



EUROPEAN CHEMICAL  
REGIONS NETWORK

ECRN - NEWS ::

06 November 2006

## 4<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Chemical Regions in Tarragona

The 4<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Chemical Regions took place on the 9 and 10 October in Tarragona, Catalonia (Spain) providing a platform to present the successes of the network in the past three years and to discuss future activities. More than 150 high-level representatives from the worlds of politics, science and industry discussed key aspects of the European research agenda for chemical regions. Four workshops were organised covering topics ranging from science and innovation, sustainable development to dialogue with the chemical industry at regional level - Public Communication and "Better Regulation" for the chemical industry.

Mr. Jordi Valls, Minister of Employment and Industry of Catalonia welcomed the participants of the congress. Catalonia is the leading Spanish chemical region and is also a significant player on a European level. The chemical industry is mainly located in the area of Tarragona, which has experienced important levels of growth and development in recent years. Alain Perroy, General Secretary of Cefic, presented the main challenges for the European chemical industry in the future, highlighting in particular increased competition from Asia and the Far East, which will force Europe to strengthen research and innovation capacities in order to remain a competitive and sustainable location for the chemical industry.



During the General Assembly Dr. Reiner Haseloff, Minister for Economy and Labour of Saxony-Anhalt was elected as President of the ECRN Association. Four additional regions Flanders (Belgium), Catalonia (Spain), Limburg (Netherlands) and Ida Viru (Estonia) were also accepted as new members in the ECRN Association, which will take over the work of the network from the Interreg project in the year 2007. Partners agreed on the finances and structures of the ECRN Association that will open an office in Brussels in order to take an active voice in the EU decision-making process. Dr. Haseloff stated its strong commitment for the further development of the network. He made particular reference to the preparatory work of the High-Level-Group for the chemical industry in the year 2007, highlighting this as a key activity for the ECRN to represent the interest of chemical regions in Europe.

### UPCOMING ECRN ACTIVITIES

#### ECRN Executive Board and Working Group Meeting

- February 2007  
Brussels, Belgium

Nord Est Sud Ouest

INTERREG III C

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BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

4<sup>th</sup> ECRN Congress  
*Summaries of  
Workshops*

ECRN Association  
*Outlook 2007*

New Projects  
*ChemSME  
Investment Study  
EQF Chemistry*

Regional Profiles  
*Huelva  
Rhineland-Palatinate*

## ECRN Association is heading for 2007

As the INTERREG IIIC Project ECRN is ending in December 2006, the ECRN association is going to take over activities as stakeholder of European Chemical Regions.

Since the foundation of the ECRN e.V. as an registered association based on German law in October 2005, important decisions have been taken concerning the administrative structure and membership regulation.

Moreover, further chemical regions joined the ECRN Association at the General Assembly meeting, which took place on 9 November 2006 in Tarragona along the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of European Chemical Regions. Accordingly, the ECRN e.V. comprises now of 14 European chemical regions from Germany, Spain, UK, The Netherlands, Belgium, Estonia and Czech Republic. Beyond this the ECRN is working together with further chemical regions.

In year 2007 the ECRN will focus on the fields: future design of EU Regional Policy, Research and Innovation, European Chemical Policy (REACH) as well as EU policy concerning energy and climate protection. Topics on which the ECRN has already prepared position papers and declarations in the past. Additionally, the ECRN is involved in the preparatory work for the High Level Group Chemistry, which is going to start in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2007.

The network also serves a platform for participation in other EU programmes by supporting the preparation of pilot projects for further exchange of experience among chemical regions. Here the know-



how transfer between chemical regions of the old and new EU member states contributes to European integration and competitiveness of the whole European Union. In this way, further enlargement of network membership, particularly with respect to chemical regions from the new member states is a central goal of the ECRN.

For more information about the ECRN Association please contact:

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Here you can also obtain a copy of the application form, statute and membership fee regulation.

