

Main Difficulties in Teaching Chemistry in Secondary Schools

TEACHERS' CASE STUDY

Teacher's Case Study N.: 1

Name, Subject Taught, Place: A, chemistry and biology, gymnasium (4 years)

Description of the Case Study

Main difficulties in chemistry learning at school: *Lack of space and equipment. Last years also lack of gifted and talented students as this is secondary schools with students coming from year 9 primary school. Better students leave Primary schools at year 5 or 7.*

Main difficulties in chemistry teaching at school: *Lack of good textbooks, study materials*

Identification of the main reasons why students do not choose to continue learning scientific subjects and chemistry in particular: *As this school is oriented in natural sciences, there are relatively many students who choose to study science. Still, they do not choose chemistry very often as it is seen as really difficult subject.*

Identification of strategies to raise the number of students choosing to learn scientific subjects in higher education: *Lessons with lots of practice, entertaining interesting form, and examples from real life – also focus on the fact, that you can earn good money in this field, excursions.*

Description of initiatives known in the field of promoting lifelong learning: *Summer school for teachers (ICT Prague), Nove Hradý (chemistry courses) and Faculty of Natural Sciences (Charles University)- all mostly theory*

Involvement in initiatives in the field of promoting lifelong learning: *All of the above*

Suggestions

This is note form the author, not from the teacher:

This is school which is specialized in natural sciences, so there are about 10 chemistry lessons a week!! Yet still, they do not have enough labs and BASIC requisites and textbooks. Municipal authority is the governing body and they do not provide any funds. I see there is basic lack of coordination, because some schools have perfect labs and a lot of space, but their program is generally oriented, they do not have many students interested in science.