illustrated also the progress that will be made in establishing (starting from September 2019) a chemistry curriculum taught in English and Spanish to two cohorts of students, respectively, with the students' performance being measured using EChemTest® in the two languages. He illustrated also the undergoing efforts to translate the EChemTest® Libraries of Questions and Answers (Q&A) into Spanish in collaboration with La Paz.

♦ The video sent by the La Paz (Bolivia) TC coordinator Franz Velasco at UMSA (who was unable to travel to Krakow) in which the Rector, the Dean and himself illustrate their 2018 initiatives for EChemTest® was shown and discussed. At the end full support was given to the intention of La Paz to undertake a systematic program of running SESs, to issue Individual Proficiency Certificates (IPCs), to cooperate with Madrid in translating Q&A Libraries and to become the Bolivia NTC by presenting a specific project to the VEC SC.

♦ The 2018 synoptic Table obtained from the yearly reporting/planning electronic forms compiled by the TC coordinators (see the Table below) confirmed the potential sustainability of the Prosumer model thanks to the offsetting of debits through credits. To the budget shown there incomes obtainable from the issuing of IPCs and the provision of services to third party applicants by the Agency should be added.

MAJOR OUTCOMES FROM THE MEETING

♦ The complexity of the text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was indicated as a possible source of difficulty for signature by applicants to become EChemTest® TCs. As a matter of fact, the MoU has not yet been signed by Vienna and Helsinki TCs (though their coordinators signed a personal Intellectual Property Agreement (IPA)). In order to obviate such problem it was suggested to formulate a simpler version of the MoU and to stimulate the presently inactive Helsinki TC to regain the past level of activity by submitting to the VEC SC

new EChemTest projects with ad hoc temporary special conditions.

Reports for the year: 2018 (last update: 2019/03/27)	Q1. Number of own sessions run	Q2. Number of sessions run on behalf of other ECTN Members	Q3. Number of sessions run on behalf of ECTN	Q4. Number of sessions run on behalf of an external Institution	Q5. Number of sessions run by any other ECTN Member on my behalf	Q6. Number of hours spent for creating a new library's question	Q7. Number of hours spent for correcting an existing library's question	Q8. Number of hours spent for dissemination activities	CREDITS / DEBITS
NTC.HU	503	0	96	0	0	0	0	0	-1298.50
NTC.AT	181	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-405.00
NTC.NL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.
NTC.RU	123	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	-160.00
NTC.PL	173	0	411	0	0	0	0	0	114.50
NTC.SI	10	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
NTC.GR	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
NTC.SP	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0
ATS.PERUGIA.IT	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ATS.MILANO.IT	562	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	-1547.00
ATS.GENOVA.IT	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ATS.NAPOLI.IT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.

- TABLE – ESTIMATES OF THE 2018 DEBITS/CREDITS OFFSET

♦ A discussion on the present situation of the panels of experts for Libraries development and maintenance (including the planning of a joint TC and Library panel coordinators meeting at the 2020 General Assembly as prompted by the VEC SC) was started. TC coordinators agreed to pay particular attention to the situation of GC1 and GC2 Libraries due to their importance (as confirmed by the fact that half of the 2018 SESs were run using them). The TC coordinators asked AL to revise the list of EChemTest Library panel coordinators, to encourage the changes useful to revise and integrate the Library contents (where needed) and to make the Library panel meeting planned for next year successful. AL pointed out that within the VEC SC this task has been already assigned to Sanjiv Prashar.

♦ The dissemination of information on EChemTest activities was discussed with specific mention to the updating of the web site that was recently re-engineered, to the active use of the online published Bulletin, VIRT&L-COMM and Newsletter. Positive comments were made by the TC coordinators on the intention to reactivate the Newsletter and the use of extended versions of the best contributions for publication on VIRT&L-COMM. In this perspective it was also suggested to further qualify the participation of the ECTN members to the editorial board of VIRT&L-COMM.

♦ DEMO TESTS of GC1, GC2, AC3, IC3, OC3 and PC3 have been implemented on line. During the related discussion it was proposed to submit them for validation by the related Q&A Library panels.