

# ChemSkills consortium advances it's goals in Brussels

Dear reader,

Welcome to this brand-new issue of the ChemSkills' newsletter, which regularly updates you on the latest news of the project.

As we draw closer to the end of the project's first year, **the ChemSkills' consortium partners have met for the second in-person meeting in Brussels**. It was a great pleasure to work together on the roadmap to address the current green and digital skills needs in the chemical industry and to foster expertise to produce "**safe and sustainable by design**" chemicals.

**The two-day meeting in Brussels** served as an important occasion for fruitful discussion, **enabling partners to explore the project's challenges**, align methodologies and brainstorm creative ideas for the development of innovative trainings. The true strength of the project lies in the diversified consortium of **33 project partners, including education providers, public entities, trade unions and industry representatives**. Throughout the meeting, **each partner contributed in their unique way**, offering valuable perspectives.

Enjoy the reading and stay tuned for more updates and exciting developments of this journey towards a greener and more digital future for the chemical industry!

The ChemSkills' project management team  
**Anni, Emma, Eleonora, Chiara**





# April meeting in Brussels



On April 16-17, the European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers' Association (ETRMA) hosted the second in-person project meeting of the ChemSkills. This co-EU-funded project aims to bridge the gap between the skills demanded by the chemical industry and those provided by Universities and Research Centers in Europe, making Europe more competitive and fit for the future.

Key project partners from different Member States gathered in Brussels to present the ChemSkills' structure and outline a unified approach for the next three years of the project. In workshops, they shared insightful ideas and data, each contribution being a vital piece in the puzzle of their respective subsectors (e.g. consumer chemicals, fertilisers, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, plastics, rubber).

**We have prepared a video from this meeting, which you can find below.**

[Link to the video](#)

## Upcoming events...



### ChemSkills Project's First Public Conference

On 17 September 2024, the University of Novi Sad in Serbia will host the first official public conference of the ChemSkills project. Attendees can look forward to engaging speakers, a discussion panel, and the opportunity to meet all the partners involved in our project.

Further details will be provided in the upcoming months. In the meantime, mark 17 September in your calendars and keep an eye on our social media and website for the latest updates. the meaningful exchanges that will shape the future of ChemSkills. Stay tuned for the news.

Follow us here for more information.

[Linktree](#)





# Future Skills Survey Update

The Future Skills Survey is currently ongoing, aiming to identify the skills needed in the chemical industry. If you haven't participated yet, there's still time to contribute. The survey will close in October, and the results will help us understand the specific needs of each subsector. Rest assured, all information will be processed in compliance with GDPR regulations.

As our survey enters its fifth month, we would like to share some preliminary findings regarding the profile of our respondents. The data presented is current as of May 2024. The majority of responses comes from the plastics sub-sector (approximately 50%), followed by consumer chemicals (12%), and fertilisers and rubber, both at 18%. Most responses are from large organisations with more than 250 employees (56%), while companies with fewer than 250 employees account for less than half of the responses.

Among the most active countries in the survey, the Netherlands leads with 38%, followed by Germany and the Czech Republic, each with 31%, and Belgium at 29%. It is noteworthy that respondents have the option to select more than one country. Although the survey primarily targets our partner countries within the European Union, about 30% of respondents indicated they are from outside the EU.

Regarding the skills needed, it is still early to draw definitive conclusions due to the ongoing nature of the research. However, preliminary results indicate that a majority of respondents (over 60%) emphasise the importance of re-skilling and up-skilling existing employees. Additionally, more than 50% identify a significant need for education in areas such as the circular economy and cybersecurity. About 47% of respondents report that their organisation is planning or already has skills training underway. However, it is important to note that roughly 40% of respondents indicate that their organisation does not have this training and is not currently planning it, despite the clear interest in re-skilling and up-skilling among these individuals.

**Thank you for your continued participation and support.**

## Join us in shaping the future of the chemical industry!



**Click here**  
and contribute your valuable insights.



Your data will be anonymised and used responsibly.



# Becoming a Green Chemistry Change Manager



A more sustainable and safe handling of chemicals is a clear trend in chemical policy. The flagship of this trend is “Green Chemistry”, a concept that for a long period was more of an academic approach. This is changing as companies are discovering Green Chemistry as a business model. Additionally, over the past years, numerous countries across the globe have adopted more stringent chemical legislation, aiming to substitute or better manage the most problematic chemicals.

The European Green Deal opened a window of opportunity to further boost this to significantly improve chemical management. Moreover, the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability has recognised Green Chemistry as an important milestone towards a cleaner and more sustainable future. Therefore, the industry needs to start introducing more sophisticated chemicals management schemes. This transition process is ongoing and is a significant challenge. One of the most pressing challenges is the availability of qualified people who are able to understand and keep track of the fast-changing regulatory environment for chemicals.

The transition to green and sustainable chemical use and the full exploitation of its opportunities require that all relevant organisational units work together, with company management involved. A common strategy and cross-linked cooperation are necessary. Such cooperation needs efficient steering and people who are capable of this. The GCCM (“Green Chemistry Change Manager”) course is preparing experts for such a task through an intensive 14-day training spread out over three modules.

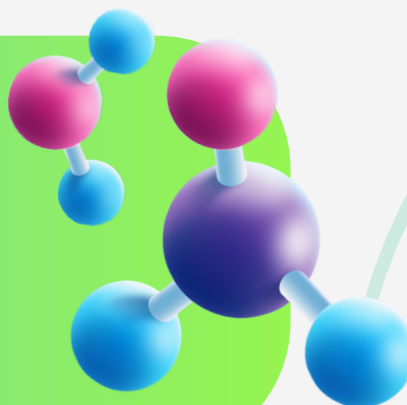
Chemskills has recently become a supporter of the GCCM initiative, which was launched with the support of the Austrian Federal Ministries for Environment and Economy (BMK and BMAW) in 2022.

**In July 2024, the second course will commence in Vienna.**

**More information and detailed content are available here!**

**[Link to the course](#)**





# PFAS Revision: Challenges and Opportunities

The European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN), with the support of the ChemSkills project, will organise an online event focusing on the pressing issue of PFAS. This event aims to present the current legislative solutions and their impact. Discussions will centre on finding the right balance between risk and benefits, exploring sustainable alternatives, assessing the product safety and environmental impact of production processes, and addressing any eventual points that may arise.

The event will take place on **12 June 2024 from 10:00 to 12:30 CET**, and registration is still open. We recommend joining our partners for this important event.

**You can register here!**

## Join our workshops:

### Current and Future Skills Needs in the Pharmaceutical Industry:

**When:** 10. June 2024, 10:00-11:30 CET

**Where:** Online

**For more information contact:** Kristina Svensson  
[kristina.svensson@ikem.se](mailto:kristina.svensson@ikem.se)



## Closing the Gap in Green and Digital Skills Transition:

**When:** 12. June 2024

**Where:** Brussels, Belgium

For more information, please click on the button.

[Click here](#)

## Green Skills Needed in the Chemical Industry:

**When:** 19. June 2024, 14:00 CET

**Where:** Online

For more information, please click on the button.

[Click here](#)

**stay tuned for more news...**



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