

Update Project Proposal „Chemistry as a Cultural Enterprise (CCE)”

The idea of the project was born during the breaking-out session on the CCE meeting at the GA Glasgow 2009.

The goal of the project is to develop intercultural reflections in chemistry in order to foster better understanding and appreciation of the subject as a human and cultural enterprise. To achieve this goal a global competition (reflecting in the variety of home countries of the task group members from Europe, i.e. Germany, Netherlands, Italy, from Africa, i.e. South Africa, Egypt and from Australia, including Tom Tritton from the Chemical Heritage Foundation, USA) is planned, which will address 12-17 year old students, asking them to apply their ideas about the importance of chemistry in their lives to design a (national) stamp. The students can submit their stamps with a short account by means of an educational electronic communication network to a moderated publication site, that also enables peer review.

The second goal is to develop a close collaboration between teachers of different disciplines (language, art, history and science) in bridging the gap between the “different cultures”.

As an IYC project, it helps develop students’ curiosity for other cultures. Bringing teachers of different disciplines together makes them understand and appreciate each other’s subject area. This guarantees international importance.

Due to collaboration with the Science Across the World program (www.scienceacross.org) the electronic communication network has already been installed

(www.scienceacross.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.showcontent&node=697) with even the possibility for a (educational) easy to operate video conferencing system (Flashmeeting), that doesn't require 'equipment'.

The project was submitted to IUPAC reviewers with a very positive feedback.

Apart from the ideological support, financial support is still open. But time is pressing. If we want to stick to the original idea to combine the project with IYC, i.e. Kick-Off at the Paris IYC opening session (January 29th, 2011) in order to present best practices examples at the closing ceremony (December, 2011) in Brussels, we have to get started!