

Regional Partnership for Skills in the Chemical Sector

2nd regional partnership
under the Pact

**PACT FOR
SKILLS**



ECRN mission

Give a single voice of the chemical regions' interests

We are engaged in the preparation of the joint positions of chemical regions towards EU Institutions concerning the competitiveness and the sustainable development of the chemical industry, to shape policies at the European level.

Foster interregional cooperation

We organize regular internal and public events, together with the European Institutions – European Commission, European Parliaments, and Committee of the Regions – as well as with regional partners. We provide the speakers that represent the chemical sector for the events organized by different institutions.



Create regional knowledge exchange

We facilitate the transfer of know-how and best practices between regional administrations and regional industrial and research actors

Facilitate the projects' participation

We raise awareness about EU funded projects and initiatives and provide a platform where they easily can find partners. We support cross-border projects, funded by EU Programmes (Horizon 2020, Interreg Europe).



European Year of Skills – why chemical sector?



**EUROPEAN
YEAR OF
SKILLS**

The European Year of Skills puts skills centre-stage. Helping people get the right skills for quality jobs and helping companies, in particular small and medium enterprises, address skills shortages in the EU.

The chemical sector (including pharmaceuticals and rubber and plastics) is the second largest sector in Europe for number of direct jobs (3.4 million people). It contributes 11.9% of EU27 manufacturing employment. The sector generated an even greater number of indirect jobs – up to three times higher than through direct employment. More importantly, salaries are 45% higher and productivity is 67% higher compared to the average in the EU manufacturing sector. These figures clearly indicate that the chemical sector offers a high number of well-remunerated jobs, but it also needs highly-trained and skilled workers to remain competitive globally.



Preparation process

- March 2022 - decision of the ECRN General Assembly on the Network's priorities in 2022
- We joined the Pact for Skills in May 2022
- 17th May, 2022 - ECRN Conference: How to bridge the skills gap to enable the green and digital transformation of the chemical industry
- The Commission's invitation for existing and prospective members of Pact for Skills that would like to establish a regional skills partnership and express their interest in working with the Pact Support Service (July 2022)
- 27th July, 2022 – submission of the application
- 30th November, 2022 – the final approval of the Partnership agreement
- 2nd February, 2023 – the official launch of the Regional Partnership for Skills in the Chemical Industry



Objectives of the Partnership

- Highlight the role of skills and education and training in the green and digital transition of the chemical industry
- Increase the resilient to market disruptions and problems with the value chains
- Develop of innovative skills and a better understanding of the safe use of chemicals
- Create a trusted platform for cooperation between education and training providers (higher education institutions, VET providers, and others), industry, policy and decision-makers on the regional and European level
- Create of the inter-regional learning communities that combine innovating, working, and learning to create a long-term impact and eliminate the differences that exist across Europe
- Become a starting point for in-depth interregional and cross-border cooperation and improve the understanding of the specific regional features and needs



Regional dimension of the Partnership

- Help the regions to find the best and the most suitable solutions to tackle the challenges linked to the skills needed for the green and digital transition of the chemical industry
- Support a meaningful dialogue between social partners, education and training providers, R&D institutions and industry
- Help to speed up the identification of the most vulnerable regions and areas of interest through bringing all relevant partners to the table and surveying their needs
- Stimulate our partners to work on specific tasks and create smaller and targeted working groups that can lead to the concrete project applications and EU-funded projects and/or to the preparation of the interregional strategies to tackle the common challenges
- Support the regional authorities in their communication and promotional activities and help to raise awareness about the risks and opportunities associated with the green and digital transition
- Promote the most successful digital solutions that increase the productivity and efficiency of the sector, and how they were implemented

Partnership synergies

EU-funded projects:

- CHEMSKILLS ERASMUS+ the aim is to gather available known and foreseen trends on sectoral skills' needs, offer, and intelligence within the European chemical energy-intensive industry ecosystem. This will be based on a deep research activity, intensive contact with the industry as well as education and training providers on different levels.
- ACE-EX ERASMUS+ the aim is to foster the creation of skills and tools for 'Circular Economy processes in Agriculture' experts.
- HYDROGEN SKILLS ERASMUS+ (submitted), the aim is to upskill and re-skill workers for the new needed sectors and positions.

Regional institutions:

- Brightlands Chemelot Campus that is an open innovation community in a global context and connects four campuses in the province of Limburg
- Trilateral Strategy for the Chemical Industry
- Polish Chamber of Chemical Industry
- West Pomerania Chemical Cluster 'Green Chemistry'
- Chemelot Innovation and Learning Labs (CHILL)

Partnership survey



What will the survey do?

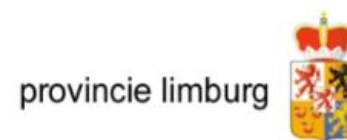
The survey aims to understand the **skills needs and issues** experienced by stakeholders at different levels. From local authorities, universities, industries, educational providers and think tanks are all welcome.

The survey will also identify:

- **Skills** needed in the **chemical sector** for a **green and digital transition**
- Best practices for **reskilling and upskilling** initiatives in the chemical sector
- **Improving cooperation** between EU and regional levels

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ECRN2023>

Structure of the Partnership





ECRN



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