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Annual National Reports on Chemical Education – The Division for Chemistry Education – The Swedish Chemical Society 2008.

1. Abstract

What has happened during 2007 is the following; we have arranged one further education conference for chemistry teachers all levels, with 27 participants, during two days.

We have also had two so called “Berzeliusdagarna” with participants of 32 teachers and 341 students from upper secondary schools all over Sweden. The aims of the days are to inspire talented students from the schools to continue with university studies in chemistry. The days are in full sponsored by different companies, universities, the city of Stockholm and the Swedish National Agency for Education.

There have been 10 so called “Scheeledagarna” at different upper secondary schools and universities in Sweden. The target group is pupils from grade 7-9 at secondary schools with the aim to get them inspired of chemistry.

The Society is cooperating with the The National Resource Centre for Chemistry Teachers, KRC. The Centre is supporting activities of chemistry teachers in Swedish compulsory and upper-secondary schools. The general aim of the Centre is to promote and stimulate interesting and up-to-date teaching of chemistry in Swedish schools. The Centre is supported by Stockholm University.

The Society has one representative in the steering committee for EUSO in Sweden.

The Gold medal for excellent pedagogical achievement, “the Gunnar Starck medal” was given to Mrs Ulla Sandberg, teacher at a secondary school.

The Division has also had five meetings during the year.

2. National Educational Policy

At the end of March this year, a Commission of Inquiry of the Upper Secondary Education Reform presented their assignment. It's very extensive and covers basically all upper secondary education issues, from eligibility rules to how qualifications and graduation from

upper secondary school shall be designed, as well as issues relating to upper secondary adult education. The main task of the assignment is to propose a new structure for Swedish upper secondary education with the start in autumn 2011. This will lead to a new education in Natural Science, the so called natural Science Programme, grade 10-12, and also new courses in Chemistry with new curricula. There will also be a national diploma introduced for the students, which in Sweden was taken away in 1968. This assignment will be decided by the Swedish parliament in spring 2009. The progress towards the implementation of the Bologna process has already started at the universities in Sweden.

Unfortunately the interest of studying chemistry at universities in Sweden is very low. The subject is also considered to be very different by Swedish students at upper secondary schools. The lack of well educated science teachers at primary and secondary schools is also a big problem.

3. **Events in chemical education**

For teachers and lecturers; See above under abstract. One conference, the so called "Berzeliusdagarna" and "Scheeledagarna". The Swedish Department of Education has also given funding for further education for teachers which make it possible to study full time with 80 % salary up to 45 Bologna credits. E.G. KRC arranges course for teachers in chemistry.

For students; See above under abstract. The so called "Berzeliusdagarna" and "Scheeledagarna". Sweden is also participating in EUSO, and in the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) where Sweden got a silver medal individually through Mr Oscar Granberg from Jönköping. Every upper secondary school in Sweden has the possibility to participate in the Swedish competition.

For the general public; None.

4. **Activities of the National Chemistry Society -**

5. **Publications -**

6. **Liaison with the Chemical Industry**

Different Swedish chemical industries are very much indeed supporting the Swedish Chemical Society and their activities. Without their help we couldn't participate in EUSO, in IChO, we couldn't arrange the "Berzeliusdagarna" and so on. What we could improve is the discussion of how we can get more students and children interested in chemistry.

7. **International or European initiatives –**

8. **Other –**

9. **Brief CV of Anders Johansson 19681129**

1992 Master of Science in Teaching Education Science Uppsala University

1992-2000 Teacher at Upper secondary schools in Chemistry and Biology.

2000-2003 Handling Officer at the International Programme Office for Education and Training – the national agency in Sweden responsible for all Socrates, Grundtvig and Leonardo da Vinci programs and several national and Scandinavian initiatives.

2001-2002 Lecturer at Uppsala University for teacher trainees in chemical and biological methodology.

2003-2006 Teacher at Upper secondary schools in Chemistry and Biology.

2005-2008 Member in the Division for Chemistry Education – the Swedish Chemical Society

2003-2008 National expert for evaluation of the Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci programs

2006-2007 Exert in Brussels for centralized applications within the Leonardo da Vinci Program (European Commission – Education, Audiovisual and culture Executive Agency.)

2006-2008 Principal at an Upper secondary school, Carlforsska gymnasiet in Västerås.