

Cheminformatics in Europe: Achievements and Perspectives

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Cheminformatics has now matured from humble beginnings to a full-fledged scientific discipline. However, it must be realized that it has not yet found its proper place in the chemical community, the power of cheminformatics has not yet been utilized in every corner of chemistry. As of now most efforts have been directed to drug design but cheminformatics methods could increase our understanding of chemistry across all fields, from analytical chemistry through organic chemistry to physical chemistry.

The first step in this direction has to be to increase the level of teaching cheminformatics. Two avenues have to be pursued to achieve that: Training cheminformatics specialists as well, equally important, incorporating cheminformatics topics into regular chemistry curricula.

Furthermore, what is lacking in Europe, and for that matter on the entire international scene, is a proper form of organizing cheminformatics specialists in a society of its own. Only then can we hope to increase the visibility and importance of cheminformatics in both the scientific community and by funding agencies.