

## **Topic 2: Career Development and Accreditation of Chemists**

The French system is highly centralised even though the Universities and "Higher Education Schools" ("Grandes Ecoles") are said autonomous. The nature of the university courses, the development of the Bologna process do not involve direct consulting of SFC. We expect to participate in *via* the "Conférence Pasteur".

However SFC provides information on higher education from its web site: special pages are dedicated to the Doctoral schools which are central to the development of the 3 + 2 + 3 educational grid proposed in EU with the Bologna Protocol. In addition, clubs of Younger Chemists are offering in 15 major French places for higher education additional information and advice to students. Finally, SFC is present in all specialised exhibitions concerning job hunting and career development. This is again done in coupling with other bodies like Bernard Gregory Association.

The SFC web site also provides guidance on continuing education programmes. It is planned to define specific training courses in some niches like formulation. This web site and the bi-monthly electronic letter "SFC Info" give information about courses, conferences and also other means of continuing education programmes.

Accreditation at an individual basis does not exist in France for chemists, as for most professions. The Eurchem designation discussed at different European bodies (FECS: Federation of European Chemical Societies, ECTN: European Chemistry Thematic Network) is not yet well perceived at the governmental level and does not meet a great interest from SFC members. It will require further refining to take into account the peculiarities of each country.