CyanoGuard enters the exclusive list of innovative SMEs selected for funding within Horizon 2020, the “biggest EU Research and Innovation Programme ever.” The company was selected for funding under Phase 1 of the SME Instrument, which finances feasibility studies for potentially disruptive new products.

“This award is a game changer for our company” said Benedikt Kirchgässler, CyanoGuard’s founder and Managing Director. “To be recognised by the European Union as an innovative player in our continent’s food and water safety is a huge achievement for us, especially since we are a very young company,” he added. “It is an honour to be part of the small list of Swiss companies that have received funding from this instrument. We are coming a step closer to our vision of a world where fast and simple pollutant detection is available to everyone,” he said.

The funds will be used to study how CyanoGuard’s CyanoKit® tackles societal challenges related to climate change, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials, with close attention to food and water safety. In 2015, less than 10% of all the proposals submitted to the European Commission under Phase 1 received funding.

Last year, CyanoGuard’s innovative technology won the second prize during the Royal Chemical Society’s Emerging Technologies Competition in London and an interest free loan from the Volkswirtschaft-Stiftung. The company recently closed its seed funding round and is a 2017 W.A. De Vigier Nominee.

CyanoGuard AG is a chemical technology company based in Zurich, Switzerland. Founded in August 2016 as a spinoff from the University of Zurich, the company develops new testing methods to improve food and water safety, environmental monitoring and emergency healthcare globally.

CyanoGuard’s first commercial product, CyanoKit®, enables everyone to detect cyanide in any setting at any time. Following successful partnerships with early adopters from the mining, electroplating and chemical industries, CyanoKit® will be formally launched during the fourth quarter of 2017.

CyanoGuard AG
CyanoGuard AG is a young chemical technology company with an innovative technology that allows for naked-eye detection of toxic substances in water, food extracts and blood samples. Part of our team met while conducting research in the field of cyanide detection at the University of Zurich. They soon realised the need for simple and safe cyanide tests in the chemical, food and health care industries. The idea grew rapidly to a fully functional test kit.

Our first product, CyanoKit®, allows anyone to test liquid samples using a sensor that changes colour upon the presence of cyanide. Our method is rapid, simple and eliminates the use of hazardous substances. Equipped with the latest research, and with over six years of close collaboration with leading industry partners, CyanoGuard is committed to making cyanide visible. Anytime. Anywhere.

Contact
CyanoGuard AG
CH-8001 Zurich
www.cyanoguard.ch

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EuCheMS provides feedback on Acrylamide
EuCheMS has recently submitted its feedback on the European Commission’s draft Regulation on Establishing Mitigation Measures and Benchmark Levels for the Reduction of the Presence of Acrylamide in Food. According to the European Food Safety Authority, this chemical, that naturally forms in starchy food products during every-day high-temperature cooking, potentially increases the risk of developing cancer for consumers in all age groups.

Source: euchems.eu

EuCheMS Solar-Driven Chemistry Meeting
In the follow-up of the publication of the white paper Solar-Driven Chemistry, EuCheMS is currently organising a meeting taking place on 16 October in Brussels. During this meeting, EuCheMS and sev-
H2020 Framework Programme. European Parliament. On 29 May 2017, the Commission published the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, required by Article 32 of the regulation establishing Horizon 2020. The interim evaluation aims to contribute to improving the implementation of Horizon 2020 in its Work Programme 2018–2020, to provide the evidence base for the report of the H2020 High Level Group on maximizing the impact of EU Research and Innovation programmes and to inform the design of the post H2020 Framework Programme. EuCheMS answer to the public consultation which preceded this report is available here.

Source: europa.eu

Horizon 2020 Evaluations
On 29 May 2017, the Commission published the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, required by Article 32 of the regulation establishing Horizon 2020. The interim evaluation aims to contribute to improving the implementation of Horizon 2020 in its Work Programme 2018–2020, to provide the evidence base for the report of the H2020 High Level Group on maximizing the impact of EU Research and Innovation programmes and to inform the design of the post H2020 Framework Programme. EuCheMS answer to the public consultation which preceded this report is available here.

Source: europa.eu

European Parliament Defends more Funding for Post H2020
In a non-legislative resolution, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) presented their assessment of the Horizon 2020 programme in which they state that H2020 must be primarily grant-based, that no more cuts should be made to the programme and that ‘excellence’ should remain the essential evaluation criterion while ‘impact’ should include economic and social effects. The resolution also included some recommendations for 9th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP9). Recommendations include an increased overall budget of EUR 120 billion for FP9; the reintroduction of the two stage different programs with two different budgets; and priority to funding for climate change research.

