

Main Difficulties in Teaching Chemistry in Secondary Schools

TEACHERS' CASE STUDY

Teacher's Case Study No 3

Subjects: Chemistry, Biology
School: Wolkenberg-Gymnasium Michendorf
Place: Brandenburg, Germany

Description of the Case Study

1. What do you think are the reasons for major difficulties in learning chemistry at school?
Loads of topics and material and frequently changing frameworks and curricula over the last 5 years.
2. What major difficulties do you have in teaching chemistry?
Lack of time, because little time remains for the consolidation of content.
3. What kind of courses - if any - on didactics of chemistry did you attend?
Biology and chemistry teaching, both practical (training in the German Democratic Republic 1978-1982)
4. Why do many young people quit learning chemistry and, in general, scientific studies after upper secondary school?
For biology there are just bad job prospects, the fields of medicine and pharmacy will continue to be chosen.
5. How could young people be helped take up scientific studies after upper secondary school?
Practical "hands-on" lessons, discuss current research findings, provide a sound foundation in the subject.
6. Which initiatives has your country undertaken in this direction?
Right now many changes to core curricula, there is not much room for special projects.
7. Have you ever taken part into a research project concerning scientific learning?
No



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

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