### ECRN – Links

- European Chemical Regions Network  
[www.ecrn.net](http://www.ecrn.net)
- Saxony-Anhalt (Germany) – Lead Partner  
[www.sachsen-anhalt.de](http://www.sachsen-anhalt.de)
- North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)  
[www.nrw.de](http://www.nrw.de)
- Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (UK)  
[www.teesvalley-jsu.gov.uk](http://www.teesvalley-jsu.gov.uk)
- Government of Catalonia (Spain)  
[www.gencat.net](http://www.gencat.net)
- Voivodeship of Masovia (Polen)  
[www.mazovia.pl](http://www.mazovia.pl)
- Province of Limburg (The Netherlands)  
[www.limburg.nl](http://www.limburg.nl)
- Lower Saxony (Germany)  
[www.niedersachsen.de](http://www.niedersachsen.de)
- Piedmont Region (Italy)  
[www.regione.piemonte.it](http://www.regione.piemonte.it)
- County Council of Huelva (Spain)  
[www.diphuelva.es](http://www.diphuelva.es)
- Lombardy Region Government (Italy)  
[www.artigianato.regione.lombardia.it](http://www.artigianato.regione.lombardia.it)
- Ida Viru County Government (Estonia)  
[www.ivmv.ee](http://www.ivmv.ee)
- Principality of Asturias (Spain)  
[www.idepa.es](http://www.idepa.es)
- Cheshire County Council (UK)  
[www.cheshire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshire.gov.uk)
- Rhineland Palatinate (Germany)  
[www.rlp.de](http://www.rlp.de)
- Schleswig Holstein (Germany)  
[www.schleswig-holstein.de](http://www.schleswig-holstein.de)
- Hesse (Germany)  
[www.hessen.de](http://www.hessen.de)
- Ústí Region (Czech Republic)  
[www.kr-ustecky.cz](http://www.kr-ustecky.cz)
- Flanders (Belgium)  
[www.flanders.be](http://www.flanders.be)

## ChemSME Project Team propose future joint activities with ECRN Association

ChemSME is a sub-project set up under Interreg IIC operation RFO-touriSME in January 2005. Its objectives are to support SMEs within the chemical industry through activities such as the development and strengthening of chemical clusters and encouraging innovation and internationalisation.

Three regions, Limburg (NL), the North East of England (UK) and Saxony-Anhalt (D) have collaborated to identify and share best practices. Examples include a voucher scheme successfully used by Limburg to promote innovation in SMEs, an innovation strategy developed by NE England highlighting areas for industry/academic collaboration and recent development in polymers in Saxony-Anhalt.

The partners have identified several specific projects with significant potential for future development and have been seeking ways to continue the collaboration beyond the end of the project in December 2006. With that aim the proposal was made to the Working Group of ECRN at the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress held in Tarragona that ChemSME become the SME focus group within the future ECRN Association. Informal feedback at the Congress was very positive and a formal proposal will be submitted to the Presidium in the near future.

### CONTACT

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www.chemsme.net

## Technical Study on Investment Factors in Chemical Companies

The Association of Chemical Industries of the Principality of Asturias, AIQPA, was founded in 2000 with the main objective of collaborating in the growth of Asturias as a Chemical Region. At present, AIQPA is working on a technical study at European level to determine factors that influence a chemical company's decision to invest in a particular region or country. The project, which started in September 2005 and will finish in March 2007, is mainly based on personal interviews with managers and directors of chemical companies who are decision makers or have specific responsibilities for investments. After a bibliographic revision, a total of 46 factors (strategic, technical, socio-economic, and industrial environment) to be discussed were selected,

such as water supply, distance to raw materials and customers, price of industrial land or qualified manpower.

Around 100 personal interviews all over Europe and 100 online answers to the questionnaires are expected. During the recent ECRN Congress in Tarragona further contacts with different regions have been established that will be very helpful for the study. After a quantitative evaluation of selected factors and the comparison of opinions collected, with features from the different regions, the conclusions obtained will be published in English and distributed to all the ECRN members and other interested regions.

