

## Main Difficulties in Teaching Chemistry in Secondary Schools

### TEACHERS' CASE STUDY

#### Teacher's Case Study No 2

Subjects: Chemistry, Biology  
School: Steenbeck Gymnasium  
Place: Cottbus, Germany

#### Description of the Case Study

1. What do you think are the reasons for major difficulties in learning chemistry at school?  
*The material conditions have substantially improved and in some cases are very good. The biggest problem is the subject matter / time relationship. In the lower secondary school the number of hours for natural science subjects has been steadily declining.*
2. What major difficulties do you have in teaching chemistry?  
*Same as no 1.*
3. What kind of courses - if any - on didactics of chemistry did you attend?  
*Chemistry, biology and general didactics and methodology, extended by many internships in school.*
4. Why do many young people quit learning chemistry and, in general, scientific studies after upper secondary school?  
*Motivation in secondary level is often too low because of the unfavourable subject matter / time relationship. Practice and consolidation phases are missing for the same reason and therefore students feel insecure and have too little sense of achievement.*
5. How could young people be helped take up scientific studies after upper secondary school?  
*Chemistry in Context, Chemie - SiNUS-Project, MINT, Olympics, Youth research, student laboratories of colleges and universities.  
Create experiences of success which in itself contributes to motivation.*
6. Which initiatives has your country undertaken in this direction?  
*See 6*



N° 167126-LLP-1-2009-1-IT-KA1-KA1ECETB

7. Have you ever taken part into a research project concerning scientific learning?  
*No*
8. Could you mention any recent research you have heard of, that might be useful to our project?  
*No*
9. Could you suggest any other areas of research that might be useful to our project?  
*No*