

Strategic BMBF project "Vernetztes Studium – Chemie" (VS-C) presents multimedial building blocks for Web-based education in chemistry / Special seminar from the 7th to 9th October at this year's meeting of the German Chemical Society (GDCh) in Munich

VS-C Building Blocks for Web-supported Education in Chemistry at this year's GDCh Meeting

Berlin/Munich, October 2003 - For more than four years now, 19 university professors with 150 co-workers at 16 universities in Germany, the United Kingdom and Switzerland have been developing multimedial educational material for chemistry within the framework of the strategic German project "Network for Chemistry Education" (Vernetztes Studium – Chemie, VS-C), financed by Germany's Federal Ministry of Research and Education (Bundesministerium für Forschung und Bildung, BMBF). The material developed in the project is designed to support education in chemistry at networked educational establishments, universities and colleges. Between the 7th and the 9th October, these VS-C teaching and learning modules will be presented to a broad specialist audience at a special "hands on" seminar (in which the audience will also be invited to try out the modules themselves) during this year's meeting of the German Chemical Society (GDCh) in Munich. In addition to a series of lectures organised according to themes covered within the project, the audience will be able to gain an insight into the extensive multimedial teaching and learning material, either guided by experts or by themselves. Experts will be on hand in order to explain details about content, structure and technology behind the modules. Germany's "Chemistry Information Centre" (Fachinformationszentrum Chemie, FIZ CHEMIE Berlin) is co-ordinating the co-operations between the project partners and is organising the communications structures of the decentralised developer team.

The VS-C project is being supported by the BMBF for a five-year period. After completion of the project, the developed building blocks will form the basis for a Web-based, interactive learning platform for the support of various educational models in chemistry. Thus, in addition to the original focus on the special requirements necessary for a Bachelors degree in chemistry, the developed material can also be utilised for education to the German "Diplom" level and for Masters courses. In addition, various specialised areas are suitable for advanced chemistry courses or for vocational training and further education. The VS-C is not designed to be a virtual course in chemistry, but rather it has been conceived to accompany traditional education in chemistry. The modules are complete within themselves and deal with a single subject in chemistry. Teachers and lecturers are free to put together the course material according to their requirements based upon the XML building block system. In addition, teachers will also be able to couple existing learn modules with their own electronic teaching units to form completely new teaching and learning units. Lectures, exercises and practicals are easy to construct from the modules as are also self-teaching courses.

The three-day event will take place at the city campus of the Technical University of Munich, in the so-called "Nordgebäude" (North Building) N 0116, Ground Floor, left-hand side. The presentations on Tuesday, the 7th, Wednesday, the 8th and Thursday, the 9th October will begin at 10:00 a.m. Teaching modules covering a wide variety of themes in chemistry and its related fields will be shown, from how to use a gas chromatograph, via a real, remote-controlled practical experiment on reactor residence times, to chemistry for medicine students. Details concerning the programme of lectures and about the project in general are available from the Internet at the project's home page "www.vs-c.de", at the FIZ CHEMIE Berlin home page "www.chemistry.de" and from the GDCh Web site at "va.gdch.de/programm/prog_access.asp?CTP=True&strVANr=5550".

These universities are participating in the VS-C project:

Technical University of Berlin
Technical University of Dresden
University of Erlangen-Nuremberg
University of Giessen
University of Halle-Wittenberg
University of Kiel
University of Leipzig
University of Mainz

Technical University of Munich
University of Oldenburg
University of Paderborn
University of Tübingen
University of Würzburg

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich
Loughborough University
University of Hull



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