

August 2023

# ECTN News Letter

European Chemistry Thematic Network



## The ECTN

The European Chemistry Thematic Network (ECTN) is an association of higher education institutions, national chemical societies, chemical companies, and accreditation and quality assurance agencies. It came into being in 1996 when the initial consortium was awarded an EU funded Socrates-Erasmus project. This was then followed by 5 more projects with Chemistry being the only discipline to receive continuous funding until 2015 when the thematic network action in the Erasmus+ programme was discontinued.

The ECTN boasts the ability to reach a wide community of Chemistry teachers and learners via its vast network of member institutions. Thus, different working groups have been set up in aspects that directly affect Chemistry teaching and learning in the European Higher Education Area such as chemistry study plan design, on-line evaluation tests, degree programme accreditation, lecturer accreditation, university teaching training courses, student competitions, virtual education tools and much more. These working groups function with the synergy produced by their pan-European composition where problems and solutions are addressed and resolved, not at a regional or national level but on a European dimension.

The ECTN are also partners in two active Erasmus+ projects.

(i) [STEM Continuous Professional Development at European universities](#). The aim of this project is to promote discipline-oriented Continuous Professional Development among STEM lecturers.

(ii) [Digital Support in Chemistry Teaching](#). The aim of the project is to support digitalization of European chemical faculties.



Current members of the ECTN Administrative Council

## Invitation to participate in STEM-CPD scenarios and user cases

The continuous professional development (CPD) learning situations are CPD training activities set in a local context. These activities include among others: discussion, meetings, online courses, workshops, workplace learning and mentoring.

A collection of STEM-CPD scenarios and user cases for the CPD-Ambassadors have been created. All developed user cases and scenarios are openly available on the Starfish platform.

**We cordially invite you to participate in an exciting opportunity** to tailor Starfish's user cases to address specific local challenges and cater to the continuing professional development (CPD) requirements of your institutions.

By customizing these user cases, we aim to bridge the gap between global resources and local educational demands. Your expertise and insights are invaluable in ensuring that these resources resonate effectively within your unique context.

<https://starfish-education.eu/information/1119/>



The President of the ECTN, Sanjiv Prashar. Another hard day at the office

**Today the ECTN has over 100 institutional members from every corner of Europe and some even further afield.**

**Our remit is to inform, highlight, and promote all the activities of European Chemistry especially the advancement in all aspects of European Chemical Higher Education.**

## STEM-CPD

The truth behind this Erasmus Plus Project

<https://ectn.eu/work-groups/stem-cpd/>

This 3-year project is funded by the European Union through the KA2 - Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, within the Erasmus+ programme. The initiative is spearheaded by the Faculty of Chemistry at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, collaborating with four other esteemed European universities and the European Chemistry Thematic Network.

The rapid evolution of science and technology knowledge is intricately interwoven with complex societal challenges. To effectively navigate these advancements and ensure the enduring quality of teaching and learning in higher education STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines, there's an imperative for continuous lifelong professional development (CPD) for educators in their local educational ecosystems.

The project's activities are designed to harmonize technological, pedagogical, and content knowledge (TPACK) within teaching methodologies, fostering the integration of technology-driven approaches and amplifying students' learning experiences.

The ECTN is proud to present the

## 3rd STEM-CPD Summer School

15-19 October 2023

**Be quick only a handful of places still available.**



University of Aveiro, Portugal

The STEM-CPD Summer Schools are dedicated to fostering continuous professional development (CPD) in teaching and learning within higher education STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The program empowers participants to orchestrate professional development activities for lecturers at their respective universities, consequently elevating the standard of education and cultivating CPD Ambassadors.

<https://ectn.eu/stem-cpd-summer-school/>

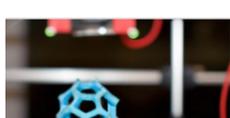
## Enhancing teaching competencies through MicroMOOCs

### Explore the World of MicroMOOCs

Discover a wealth of knowledge on effective student education through our MOOCs platform. With over 20 concise online modules, we cover an array of essential topics, including student assessment, addressing misconceptions, effective communication, 3D printing, problem-based learning (PBL), and MOOC design.



