



## The competitiveness of the chemical industry and the factors affecting it - 3E

*(Energy supply, Education & Skills, Economy & Innovation)*

**12<sup>th</sup> ECRN Congress**

**Ústí nad Labem, 22 October 2014**

Clarion Congress Hotel

Špitálské náměstí 3517, 400 01 Ústí nad Labem, Czech Republic

<http://www.clarioncongresshotelustinadlabem.com/en/>

The **12th Congress of the European Chemical Regions** brings together decision-makers, industry representatives and stakeholders from regions and the EU to exchange views and experiences.

The programme features speakers from regional authorities, the chemical industry, universities and research institutions. Participants will hear about and have a chance to discuss regional rationale and policies on to enhance competitiveness of the chemical industry. Main focus will be on “3E” factors: energy supply, education and skills, and economy and innovation.

Participants will also have a chance to explore our “Market of Ideas” with a selection of regional experiences, best practices and projects that illustrate the variety of activities taking place in and across chemical regions in Europe.

 #ECRNCongress2014

## **Congress Programme 22 October 2014**

*Congress moderator: : Ing. Aleš Soukup, PhD*

9:30 **Registration and coffee**

10:00 **Welcome & opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> ECRN Congress**

- Introduction of the Ústí Region (video)
- Opening speech: Oldrich Bubeníček, Governor of the Ústí Region
- Introduction to the chemical industry in Ústí: Petr Svoboda, Research Institute of Brown Coal & Member of Chemical Industry Platform of Ústí Region
- Welcoming words from ECRN:
  - Hanny Nover, Director of the ECRN Secretariat, Brussels
  - Petr Fiala, Councillor, Regional Authority of the Ústí Region & ECRN Executive Board Member

10:30 **Chemical industry and competitiveness**

*The EU's growth strategy Europe 2020 aims for a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. However, the EU's capacity to achieve these goals depends to a great extent on decisions and actions at the regional level. In this session, we will discuss different trends and factors influencing the competitiveness of the chemical industry and consider their relevance and impacts at both the European and regional levels.*

### **Introductory presentations:**

- Czech perspective: Ladislav Novák, Association of Chemical Industry
- Industry perspective: Jiří Hošek, Unipetrol, Inc.
- General perspective on competitiveness of the European chemical industry: René van Sloten, Cefic
- ERICE project (cluster excellence): Piotr Popik, Mazovia Development Agency (ARMSA)
- Grangemouth Transformational project: Rebecca Hogarth, Scottish Enterprise
- Regulatory issues - Registration of SMEs under REACH regulation: Mehdi Hocine, European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

### **Panel discussion and Q&A**

12:30 **Lunch**

13:30 **Skills development and training – fostering talent in chemistry**

*Competitive and sustainable European chemical industry builds on various elements, and having the right skills and competence base and availability of quality labour, capacity to innovate and support for innovation are important factors contributing to competitiveness. In this session we will focus on questions like ‘What kind of skills are needed for sustainable chemistry?’, ‘How can such skills be developed?’, ‘What kind of training or industry-academia collaboration is needed?’, ‘Can sustainability and greener chemistry help to attract young people to study sciences and chemistry?’. We will look for good practices and solutions that can be implemented at the regional level to enhance competitiveness of the chemical industry.*

- Importance of skills for research and innovation: Jaromír Lederer, MD., UniCRE - Research Institute of Inorganic Chemistry
- Perspective from the industry: Eva Stoupová, Personnel officer, Spolchemie
- Cefochim and training activities in Wallonia: Laurie Delmer, SPW Wallonie

14:30 **Networking in the Market of Ideas**

*The afternoon session is dedicated to the Market of Ideas with examples of regional projects and innovative chemical companies and clusters. Representatives from projects and organizations will present their activities with short mini-presentation and be available throughout the session to answer questions and provide additional information on their initiatives.*

*Congress participants will also have a chance to network and find new partners and contacts over coffee during the session.*

- Project to promote science and technology education: Hana Hejlová (Ústí Region)
- Microbrewery: Josef Smejkal (Gymnazium dr. Smejkala Ústí n. L.)
- Project sectoral agreements: Kamila Hajdíková (NSK2)
- Cooperation of Faculty of Science of UJEP in Ústí nad Labem with region in nanotechnology field: Zdeňka Kolská (University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem)
- PARNET and PROTRANSFER, projects for cooperation of Faculty of Science of UJEP: Blanka Pohajdová (University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem)
- ECRN Project Council: Jörg Klein (Chemie-Cluster Bayern)
- Smart Specialisation: Miroslav Cingl (S3 manager, Ústí Region)

- NANOFORCE's TRM: a tool supporting Nano R&D Commercialization & industrialization: Paolo Manes (Federchimica)
- Possibilities for Inter-Regional Cooperation in the Context of Marie Sklodowska-Curie (MSCA) Innovative Training Networks (Horizon 2020): Kinga Czenczek (Mazovia)
- Cooperation possibilities with the Mazovian Chemical Cluster (The Płock Industrial and Technological Park): Piotr Popik/Lukasz Gorecki (ARMSA)
- HYPOS ("Hydrogen Power Storage & Solutions East Germany") project: Stefan Basus (Clustermanagement Mitteldeutsches Cluster Chemie/Kunststoffe, Saxony- Anhalt)
- Interregional activities on bioeconomy: Carolin Lange and Dennis Herzberg (CLIB 2021, NRW)

16:00 **Concluding remarks**

Dr. Hanny Nover, Director of the ECRN Secretariat

16:30 **Closing of the 12th ECRN Congress**