



## **Annual National Report on Chemical Education in Finland 2008-2009**

### **Abstract**

The Division of the Chemical Education is the national Society for chemistry teachers. The intention of the division is to inform and offer seminars and other appointments for the chemistry teachers at all school levels and to maintain the cooperation between the teachers and the Finnish industry. The division has 345 members all over Finland.

### **1. National Education Policy**

A high level of education and the availability of high-quality, free education are the cornerstones of our welfare society. The Government will secure equal opportunities for quality education from early childhood to university education. The task of the upper secondary school as a general educational channel preparing students for further studies will be enhanced. Vocational education and training offers solid vocational competence and qualifies students for further study. At all education levels the quality of education will be improved.

**The Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council (FINHEEC)** is continuing the auditing of higher education.

New law for Universities is under construction. The new law will come into operation 1.8.2009 and the Universities have transition period until 1.1.2010.

### **2. Events in Chemical Education**

Organizations who organize seminars, continuing education etc. for chemistry teachers are

- Natural Science Center (LUMA-center) in University of Helsinki
- MAOL (MAOL is a pedagogical subject organization which works for the advancement of mathematics and natural sciences in Finnish society.)
  - o fall and winter days
- Finnish Chemical Society
  - o updating training

### **3. Activities**

The chair of the Division of Chemistry Education has been selected to the board of the Finnish Chemistry Society (2006-2009).

Annual meeting and seminar at WSOY publisher in march 2008.

Annual meeting 2009 and excursion was arranged at Neste Oil. At the same time the Division of Chemistry Education arranged a seminar (follow-up from last year) concerning teaching chemistry at various levels.



The chair of the Division has been responsible for the coaching the Finnish team for International Chemistry Olympics.

The chair of the board of Division of Chemical Education has participated in the following EU activities and reports in them (Research based teaching, EChemTest (ECTN)).

#### **4. Liaison with the Chemical Industry**

The Federation of Finnish Chemical Industry organized with the Finnish Chemical society the annual Komppa Day and the Chemistry of today – seminar. The Komppa Day was arranged next on May 2009 at Espoo, at the University of Technology.

#### **5. International and European Initiatives**

Members of Finnish Chemical Societies and its divisions have participated in numerous international networks, expert committees and projects, among others the SEFI working group for women engineering, FECS and IUPAC.

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