

Mentoring European Knowledge of Chemical Regions Final Conference, 15th June 2005 Brussels.

The final conference of the project "Mentoring European Knowledge of the Chemical Regions" (MentorChem) took place on the 15th of June in Brussels to present the results of the cooperation between Saxony-Anhalt, Lombardia and Asturias. High level representatives from the three partner regions and the European Commission came together to discuss joint challenges and perspectives for future actions.

"MentorChem is a successful project of the pilot action 'Regions of Knowledge'. The exchange of experience between the regions is an important contribution for the strengthening of the European Research Area. Therefore, the regional dimension will be stronger supported in the future EU Research Policy." **Dimitri Corpakis**, Head of Sector on Regional aspects of Research Policy; European Commission - Directorate General for Research



Being among the first projects supported by the pilot action "Regions of Knowledge" that is partly financed by the European Commission, the project partners IDEPA, Cestec and isw GmbH used the opportunity to exchange best practice solutions for the development of chemical regions. The main topics of cooperation were the support of the cluster development, regional research competences in chemistry, regional strategies on REACH and the exchange of experience between chemical site initiatives.



"The chemical cluster in Saxony-Anhalt is a positive example for a successful cooperation between the relevant stakeholders from politics, science and industry. In the MentorChem project we could learn a lot from the best-practice in Lombardia for an improvement of our cluster strategy and the internationalisation of activities." **Dr. Gunthard Bratzke**, Managing Director of the isw Institute for Structural Policy and Economic Promotion, Halle, Saxony-Anhalt.

Furthermore the partners have been developing a comprehensive overview about the regional research competences in chemistry that have been published in a joint brochure. This publication contains detailed information about the research activities in the three regions. It should help to increase transparency and to facilitate joint research cooperation projects.

“The census of regional research competences is a unique opportunity to initiate joint research projects between the partner regions”, **Dr. Rinaldo Psaro** CNR – National Research Council, Milan, Lombardia



The two chemical site initiatives CeChemNet (Saxony-Anhalt) and AIQPA (Asturias) have been brought together in the framework of the MentorChem project. An expert delegation from Asturias has visited Saxony-Anhalt to exchange experience and to identify topics for cooperation. A joint brochure has been published to describe innovative activities and to identify potentials for the transfer of experience.



“AIQPA has benefited from the intensive cooperation with CeChemNet in identifying new activities that could be jointly implemented in the future.”
José Ramon Fernández, Coordinator of AIQPA, Asturias

The impact of REACH on the chemical industry in the partner region was a main concern of the project. Based on the experience of the partners, IDEPA has carried out an impact assessment of REACH in Asturias and organised a high level conference on the 5th of May 2005 in Oviedo to discuss the results with representatives from politics, science and industry.

“REACH will have a strong impact on the chemical enterprises, especially the SMEs. We must work together to achieve a more practical regulation.”

Victor Manuel Gonzales Marroquin,
General Manager, IDEPA Asturias



The MentorChem Project has participated in the debate on the development of the European Technology Platform “Sustainable Chemistry” (SusChem). During the round table the perspectives for a long-term strategy of the European Research Policy in Chemistry has been intensively discussed with representatives from the European Commission, the chemical industry and the project partners.



“The European Technology Platform “Sustainable Chemistry” aims to develop a long-term strategy for the European Research Agenda in Chemistry. We especially welcome the contribution of the chemical regions for the further development of the initiative”, **Dr. Marian Mours,** Innovation Manager, European Chemical Industry Council, Cefic

Finally, the exchange of experience about several topics has been summarised in a joint brochure that gives a comprehensive description about topics such as the Meta-cluster and the Voucher System in Lombardia, the Fraunhofer Pilot Plant Center for Polymer Synthesis and Processing and the chemistry initiative in Saxony-Anhalt or the network of technology centres in Asturias.



MentorChem Project Partners

Based on the successful cooperation and the results of the MentorChem project, a new project application has been developed in the second call of the “Regions of Knowledge” pilot action. The project “Mentoring European Research in Chemistry” (MERiC) has the objective to improve RTD strategies and regional research investments in the area of chemistry. Building on the sustainable partnership that has developed during the project, the partners are confident to further cooperate in the future.

All information about the project and the publications as well as the presentations of the conference can be accessed at the project webpage: www.mentorchem.net.



REGIONS OF KNOWLEDGE

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