UL  
LO1  
3D Printing for STEM Educators



UL  
LO2  
3D Printing of Molecular Models



LVA  
STEM003  
Bridging Pre-Knowledge Gaps



ECTN  
ECTN002  
How to design innovative on-line continuous self-evaluation tests

### Unlock the Potential of MicroMOOCs

Each microMOOC demands only 1-3 hours of your time per module, ensuring a focused and impactful learning experience. Immerse yourself in captivating content, enriched with multimedia elements. Delve into succinct video clips, engage in thought-provoking forum discussions, and complete hands-on assignments to reinforce your understanding.

### Call for Participation

Be part of shaping the future of education by participating in the pilot phase of our new modules. The European Chemistry Thematic Network (ECTN) cordially invites you to contribute your insights, feedback, and expertise to refine our cutting-edge microMOOCs.

Embark on your journey to becoming an even more effective educator. Explore the microMOOCs today and take a step towards revolutionizing your teaching methods.

<https://lms.ectnmooocs.eu/courses>



## ECTN General Assembly and Annual Meeting goes Dutch

The 2023 ECTN Annual Meeting and General Assembly was held at the Amsterdam Science Park, University of Amsterdam on 14 - 16 April 2023. It was attended by over 100 people representing European University Chemistry Faculties, including almost 60 ECTN member institutions, national chemical societies, quality standards agencies, the President of IUPAC and the President of the European Chemical Society (EuChemS).

The theme of the meeting was the Quality of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Chemistry: Best Practices, Opportunities and Trends. This was highlighted by many plenary and parallel session presentations and discussions that appear in the ECTN Work Group pages and on the websites of the Erasmus+ projects, STEM-CPD@EUni and DISTINCT.

At the ECTN General Assembly, held on 14 April 2023, Peter Weinberger (TU Wien, AT) and Livia Simon Sarkosi (Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences)

were re-elected as members of the ECTN Administrative Council,

and Cristina Femoni (University of Bologna, IT) was elected to the position of ECTN President-Elect). Gabriella Borzone (University of Genoa, IT) was appointed as Chair of the ECTN Label Committee. She replaces Pavel Drasar who had expressed his wish to retire from this position. Pavel was thanked for his many years of valuable work for ECTN, including a mandate as ECTN President. Michal Jurasek (University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague), a member of the Label Committee Panel of Experts, was appointed as a member of the Label Committee.

The meeting was a great success and the ECTN thanks the Local Organising Committee at the University of Amsterdam, and especially Stefania Greca for their excellent organisation



## ECTN being DISTINCT Digital Support in Chemistry Teaching

The project is structured around four pivotal avenues of activity:

**Situational Analysis and a European Repository of Best Practices:** An insightful evaluation of the current landscape will inform the creation of a comprehensive European database housing exemplary practices. This repository will serve as a valuable resource for institutions seeking to enhance their digitalization strategies.

**Empowering Distance Learning - Lectures and Seminars:** We're committed to enabling effective distance learning experiences. Our project aims to provide ample support for refining the delivery of lectures and seminars through digital channels.

**Elevating Practical Education (Laboratory Classes):** Hands-on education is fundamental to chemistry. As such, we're dedicated to fostering innovative methods for conducting laboratory classes remotely, ensuring students continue to engage with practical learning.

**Strengthening School Education and Training in the Chemical Sector:** Recognizing the importance of a robust foundation, we will offer comprehensive recommendations for organizing chemical studies during times of crisis. This extends to school education and vocational training, laying the groundwork for a resilient and adaptable system.

In essence, this project is poised to usher in a new era of resilient, technology-driven education within the European chemical community.



The Distinct Team, Riga Latvia, May 2023



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## ECTN General Assembly and Annual Meeting Vienna 4-6 April 2024

It is a pleasure to invite you to the General Assembly and Annual Meeting of the ECTN to be held at TU Wien, Vienna (Austria) on 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The venue will be the campus Getreidemarkt in the heart of the city.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Vienna.

Peter Gärtner  
President of the  
Austrian  
Chemical Society  
(GÖCh)

Peter  
Weinberger  
Head of the  
local organizing  
committee

Sanjiv Prashar  
President of the  
ECTN



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# Save the date