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## Workshop 1 Science and Innovation in Chemical Regions

Ian MacKinnon, from the North East of England, presented the results of the project ChemSME that had the objective to strengthen chemical clusters for the support of innovation and internationalisation of SMEs. He proposed a close collaboration in this area with the ECRN to enlarge and sustain the impact of the work in the future. Prof. Giuseppe Sironi presented innovative solutions from energy and chemicals from renewable sources in Piedmont. Frans Pistorius, President of DSM Netherlands spoke about the neces-

sity of partnerships for R&D and innovation. His company has developed good experience in this area and is especially looking towards the new EU Research programmes. Jordi Cartanyà spoke about the role of scientific and technological parks in the creation of innovative environments- bringing together companies, universities and the regions to foster innovation. Councillor Andrew Needham finally summarised the workshop discussion stressing in particular the potential of joint cooperation projects in the future.

## Workshop 2 Sustainable Development in Chemical Regions

In workshop 2 the participants discussed the topic of sustainable development in chemical regions. Mr Kendal, who co-ordinated the ECRN study on land improvement, provided an overview of the study's findings and outlined some of the problems. One of the key findings is that public support is needed to deal with some sites where cost prohibits intervention by the private sector. Mr Josep Anton Domènech spoke about contaminated land in Catalonia and risk analysis as a measurement tool, which is the basis for the regulator framework in the region. Josep Maria Bach presented CEFIC's Responsible Care Programme. It has the objective of improving health and safety and the environment, promoting better relationships and corporate respon-

sibility and improving communications. Peter Jahns, Effizienz Agentur, North-Rhine Westphalia explained examples to improve resource efficiency in chemical supply chains by Public Private Partnership. Resource efficiency can increase profits and protect the environment, especially for SMEs. Luca Recchia from Federchimica presented an example of land improvement in Lombardia, where a former oil refinery site in Milan was turned into an exhibition and congress centre. Moderator Councillor Tony Richmond stressed the importance of further exchange of experience in the area and welcomed the proposal for further cooperation projects in the future.



## IMPRINT

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## Pictures

C'est la vie Estudi

## Workshop 3 Dialogue with the chemical industry at regional level - Public Communication

Rolf Nettersheim, from DOW chemicals in Lower Saxony presented the Strategic Community Communication of his company in Germany. Open honest proactive communication is necessary to demonstrate loyalty and build trust is essential in any business communication be it with the local authority, local communities or other companies. José Ramón Fernández from AIQPA spoke about Collaboration between Chemical Associations and Regional Development Agencies in Asturias, where several activities such as handbooks on health and safety or communication between universities and companies have been jointly implemented.

Maria Comellas, Ministry of Environment and Housing of Catalonia spoke about the collaboration agreement between the Ministry and the Chemical Industry Association of Tarragona that had the objective to preserve and improve the environment. Barbara Tosi (Piedmont) explained the potential of a virtual reality programme that simulates for risk preventions at chemical parks. Jordi Farré, University of Rovira, presented results of multi-disciplinary research on the communication of risks and its implications for the institutional practice, highlighting in particular the importance of risk communication to the outside world.

## Workshop 4 : Better Regulation in the Chemical Industry

Workshop four of the congress covered the discussion about the potentials of better regulation for the chemical industry. The initiative for Better Regulation was brought forward by the European Commission in an effort to simplify European legislation and to avoid bureaucratic regulations in the future. The chemical industry is especially subject to numerous pieces of legislation and regulations that can sometimes hinder economic development. As such there is a strong interest in participating in the debate and providing concrete examples from an industrial branch and regional view. Victor Macia presented the results of the ECRN Study on Environment and Legislation. The need for coherent legislation was underlined in the study. IPPC, Air emissions, REACH and waste and water have been identified as interesting topics for the future. Martin Feldmann from North Rhine-Westphalia presented the activities of his region in the Better Regulation area. NRW has been active in the REACH impact assessment, the

European Qualification Framework and the Service Directive. Martin Feldmann stated that regions have many ways of contributing to the Better Regulation Initiative and an improved inter-regional co-operation and co-ordinated action is possible. Klaus Berend from the European Commission presented the Better Regulation initiative and the next steps in the process. He stressed that the Commission is interested to take on board views from all relevant stakeholders in the process and welcomed the active participation of chemical regions. Vianney Schyns explained the latest developments in the area of emission trading and its impact on the chemical industry. Improvements in the area of windfall profits and new entrants must be solved. The ECRN has proposed to use ex-ante benchmarks for this purpose.



