

Challenges for the leather researcher/technician

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The European leather industry

- 3 000 companies;
- 50 000 employees;
- Mainly SME's

Why study leather technology/science?

- International trade (education in Germany/UK, trade fairs in Hong Kong, Italy);
- Lack of qualified technicians;
- International co-operation;
- Interesting and challenging (everybody stays in the business)

Leather Research/Science

- Biotechnology (enzymes);
- Surface Chemistry;
- Inorganic chemistry;
- Environmental technologies.

Research activities in the European Leather Industry

- GERIC – European leather research institutes;
- TANNET – Research network

Career Possibilities

- Tanneries (worldwide);
- Chemical industry; machine suppliers
- Research (leather industry, research institute, chemical industry).
- Environmental companies

Examples of research work/ consultancy work

European co-operation project

- Co-ordinator of Tannet and PA-TAN-TEX
- Reduction of chromium discharge;
- Thermal treatment of leather waste;
- Application of membrane technology
- European workshops

Examples of research work/ consultancy work

Eastern Europe

- Environmental audits and introduction of cleaner technologies (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary and Lithuania);
- Introduction of EU-legislation (Bulgaria)

Example of research work/ consultancy work for a leather technician/research

Consultancy

- Design of new tannery;
- Introduce new technology;
- Legislation.

Examples of research work/ consultancy work

Environmental authorities

- Investigation of BAT;
- Development of new technologies;
- Environmental data.

How to start

- Contact and visit tannery
- Make final project in leather technology

Conclusions

- An education in leather technology may give you a very interesting job combining technology and leather and having the whole world as a sphere of activity