



On October 4-5 2010, the 1st International Workshop of the 'European Nanoporous Materials Institute of Excellence' (ENMIX) – 'Nanostructured Materials for Sorption, Separation and Catalysis' was organised in Antwerp, Belgium. The conference was located at the city centre in the Elzenveld conference complex, hosting historical and listed buildings once belonging to the oldest hospital of Antwerp in the 13th century.

The workshop belongs to the activities of ENMIX A.I.S.B.L. The ENMIX organisation has

arisen in 2009 from the EU-FP6 Network of Excellence 'IN-Situ Study and Development of NanoPORous Materials' (INSIDE-PORes), assembling European research groups in a coherent field of activities related to nanoporous materials. Following the successes of the workshops organised under the auspices of the Inside-Pores Network of Excellence, this is now the 1st ENMIX International Workshop devoted to the field of nanoporous materials.



Nanoporous materials play an increasingly important role in nowadays knowledge based society, as they can replace traditional materials and lead to a generation of new ones. They have great potential for improving sustainable development across a wide range of industrial sectors. Due to the unique structural and surface physicochemical properties, nanoporous materials are used as catalysts, sorbents and membranes.

Therefore, the scientific programme of the workshop was set up around four different topics: *Synthesis, Membranes, Sorption and Catalysis*, corresponding to the four scientific pillars of Inside-Pores and ENMIX.

The organisation of the workshop was made possible thanks to the support of ENMIX, FWO-Flanders, FWO-WOG (Scientific Research Community on Catalysis in Flanders), University of Antwerp, Thermo Fisher scientific and BASF.



The workshop was a great success, both in terms of number of participants and the high-quality and content of the presentations. In total there were 104 participants from 16 different countries, not only within Europe but also the United States, Iran and Ukraine.

Invited lectures were given by eminent specialists in the field. There were exciting invited contributions by *Prof. Bao-Lian Su* (University of Namur, Belgium) on synthesis; by *Prof. Gilbert Rios* (CNRS Montpellier, France and CEO of European Membrane House A.I.S.B.L.) on membranes; by *Prof. F. Rodriguez-Reinoso* (University of Alicante, Spain) on sorption and by *Prof. F. Schüth* (Max-Planck Institute, Germany) on catalysis.

Moreover, numerous other interesting scientific contributions were given in the form of oral and poster presentations during the 2-days workshop. Also, two special sessions were devoted to presentations by young researchers having the opportunity of introducing their poster in a short oral presentation of 8 minutes. The lectures covered many topics in the 4 main fields of synthesis, membranes, sorption and catalysis and a broad range of nanoporous materials, such as zeolites, mesoporous materials, hierarchically structured materials, carbons and organic-inorganic hybrid materials.

Three prizes for best poster presentations were awarded, to: D. Lutic (A.I. Cuza University, Romania) for her work on *Pt-doped mesoporous semiconductive oxides for gas sensing*; to C. Güçüyener (TU Delft, The Netherlands) for her work on *adsorption properties of the metal organic framework ZIF-7*; to A. Philippaerts (KULeuven, Belgium) for her work on the *shape-selective hydrogenation of FAMEs and vegetable oils*. Herewith a photograph of Prof. Etienne Vansant handing over one of the poster awards.



On Monday evening all participants were invited to an informal social dinner at the University club restaurant, located in the historical region of the Antwerp city centre. The location is called het 'Hof Van Liere' and is an important historical building in Antwerp. In fact, 'Hof van Liere' was once a city palace -dating from the 16th century- with an inner court with gardens and galleries, built in a Gothic style. Now it belongs to the University of Antwerp and it is used for administration and teaching, and it also hosts the University club restaurant. Hereby some photographs of the informal atmosphere at the dinner on Monday evening and the closing reception on Tuesday.



Thanks to all the interesting contributions presented, we were able to provide the participants with an interesting scientific programme. We are satisfied to have organised a workshop that stimulated the contacts, possible exchanges and collaborations between young researchers.

We are all looking forwards to the 2nd ENMIX workshop which will be organised in cooperation with the European Membrane House (EMH) A.I.S.B.L. at Myrdal, Norway in September 2011.

On behalf of the organising committee,

Pegie Cool