## Permeability in vocational education and training - an example from chemistry

On 1 October 2006 the pilot project EQF Chemistry, supported by EU programme Leonardo da Vinci has started its work. 16 partners from 8 European countries want to contribute to the implementation of the European Qualification Framework (EQF) related to the chemical industry.

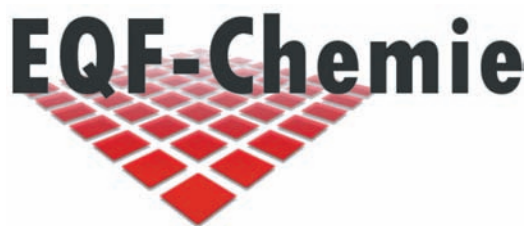
Referring to the instrument EQF, the project intends to give concrete answers to questions

- of the permeability in vocational education in different qualification stages of non-academic training and
- of the permeability at the interface of academic and non-academic training for the chemistry sector.



On the basis of the detailed competence profile for a "general operator", compiled in the Leonardo da Vinci project "ECTS for chemical workers", the qualification profiles for some non-academic professions in chemistry on the one hand and the studies for the "Bachelor of Chemistry" and the "Bachelor of Chemical Engineering" on the other hand will be adjusted and/or extended. In the result the congruence between the different qualification stages are worked out, for which suggestions on mutual requirements are to be submitted. Beyond that it is expected that on the basis of the experiences gained in the project first suggestions for a generally valid methodical procedure for the analysis and design of intersections in academic and non-academic initial and further training in other occupations can be derived.

A further request of the project includes the preparation and testing of a transnational



modularised training co-operation to provide training in competences that are certifiable in accordance with ECVET criteria. Transnational offers for trainees and for trainer will be created that make it possible to complete learning sequences (modules), also with international recognition, which cannot be realised in the enterprise that the trainee works in.

The project EQF chemistry is very interested in discussing the results of cooperation with relevant stakeholders from other European chemical regions.

## ECTS FOR CHEMICAL WORKERS

Therefore constant information will be disseminated and interested organisations are invited to join the project activities.

More information on [www.eqf-chemie.de](http://www.eqf-chemie.de); [www.ects-chemie.de](http://www.ects-chemie.de)

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Education and Culture

# Leonardo da Vinci Pilot projects

## Regional Profile : County Council of Huelva



### FACTS & FIGURES

Huelva County Council

- Inhabitans: 472.446
- Gross Domestic Product: 6.952 M€io €

#### Sectorial Distribution of GDP:

- Market services: 49,6 %
- Industry: 14,5 %
- Agri-Fisheries: 10,6 %
- Public services: 13,4 %
- Construction: 11,9 %

#### Production of enterprises of AIQB in 2004:

- Electric power: 2%
- Paste of papel: 4%
- Metals: 21%
- Fertilizers: 6%
- Basic Chemical Products: 23%
- Oil refinery and gas: 44%

Huelva County Council is situated in the South-West of Andalusia, just at the border with Portugal. Its 120 km coast is washed by the Atlantic Ocean and its total surface is 10.028 km<sup>2</sup>. More than 3.200 hours of light floods this land of seaworthy, agricultural and industrial traditions. Huelva is the cradle and origin of discovery of "the New World".

The industrial-chemical center was initially created around pyrites developed further following the decision to build a refinery in Huelva creating a large industrial complex that has become over the last 40 years, one of the most important basis in Huelva's economy. This industrial complex is nowadays regarded as one of the main industrial-chemical centres in Spain. All companies within this sector are working together through the Association of Chemical and Basic Industries of Huelva (AIQB).

The contribution of this powerful Industrial Centre to Huelva's economy is revealed in economic data factsheet for year 2004, published by AIQB:

- Production value reached 3.316 M €, 31% invoiced to international market.

- Gross Added Value (GAV) generated by this activity was 647 M €, this is the equivalent to the 10% of County of Huelva's GAV.

- Value of investments equaled to 523 M€. 13% of those investments were for environmental protection measures. The

accumulated investment from 1990 has reached 2.422 M €. This figure reveals the intense and constant effort to modernise our companies in both production capacity and in raising environmental benefits as well as maintaining the competitiveness of the location for this industrial centre

- The industry directly employs some 6.333 people and generates jobs indirectly for a further 10.000. These figures represent 10% of the total employment in the County of Huelva.

