

distribution also has a relevant impact on the production costs.

This proposed project, to be carried out within the Analytical Chemistry Division (V), aims to investigate:

1. the influence of grain size distribution on the homogeneity of solid reference materials
2. the influence of grain size distribution on the minimum sample intake for the analysis of different analytes
3. the influence of grain size distribution on the stability of the reference materials
4. the cost associated with the production of reference materials with different particle size distribution

The project, funded by the different participants, began in October 2006. It is being coordinated by the Italian Environmental Protection Agency and involves representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency, Austria; Institute for National Measurement Standards, Canada; University of Barcelona, Spain; and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, USA.

For more information and to submit comments, please contact Task Group Chairman Maria Belli <maria.belli@apat.it>.

 www.iupac.org/projects/2005/2005-035-2-500.html

The Chemistry Clearing House as a Way to Better Chemistry Teaching

With the support of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Chemistry Clearing House was organized at Mendeleyev's University of Chemical Technology of Russia in order to disseminate information about chemistry and chemical education throughout Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The objective of the Clearing House is to improve the professional skills of teachers in secondary schools, high schools, colleges, and polytechnic schools by disseminating IUPAC-sourced educational and reference materials to educational institutes. The Clearing House helps teachers select the right materials, adapt them to their curricula, and translate them if necessary.

One of the goals of this project was to eliminate the gap in the teaching of chemistry between fundamental science and curricula by adopting educational materials and practices approved by the IUPAC Committee on Chemistry Education (CCE).

Information about the Chemistry Clearing House has

been incorporated into the website of Mendeleyev's University of Chemical Technology of Russia. The website (in Russian) <<http://gh.muctr.ru>> includes the following:

- project information, head coordinators, and participant information
- list of the Education Ministry of Russian Federation documents regarding chemical education and the integration of science and education
- translation of CCE reports
- translations of IUPAC materials regarding chemical terminology
- presentations of new methods and techniques for scientific education

The Chemistry Clearing House achieved its goal of contributing to the public understanding of chemistry and the scientific method. Future curricula will promote the public appreciation of chemistry and the benefits brought to society by the discovery and application of chemical knowledge.

In the future, the Clearing House hopes to work more closely with CCE on educating Russian science teachers. However, it is not enough to simply deliver information regarding IUPAC activities. Instead the system must allow for two-way communication and feedback.



The Chemistry Clearing House is a vital component of Russian chemistry education because it helps teachers adopt foreign science teaching methods and take part in an international exchange of information and educational experience.

Other countries should consider developing their own chemistry clearing houses in order to accomplish the following:

- improve chemical education overall
- advance public understanding of chemistry and the scientific method
- exchange information on teaching methods among colleagues around the world
- adapt curricula to technology and industry problems

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 www.iupac.org/projects/2001/2001-003-5-050.html