



TrainMiC® Convention 2011: Preparing 2021

The **TrainMiC® Convention**, a bi-annual meeting of the authorized TrainMiC® trainers, took place on 9-12 October 2011, at the Alden Biesen Conference Centre in Belgium. The IRMM-organised event coincided with the 10th anniversary of the TrainMiC® programme and was attended by about 60 active TrainMiC® trainers from 19 countries. TrainMiC® is a life-long learning programme developed by the JRC-IRMM to provide harmonised and specialised training on the metrological requirements of ISO/IEC-17205 for laboratory personnel.

"Think global, act local" was the motto of the 2-days discussions which were focused on the course material and the future of the TrainMiC® programme. Four topical sessions were included in the agenda.

Celebrating 10th anniversary - an update and the future. The assembly started with an opening ceremony by the participating teams, followed by a welcome address from Prof. Krzysztof Maruszewski, Director of JRC-IRMM, and Prof. Philip Taylor, the TrainMiC® Programme Leader.



In this opening session, Prof. Taylor talked about the evolution of the TrainMiC[®] programme since it was founded in 2001. He stressed that the steadily growing TrainMiC[®] community should open up its business model, communicate effectively with other organisations, and extend the usage of e-communication tools and culture to find new customers and external funding. "Learning is like rowing upstream: not to advance is to drop back" said Prof. Taylor, quoting an old Chinese proverb. He also announced the release of a new book entitled "Practical examples on Traceability, Measurement Uncertainty and Validation in Chemistry, Volume 2", extending the current library of examples to other areas.

In an Award ceremony, Prof. Ewa Bulska (Poland), Dr. Steluta Duta (Romania), Dr. Nineta Majcen (Slovenia) and Dr. Emilia Vasileva (Bulgaria) received a TrainMiC[®] Achievement Award and a further 11 persons received a *Certificate of Acknowledgement*.

Update on content of the course material. In an afternoon session, Dr. Vaidotas Gegevicus (IRMM) simulated a *mini-case study* by an on-stage exercise with people representing a traceability chain. The exercise explored the concepts of metrological traceability and possible tools for its realisation. Four mini-case studies then were presented by the teams participating in the TrainMiC[®] Challenge Cup Competition. The following topics were covered: *Guidelines for required degree of validation* (Bosnia Herzegovina), *How to choose a statistical test* (Croatia), *Control chart interpretation* (Italy) and *Proficiency test scoring* (Portugal). The Portuguese team won the TrainMiC[®] Challenge Cup which was awarded during the official dinner at the Radisson Blue Hotel (Hasselt).

In parallel sessions, the Convention participants had the opportunity to discuss in groups various topics of the teaching material in 3 sessions: *Traceability and Reference Materials*, *IQC, ILC* and *Uncertainty and Statistics* and finally *Validation and Sampling*. A summary of each session was presented by the group moderators.

Your input counts. In a Plenary session on the 2020 Strategy, Prof. Taylor pointed out the necessity to open up and find new ways of attracting costumers. The participants took part in a discussion related to the future of TrainMiC[®]. The following topics were covered: major achievements of the teams, relationships with other organizations, problems and difficulties, on how to promote the TrainMiC[®] training and workshops, getting more young people involved, and how IRMM can help to achieve all this.

Ms. Lutgart Van Nevel presented the quality manual, the TrainMiC[®] e-Room collaboration platform and the wide range of possibilities already available via the TrainMiC[®] website. Reports were presented from the National Team Leader council meeting (Prof. Bulska), the Advisory Board (Prof. Taylor) and the Editorial Board (Dr. Majcen). Ms. Inge Verbist reported from the Secretariat.

In a brainstorming session on how to implement the strategy, several key issues were addressed: the national landscape: how to improve the way of attracting customers and interact with stakeholders; e-learning: how to manage a virtual community; moving to the different licences: how to diversify the funding of TrainMiC[®] at National and European level; how to involve youngsters and build a supply line of new people; external funding: available sources of funding at European level; public relations: how to reach the target audience at national and international level.

During this Convention, two collaboration agreements were signed with the IRMM. One with the German Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM, Berlin) represented by its director Prof. M. Hennecke, and another one with the Centre for Molecular Sciences and Materials (CCMM, Lisbon) represented by Prof. C. Nieto de Castro. Both confirmed their

commitment to promote life long learning in the field of metrology in chemistry and use TrainMiC[®] to disseminate this knowledge. Through the agreements, experts of the corresponding organisations will be involved in teaching activities in the context of TrainMiC[®] and the programme will be jointly promoted.

Framing the TrainMiC[®] programme. The Convention was concluded on Wednesday morning at the IRMM. The invited external speakers added to the festive flavour of this event. The representative of the EC General Directorate for Education and Culture (DG EAC) Mrs M. Ni Cheallaigh talked about the *EU agenda for new skills and jobs for life long learning*. Mr. D. Colombo from the EC DG Enterprise and Industry highlighted *the recommendations on chemistry and education in the Report of the High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the European Chemicals industry*. Finally, Prof R. Salzer representing the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association framed *Education and Skills for Analytical Sciences*.

Closing the event by planting a tree. In the closing session, Prof. Taylor expressed his satisfaction with the development of the TrainMiC[®] programme. Paraphrasing the findings of Charles Darwin in that only "Open systems flourish", he expressed his belief that TrainMiC[®] should evolve further in this direction. In a message, the first TrainMiC[®] Patron Prof. M. Grasserbauer (Vienna University of Technology, Austria) wished the entire TrainMiC[®] community great success for the next 10 years.

Like it had started, also in the closing event, all participants were involved. A tree was planted at the IRMM site. Prof. Taylor explained the symbolism of the tree. "*Just like TrainMiC[®], a tree is the product of an organic development, which goes step by step. Secondly, everybody contributes, it is a team effort*".



Three important messages from TrainMiC® trainers to the young generation follow.



"The knowledge on measurement science is the integral and important part for our further scientific and technological progress".

Dr. Emilia Vasileva
(IAEA, Monaco)



"To the (bio)chemists I would say or better give the advice to use sound metrological concepts and practice in order to produce better and above all quality results".

Dr. Johan Aerts
(ILVO, Belgium)



"Take the opportunity to receive training in QM and metrology in chemistry (e.g. via Summer school) if it is not included in your study schedule. Knowledge about these topics is needed in almost any profession you may strive for and will give you a bonus in getting a job".

Dr. Martina Hedrich
(BAM, Germany)

Contact:

Prof. Philip TAYLOR
TrainMiC® Programme Leader

Tel.: +32 14 571 605
Fax: +32 14 571 863

Mailing address:

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Joint Research Centre
Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements
Retieseweg 111
B-2440 Geel, Belgium
E-mail: jrc-irmm-trainmic@ec.europa.eu

JRC 68774