Products developed by this Industrial Centre include for instance: a wide range of fertilisers, for agricultural use; tripoli-phosphates, which are the basis to make detergent; titanium dioxide pigment, basic component in paint manufacturing; phenol, main raw material to manufacture new generation plastics and a wide range of products for energy use derived from oil refining. There is also one of the main factories of paper paste in Spain, one natural gas terminal and an electrical power terminal of 1600 MW.

To conclude it is also key to mention the critical importance of the port of Huelva., the second most important within Andalusia, for the development of chemical industry in this area. Its activity is closely connected to industrial activity, with 85% of its incomes and more than 90% of its traffics depending on the Chemical Site.



## Rhineland Palatinate

Rhineland-Palatinate is located in the centre of Europe, bordering France, Belgium and Luxembourg and the German Länder Saarland, North Rhine-Westphalia, Hesse and Baden-Wuerttemberg. With an export rate of more than 45% Rhineland-Palatinate outperforms almost all other states in federal republic and its rate of productivity in manufacturing is the second highest among all other German states.

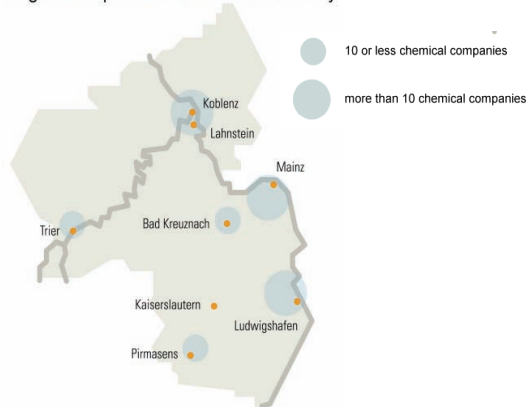
The main sectors in Rhineland-Palatinate are the chemical industry with more than 59.000 employees and a turnover of nearly 21 billion €, the automotive industry (29.416 employees, 9,01 bn EUR), the food processing industry (25.542 employees, 6,36 bn EUR), the metal production and processing industry (37.183 employees, 6,1 bn EUR), the mechanical engineering (35.519 employees, 5,45 bn EUR) and the plastics industry (23.224 employees, 3,78 bn EUR).

But the chemical industry in Rhineland-Palatinate has led the field for many years, with one manufacturing job in every five within the chemical sector (approximately 21% as compared with a country wide figure of only 7.5%). Well-known names like BASF AG and Boehringer Ingelheim determine the picture of the chemical industry in Rhineland-Palatinate. BASF AG, which celebrated its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2005, is the biggest chemical company in the world. More than 38.500 people work at the location in Ludwigshafen. The next largest employer in the chemical industry is Boehringer Ingelheim with 5.800 employees in Ingelheim (10.000 in Germany). It is not

only one of the biggest but also one of most successful pharmaceutical companies in the world.

Despite this concentration the industry in the Rhineland-Palatinate, most enterprises are pre-dominantly of a medium-size structure. In Rhineland-Palatinate 49% of the chemical enterprises employ less than 100 coworkers, 23% employ up to 300, 16% up to 500 and only 12% employ 500 or more coworkers. Last but not least the high export quota of approximately 62% in Rhineland-Palatinate in contrast to 53% in the country as a whole underlines the great importance of the chemical industry for the country.

Regional emphasis of the chemical industry



# RheinlandPfalz



### FACTS & FIGURES

- Population: 4.058.682  
204 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>
- Area: 19.847,39 km<sup>2</sup>
- Gross Domestic Product: 92,73 bn €
- Export- and Import: Export: 28,3 bn €; Import: 18,7 bn €

#### • Chemical industry

101 companies,  
59.000 employees,  
export rate 62 %,  
sector structure:  
78% basic chemicals,  
13% pharmaceuticals,  
4% detergents and  
performance products,  
5% other chemicals  
share of chemistry in  
relation to whole  
industry:  
21% of all employees;  
32% of the turnover

