

Interview with Claudia SALVADOR-LEVEHANG *PhD student*

Claudia has just started her PhD within the framework of CARENA. She'll be working at The European Membrane Institute (IEM) in Montpellier, France and her supervisor is Dr. Anne JULBE, who's in charge of the Institute's DM3 department on "Design of Membrane Materials and Multifunctional systems".



Welcome in the CARENA project Claudia. Where do you come from and what has your training been so far?

I come from Castellón de la Plana, a small town near Valencia, on the Mediterranean coast. There's sunshine almost all year round and the beach is part of our everyday life.

I studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Jaume I in Castellon, where I specialized in ceramic engineering. I spent a year at the school of advanced engineering in Limoges, ENSIL, with a focus on materials. It was a very good experience, all thanks to the ERASMUS programme.

I also took a course in forensic engineering... Everybody keeps asking me 'what *is* this'? Well, forensic engineering is about searching the origin and causes that produce an accident.

I've had several experiences in the industry: I did an internship at the Center for technology transfer in Limoges, CTTC, where I worked with ceramic materials, and I did my final year internship in a Japanese Company, UBE, based in Castellón. I was in the R&D department, working with polymers.

What is the topic of your PhD and can you tell us about the objectives you have to reach?

I'll give you the official full title! It's 'Development of new membrane materials and new design of catalyst adapted to the membrane reactors'. Reactions and applications are defined within the CARENA project by the industrial partners.

I will personally contribute to this project by developing membranes and catalyst, using sol-gel and solvothermal synthesis.

Are there any other labs you will be working with to carry out your research work?

Yes, in the project there are 19 partners and I will mainly be working with IRCELYON and SINTEF. As for the industry part, I'll be working with Johnson Matthey, Saint Gobain, Arkema... It's a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to work in this European project with all these famous groups!

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