

## Excellence in academia

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The prosperity of the society depends strongly on the education of its young generation, thus in Europe a lot of effort is done towards building the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). The main aim of EHEA is to encourage trans-national collaboration between universities, to boost mobility of students and academic teachers as well as to improve the recognition of studies and qualifications throughout the European Union. This requires promotion of mobility, exchanges of ideas and making academic degree standards and quality assurance standards compatible throughout Europe.

The value of the trans-national collaboration and exchange of students and staff is supported by the history of development of the universities, where the free exchange of ideas, disputes and persons involved, was the basic of its development.

Historically an **academy** (Greek Ἀκαδημία) is an institution of higher learning, research, or honorary membership. The name traces back to Plato's school of philosophy, founded approximately 385 BC at **Akademia**, a sanctuary of Athena, the goddess of wisdom, north of Athens in Greece. In the 17th century, British and French religious scholars popularized the term to describe certain types of institutions of higher learning. The British adopted the form **academy**, while the French adopted the forms **académie** and **académie**. By the end of the 13th century, there were over 80 universities in Europe, whereas in now days exceed the number of several thousands.

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Within Europe, education is in principle an exclusive competence of the Member States of European Union. Thus the main aim of EU is to focus on the European dimension in education, in particular, by encouraging mobility of students and teachers. Education is mentioned in a general social clause in the recent "*EU Reform Treaty*" of Lisbon (signed on 13 December 2007 by the representatives of the 27 Member States and ratified by 5 Member States as of 8 February 2008, namely: Hungary, Slovenia, Malta, Romania and France). Here is an excerpt of Article 5a:

"In defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union shall take into account requirements linked to the promotion of a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fight against social exclusion, and a high level of education and training as well as protection of human health."

In this presentation the activity towards the excellence in academic education in Europe will be presented by an example on how the enthusiasms and beliefs of a group of academic teachers, namely chemists leads to the creation of an excellent master programme open for European students involved in chemical measurements. The aim of this activity was to create an European forum, where analytical chemistry lecturers can meet and share ideas and best practice in the field of generic measurement science in analytical chemistry.

Why the analytical chemistry was selected to exemplified the activities towards excellence in academia and its educational proposes? This come from the fact that analytical chemistry is and important discipline in the areas of natural sciences. At its early stage was an essential in research in natural sciences. Then become am equal discipline, being clearly distinguished from e.g. inorganic and organic chemistry, physical chemistry or biochemistry.

Nowadays the quality of chemical measurements, being a part of analytical chemistry become an important issue because its high impact on economy. Thus the dissemination of knowledge on the generic issue of chemical measurements become important, especially for the students entering the job market. Therefore the challenge was to set up within EHEA the curriculum for a second degree in natural science. An EUROMASTER® Join Degree Programme in Measurement Science in Chemistry (JDP MSC) was recently awarded with the accreditation certificate from European Chemistry Thematic Network Association (ECTN). This academic programme is rooted in the TrainMiC® training programme for Long Life Learning, that is since 2002 running under the management and technical supervision of the Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements of Join Research Centre of European Commission.

Information could be found on the respective webpage's:

For JDP MSC: <http://www..msc-euromaster.eu>.

For TrainMiC® : <http://www.trainmic.org>

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