



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

Main Difficulties in Teaching Chemistry in Secondary Schools

TEACHERS' CASE STUDY

Teacher's Case Study 6:

Name, Subject Taught, Place: *Maria Stoynova, Chemistry, Environmental protection, Comprehensive school "Vasil Levski" – Sevlievo, Bulgaria*

Description of the Case Study

Main difficulties in chemistry learning at school: *Inadequate laboratory equipment; the inadequacy of the current literature in terms of easy to grasp matter*

Main difficulties in chemistry teaching at school: *Lab equipment is not adequate and enough to ensure proper demonstration of chemical processes; the number of chemistry classes is insufficient at school and, as the usual practice is, there is no time for lab exercises*

Identification of the main reasons why students do not choose to continue learning scientific subjects and chemistry in particular: *To many of the young people chemistry is hard, difficult to understand and "dry" due to the inadequate number of classes assigned to it at high schools; classes in chemistry are critically low and the inquisitiveness of students is hard to arouse given this time shortage and the absolute lack of demonstration of chemical processes.*

Identification of strategies to rise the number of students choosing to learn scientific subjects in higher education: *Personal attitude largely determines whether someone will continue university studies in certain area/subject, chemistry included. The Secondary school is the venue where this attitude is generated. How the subject is taught is of crucial importance as well as its further practical applicability*

Description of initiatives known in the field of promoting lifelong learning: *Different projects, electronic course books, software. However, in the sphere of chemistry all these are very few in number and of limited content.*

Involvement in initiatives in the field of promoting lifelong learning: *Project: "School as a means to discover yourself" under operating program "Development of Human resources" 2007-2013. Ministry of Education program: "Making school attractive to young people". National program "School, the territory of students" module: "Development of extra-curricular and out-of class activities at school"*

Suggestions: *Projects dedicated to continual learning especially those under Leonardo and Socrates Programs*