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Improving measurements in chemistry: First graduates of JRC-mentored Master's degree

The first group of graduates of a new European Master's degree received their diplomas at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Geel, Belgium. The degree, "Measurement Science in Chemistry", was based on training initiatives developed by the JRC's Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM).

A consortium of nine universities located in seven different European countries (Estonia, Poland, France, Portugal, Finland, Bulgaria and Slovenia) got together under the mentorship of JRC-IRMM to offer the harmonised Master's degree "Measurement Science in Chemistry". It received the "Euromaster" quality award in 2008 and today, two years later, the first group of 33 students has graduated.

Analytical measurements set the foundations for critical decisions in society. In Europe, measurements are involved in around 40% of the EU Directives and cost around €80 billion per year. Better healthcare, food safety and environmental protection are just some of the ways in which accurate and reliable measurements enhance our quality of life.

Origins of the Master's degree

The "Measurement Science in Chemistry" consortium was initiated by the JRC's Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM). The degree was developed from a training programme launched in 2001 by IRMM called TrainMiC®. This programme aims at the harmonised interpretation of the metrological requirements of ISO/IEC-17025 – the main standard for chemical and bio-analytical measurements in different sectors such as environment, food or consumer protection.

JRC-IRMM role in measurement science

Training and knowledge transfer are essential for the JRC-IRMM's mission, which is to promote a common and reliable European measurement system in support of EU policies. A high-quality, well-functioning measurement infrastructure in Europe depends not only on reference materials and measurements, but also on the availability of trained and competent practitioners.

JRC-IRMM collaborates with international metrology organisations such as the International Committee for Weights and Measurements (CIPM) and the network of European metrology institutes (EURAMET). Through an agreement with the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA) it helps to improve the measurement capabilities of hundreds of laboratories in all EU countries.

Further information

- "Measurement Science in Chemistry" Euromaster: <http://www.msc-euromaster.eu>
- TrainMiC@ initiative: <http://www.trainmic.org/>
- "Practical examples on traceability, measurement uncertainty and validation in chemistry": the book is available free of charge at: <http://bookshop.europa.eu>
- JRC Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements:
<http://irmm.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

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Annex: participating universities in the "Measurement science in chemistry" Euromaster

1. University of Tartu (Estonia)
2. University of Warsaw (Poland)
3. Adam Mickiewicz university (Poland)
4. Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Poland)
5. Université de Lyon (France)
6. University of Lisbon (Portugal)
7. University of Oulu (Finland)
8. South-West University "Noefit-Rilski" (Bulgaria)
9. University of Maribor (Slovenia)