

MentorChem Questionnaire:

TOPIC I. Restructuring and development of old industrial sites and chemical sites

1. How do we support the cooperation between SMEs? What are common challenges where a cooperation is beneficial (e.g. REACH, safety, environment)?
2. How do we improve the cooperation between SMEs and big multinational enterprises? Where are the important interfaces for a better interaction (e.g. spin off, innovation, etc.)?
3. Are there solutions for a better financial access of chemical enterprises in the context of Basel II that result from their advantages of network structures or to finance research and development activities?
4. How do we support the development of chemical enterprises and chemical sites and use the experience of the transformation process in the context of higher international competition and enlargement?
5. How do we improve the customer and market orientation of SMEs in the process of specialization?
6. What are innovative solutions for the management of chemical sites and is a transfer to other regions possible?

TOPIC II. Development and strengthening of cluster structures for the support of innovation

1. How can we compare and benchmark the chemical cluster at an European level with the objective to identify success factors for the development of clusters?
2. How can we support the internationalisation of the chemical clusters in the region or the cooperation between the European clusters?
3. Which are successful policies and instruments to support the development of the cluster? Which role is the regional authority playing?
4. What are best-practices for the establishment of Public-Private Partnerships in the cluster process? How can we activate the contributions of the private enterprises and combine it with public financial support?
5. Which role should the chemical associations play in the cluster process?
6. How do we support the innovation capacity of the chemical cluster and the cooperation between research and development organisations and the enterprises? How do we improve the knowledge about research competences in the region?
7. How do we ensure a high innovation capacity of the SMEs in this context?

TOPIC III. Innovative Approaches for the development of human resources

1. How do the chemical enterprise secure their future employment and improve the image of the chemical industry ?
2. How do they react to the challenge of demography and the inclusion of older employees?
3. How do they attract young and skilled employees and how do they promote PhD student for a higher innovation?
4. What are solutions to increase the flexibility of the workforce in the context of fast innovation process and changing production needs (working time, payments, etc)?
5. How do the regions support the research and development competencies and especially the practical orientation of the research activities towards the industrial needs?
6. Where are possibilities to develop European Standards for the qualification and training to increase the mobility of the employees?
7. Which role are the social partners – trade unions and enterprise associations – playing to support the human resource development? Are there specific networks related to these questions?

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