



European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences



Hungarian Chemical Society

National Report – Hungary 2008-2009

Abstract

On the effect of Bologna declaration the number of students choosing chemistry teacher MSc studies decreased dramatically in Hungary. An intensive protest against the plans of Ministry to integrate chemistry, physics and biology into science in junior and secondary high schools was organised by Hungarian Chemical Society (among others).

National educational policy

The first period of the BSc programmes ended. Students having BSc diploma took entrance examinations for MSc studies. It was proved that on the effect of Bologna declaration the number of students choosing chemistry teacher MSc studies decreased dramatically (practically to zero).

Ministry of Education suggested integration of chemistry, physics and biology into science in junior and secondary high schools. Most of the teachers and universities protested against the integration.

Events in chemical education

The annual national Olympiads for age groups of 13-14, 15-16, and 17-18 have been held at the universities of Eger, Miskolc and Budapest, respectively.

Regional organisations of the Hungarian Chemical Society organised several competitions on chemistry and environmental sciences for students.

The first PhD students obtained their PhD degree in chemical education at the Doctoral School of University of Debrecen.

Activities of the national chemistry society

- In this academic year the Hungarian Chemical Society
- organised the Irinyi János Chemistry Competition for secondary school students;
 - organised a special chemistry summer school for secondary school students in Pecs;
 - published five numbers of the Chemical Journal for Secondary School Students;
 - supported the participation of young chemists at international scientific conferences;
 - announced a competition for drawing pictures on chemistry for students (aged 12-16);
 - awarded the best diploma works of students graduated from chemistry.

Publications

Five numbers of the Chemical Journal for Secondary School Students were published. In this academic year the Hungarian Chemical Journal (published monthly by HCS) was renewed both in content and in form.

Liaison with the chemical industry

Unfortunately liaison with the chemical industry is occasional and mainly personal except of Richter Gedeon Pharmaceutical Ltd. 'Teacher Rátz Life Achievement Award' and 'For Hungarian Chemistry Education Prize' found by Richter Gedeon Pharmaceutical Ltd. award six chemistry teachers every year.

Companies from chemical industry supported competitions in chemistry for students.

Other events or activities

Hungarian chemistry teachers and university professors continuously help the Hungarian chemistry teachers living and working beyond the frontier (in Romania, Ukraine, Serbia and Slovakia) with training courses, teaching materials and staff exchanges.

CV of the delegate

Zoltán Tóth graduated from chemistry (1976) and teacher of chemistry (1992) at Kossuth Lajos University (present name is University of Debrecen). He works as associate professor at Team of Chemical Methodology (in Department of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry). Subjects taught: compulsory and optional lecture courses, problem solving seminars and laboratory practices in methodology of chemical education; PhD courses in didactics of chemistry teaching and in methodology of research in chemical education. Current research areas: misconceptions and conceptual changes in chemistry; numerical chemical problems in chemical education; dynamic models and small scale experiments in chemical education; application of knowledge space theory in chemistry education research. In 2005 he was awarded the 'Teacher Rátz Life Achievement Award' found by Richter Gedeon Pharmaceutical Ltd.