Source: europarl.europa.eu

New Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance
The European Commission has presented on 29 June a new action plan to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The action plan is underpinned by a “one health” approach that addresses resistance in both humans and animals. Overall, the action plan contains more 75 actions built on three main pillars: 1) Making the EU a best-practice region; 2) Boosting research, development and innovation; and 3): Shaping the global agenda. More concretely, the Commission will, for example, support the research into the development of new antimicrobials and alternative products; support the establishment of a European-wide sustainable clinical research network; continue to support research into the development of new effective preventive vaccines; and support the establishment of a virtual research institute. The Commission has already adopted the first deliverable of the plan, EU Guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobials in human health. AMR is a growing threat that is responsible for 25,000 deaths and a loss of €1.5 billion in the EU every year. EuCheMS has provided input on this topic at a STOA event organised (by STOA, EuCheMS and EFMC) last year at the European Parliament.

Source: europa.eu

Priorities for the Estonian Presidency of the Council
Estonia is holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second semester of 2017. Under the motto “unity through balance”, the Estonian Programme prioritises, among other, the implementation of the Paris Agreement against climate change, the negotiations of the Waste Package, the adoption of Council conclusions on eco-innovation, or the amendment of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive. The Presidency will also focus on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by fostering an expert-level discussion on how to assess AMR action plans. In the field of research, the programme states that “excellent research is an investment in the future” and thus Estonia intends to initiate a discussion on how to simplify the research and innovation partnering instruments, funded from the Framework Programme, and to support the participation of newcomers.

Source: eu2017.ee

Member States Approve Scientific Criteria to Identify Endocrine Disruptors
In July, Member States representatives voted in favour of the European Commission’s proposal on scientific criteria to identify endocrine disruptors in the field of plant protection products. The adopted criteria will provide a stepping stone for further actions to protect health and the environment by enabling the Commission to start working on a new strategy to minimise exposure of EU citizens to endocrine disruptors, beyond pesticides and biocides. The strategy will aim to cover for example toys, cosmetics and food packaging. In parallel, a substantive new research on endocrine disruptors with an important budget of approximately 50 million euro will be allocated in 2018 to around 10 projects in the next Horizon 2020 work programme.

Source: europa.eu

American Chemical Society on the USA Withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement
The American Chemical Society (ACS) has recently expressed its disappointment regarding the plans to withdraw the United States of America from the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Society asks that this and future administrations reconsider this decision. The agreement, signed by 197 countries in 2015 and ratified by 147, is needed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and mitigate and adapt to climate change. According to ACS Executive Director and CEO Thomas Connelly Jr., “Climate change represents a real and current threat to our economy, health and welfare”.

Source: acs.org

European Innovation Scoreboard 2017
The European Commission has recently released the 2017 European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS), a tool providing a comparative assessment of research and innovation performance and the relative strengths and weaknesses of national research and innovation systems. Overall, innovation performance has improved in 15 countries, though large differences exist between these Member States. Sweden remains the innovation leader while Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria and UK are the fastest growing innovators. In a global perspective, the EU is catching up with Canada and the US, but South Korea and Japan are pulling ahead. China shows the fastest progress among international competitors.

Source: europa.eu

Modernisation of Higher Education in Europe: Academic Staff – 2017
Eurydice has just released its latest publication “Modernisation of Higher Education in Europe: Academic Staff – 2017”. This report explores the current realities for academic staff within the changing higher education landscape in Europe. It focuses on the qualification requirements for academic staff, the recruitment process, employment and working conditions in academia, the impact of external quality assurance, and top-level strategies for internationalisation. It also includes national diagrams showing key characteristics of academic staff categories. The report is based mainly on qualitative data gathered by the Eurydice Network, covering higher education systems in 35 countries.

Source: eacea.ec.europa.eu

Contact
EuCheMS – European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences 1050 Brussels – Belgium secretariat@euchems.eu www.euchems.eu
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CHIMIA is published 10 times a year and is listed in the most important databases: Current Contents/Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences, Chemical Abstracts, Science Citation Index, Research Alert, Scisearch, Index Chemicus, Chemistry Citation Index, Current Chemical Reactions, Reaction Citation Index, and Biological Abstracts.

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Editor-in-Chief 2018

Prof. Emer. E. Peter Kündig, University of Geneva, peter.kundig@unige.ch

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Regular ad rates for CHIMIA 2018

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- Listing as SCS members in CHIMIA, November issue

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Swiss Chemical Society
Haus der Akademien
Laupenstrasse 7, P.O. Box 3001 Bern, Switzerland
+41 31 306 92 92
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