

## CHEMIFOR: Integrated Self-training System for the Chemical Sector



The second transnational meeting of **CHEMIFOR PROJECT** took place in Wrexham – North Wales, United Kingdom – on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2009. During the meeting, all partners discussed the work plan, schedule and timelines, evaluation and dissemination plans and the outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> technical assessment round of the project.

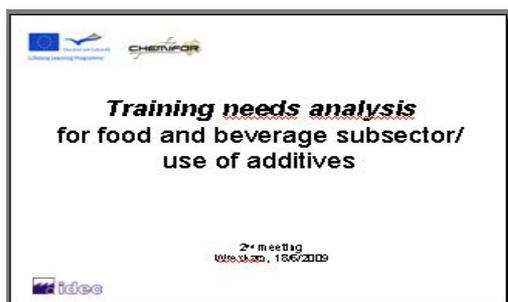
Each partner presented the first draft *of training needs diagnosis report* of the chemical sub sectors developed by each of them. In particular:

**Greece:** Situation report and training needs on **FOOD ADDITIVE** sector

**Italy:** Situation report and training needs on **PHARMACEUTICAL** sector

**Spain:** Situation report and training needs on **RUBBER** sector

**United Kingdom:** Situation report and training needs on **PLASTICS** sector



**Food additives** constitute a heterogeneous set of substances that are most commonly used by most food processing industries.

The food and drink sector is one of the most important and developing sectors in the **Greek** industry in terms of value and employment.

It is a **dynamic sector** with significant perspectives, and high potential for growth, since it consists of numerous forceful enterprises that activate out of the borders.

At the same time, they prioritise producing high quality products, by adopting new technologies, and aiming at consumers' satisfaction.

The **training needs analysis** showed that there is a big need for qualified personnel in the food and beverages subsector. Especially concerning food additives, there is insufficient knowledge on their use, their composition, their qualities, the impact on the foods and on the health of consumers, the ways they should be processed and the

instances they should (or should not) be used. Our goal is: to **produce learning material concerning food additives**. This learning material will be aimed at workers, technicians and trainees employed (or future employed) in chemical laboratories.



The **changes** in technology and **organizational aspects** in the relationship between enterprises and markets, are directly affecting the **chemical sector**, and are conformed to the general trend of **Italian** industry, where the **integration** of the specialized know-how areas, oriented to the definition of relationship between enterprises and external environment, is becoming a characteristic feature of change.

In a coherent way, the chemical sector is recruiting **staff with a very high training level** with some characteristics: flexibility regards change; sense of responsibility; operational and specific competences: linguistic and ICT knowledge.

Starting from the analysis of different functional areas of the chemical industry, it was identified that the **professional profiles** play a central and strategic role in the new normative and institutional context occurring within the chemical industry sector.

The following macro areas have been identified and targeted: research and testing; production; maintenance and security; quality assurance and technical assistance.



The training needs are located in the environment of **SOFT (TRANSVERSAL) SKILLS**. The professional profile of the Rubber sector in **Spain** conforms to the companies specific needs. There is a strong desire within companies and implication on workers for the **promotion of training and lifelong learning process**. It is necessary to have a training system that cuts short the **adaptation of the new workers** to the needs of the work place, as they need proper and suitable training to reduce the adaptation time. Training needs identified in the technical environment with regards to **management and development in production**: ability to manage, develop, make suitable judgements, validate products or services in the chemical industry, complying with the internal requirements of the market trends whilst maintaining quality safety and environmental laws in force affecting the Rubber sector.

### Plastics Processing Industry in the UK - 2008

People employed - 186,000

Number of primary processors - 3,000

Companies in the plastics industry - 7,400

**New Legislation** from both national and European parliaments has an affect on the industry. Most legislation unfortunately has a tendency of increasing costs to companies. As well as existing legislation and laws some of the new ones affecting the industry are:

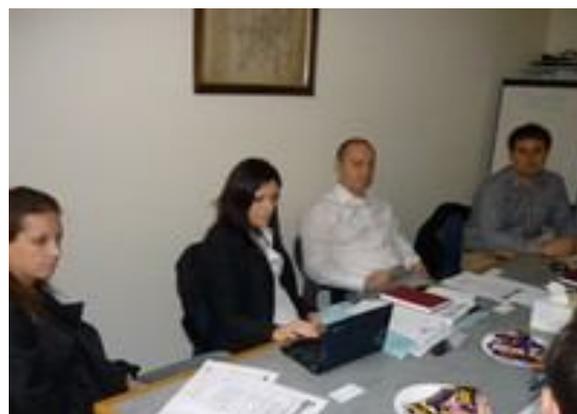
UK Government's Packaging Strategy 'Making the most of packaging: A strategy for a low-carbon economy'. On World Environment Day (5th June) the UK Plastics Federation issued its guidance 'Operation Clean Sweep - Plastic Pellet Loss Prevention' to ensure plastics material is not lost into rivers or seas and the environment in general. **Press items** and news stories such as 'Recyclers warn against oxo-degradable additives' - this makes customers nervous and in 'business-to-business' trade some business customers are asking for re-assurances against such additives being present. One reason for this is that no company wants to be involved in expensive litigation claims. Then there is the worldwide **recession** of course -this has had quite a major impact on the sector. All this whilst not forgetting existing issues:

- As well as new issues for 2009 the industry has to comply with existing laws & regulation (e.g. REACH)
- Energy costs increases
- Raw material costs increases
- Competition - especially from Far East

### Training Needs

The 4 areas identified as a priority are:

- Polymer Industry Appreciation
- Materials Handling & Preparation
- Polymer Materials Appreciation
- Waste Awareness



### Review of Project

The project objectives and work plan were reviewed. The general aim and target groups in the Chemical Sector were re-stated. The anticipated final product will be in 4 languages, (**English, Greek, Italian, Spanish**) and will be a self-learning CD-ROM.

The work process plan was reviewed - current position and what still needs to be done.

Project is now coming into stage 3 (**WP3 "Design of Learning Plan and development of the Training Material"**): it is to be worked on between now and the Greece meeting (November 2009).

*CHEMIFOR: an experience with European projection*

This project is being performed by a European consortium promoted by **FONDO FORMACION EUSKADI** (Spain), **BRIDGESTONE HISPANIA** (Spain), **E&L INSTRUMENTS** (United Kingdom), **LINK CONSULTING srl** (Italy), **IDEC** (Greece) and **UGT FIA** (Spain).



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