



European Society for Engineering Education
Europäische Gesellschaft für Ingenieur-Ausbildung
Société Européenne pour la Formation des Ingénieurs

News@SEFI

The SEFI Information Bulletin

Issue 1 / 2015

**SEFI 2015 CONFERENCE ABSTRACT
SUBMISSION DEADLINE : 2 FEBRUARY 2015 !!**

**7TH EUROPEAN CONVENTION OF ENGINEERING DEANS
(ECED)**

« ENGINEERING IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT »

**VALENCIA, 26-27 MARCH 2015
ECED2015.WEBS.UPV.ES**



SEFI ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

“Diversity in engineering education: an opportunity to face the new trends of engineering ”

Polytech Orléans (F) the [School of Engineering of the University of Orléans](#)
29 June-2 July 2015

Sub themes

Innovative pedagogical approaches to improve engineering education
Diversity in engineering education and of engineering institutions
Gender and diversity in innovation teams in engineering education
Diversity and inclusion as business cases in technical research
Engineering education as a vector for social advancement

TOPICS: www.sefi2015.com

Abstract submission: 2 February 2015
Notification of acceptance: 15 February 2015
Final paper submission: 10 April 2015

Deadlines and instruction for authors on www.sefi2015.com
Contact: sefi2015@univ-orleans.fr



KEYNOTES & ROUND TABLE

We have the pleasure to announce that this year keynote presentations will be given by:

- **Jette Egelund Holgaard** *Aalborg University* (DK)
- **Christophe Morace** *ENSTA Bretagne* (FR)
- **Ursula Schwarzenbacht** *Daimler* (DE)
- **Teri Reed** *Texas A&M University* (US)

A round table on University-Business cooperation will also be organised during the conference.

Follow the latest developments on www.sefi2015.com

SEFI ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

Following the recent visit of the SEFI officers on Orléans earlier this month – *see picture* – it has been decided to modify the planning of internal SEFI meetings and all workshops during the SEFI Conference 2015 as follows

- **Monday 29/612:00-13:00 : Board of Director meeting (BoD, formerly Administrative Council)** followed by a lunch. The BOD meeting will be preceded by a **Coordination meeting of all the SEFI WGs Chairs**, organised by Prof. Clark (Chair of the WG Engineering Education Research).
- **Thursday 2/7: BOD meeting 16:00-17:30**, in presence of the WGs chairs and the newly elected members. The meeting followed the **General Assembly 2015 (14:00-16:00)**. An optional dinner in the Loiret region will be proposed for those staying until Friday.
- **Workshop slots will be offered in parallel with all the parallel sessions and** on the Wed. 1/7 afternoon, in parallel with technical and cultural visits are proposed to the delegates .

We invite SEFI Working Group Chairs to have a look of the programme available on www.sefi2015.com to decide about their preferred time slot and to inform sefi2015@univ-orleans.fr as soon as possible.



From left to right: Prof. Robin Clark, Secretary General Françoise Côme, President Kamel Hawwash and Prof. Christophe Léger, Dean of Polytech Orléans, during their meeting in Orléans on January 7th 2015.

Integration of EEDC as a dedicated Council in SEFI

On December 10th 2014 EEDC and SEFI both held Extraordinary General Assemblies. The outcome of these general assemblies is the integration of EEDC under the umbrella of SEFI. EEDC, integrated as a council will continue to be chaired by Prof. Mike Murphy.

Activities dedicated to Deans will continue, among which the European Convention for Engineering Deans in Valencia (see www.sefi.be) and we are pleased to announce that SEFI/EEDC together with GEDC and the Association of Italian Deans CoPI, will jointly organise a workshop in the framework of the upcoming WEEF 2015 in Florence, Italy. (www.weef2015.com)

Obituary

We are sad to announce that the founder of IGIP, its long-term President and Honorary Life President, our highly esteemed colleague and friend **Adolf Melezinek** has passed away in the morning of the 23 January 2015.

We would like to express our deepest condolences to his wife Vera and his children and grandchildren. We will always remember him as an excellent scientist, outstanding university teacher and a warm, caring and kind individual.

Praised for scientific contributions during his outstanding career and he brought IGIP to become an internationally established professional society, with which SEFI has cooperated for decades.

Our sympathies go of course to all our IGIP colleagues.

Prof. Melezinek will be remembered fondly by many of us for years to come.



FROM SEFI AND ITS MEMBERS



A word from our President

Dear Members of SEFI,

I would like to offer you my best wishes for this year 2015, hoping that it will be a year of fruitful collaborations and initiatives.

In the course of 2014, SEFI has become an active platform to launch new European funded projects between our members, and is also participating as a partner to some of these projects, both in the framework of ERASMUS + and Horizon 2020 EU programmes. In 2015, we will continue our work in such European projects and also reinforce actions taken in service of our members, such as with the creation of the new database of experts. To follow these evolutions we invite to visit regularly our website, www.sefi.be, as well as to follow us on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn.

For a few years now, the economic situation in Europe has not evolved positively, impacting our members and as a consequence, our organisation. SEFI relies on its members contributions for implementing activities, and only with your help, by increasing and strengthening our network, will SEFI reinforce its leadership in Engineering Education to face the new challenges of Europe.

I thank you again for your support to SEFI and to the European Engineering Education and I hope that I shall have many occasions to meet you in the coming months, to cooperate with you in new projects, and I already thank you for your support and active contributions.

Prof. Kamel Hawwash
(School of Civil Engineering - University of Birmingham)
SEFI President (2013-2015)



“CONNECTED EXPERTS” **A NEW SERVICE FOR SEFI MEMBERS**

SEFI Office receives regular requests for international experts to be, for instance, part of a jury for funding research selection, for being part in accreditation audits, for reviewing projects and applications, for speaking in engineering and/or engineering education conferences.

In this context, SEFI decided to offer to all SEFI members the opportunity to be such experts.

The SEFI Head Office will establish contacts between requesters and SEFI members who agreed to identify themselves as specialists/experts in the subject, speak the requested/preferred language(s), and may have some other specific characteristics required by requesters.

The Head Office who will act as link between organizations/institutions seeking for experts and members accepting to act as experts, therefore needs to update its membership data base, provided that the Head Office will not exercise any selection other than thru criteria defined in database nor warrant/certify that a member has the requested expertise.

The questionnaire that has also been sent out with your membership invoices, is attached to this newsletter and an electronic version will be made available in the coming weeks. For any further question please contact info@sefi.be.

CALLS FOR CANDIDATES

CANDIDATES FOR 3 YEARS VICE-PRESIDENCY (2015-2018)

According to the Article 19 of the Statutes of SEFI, the General Assembly to be held in Orléans will elect a Vice-president who shall assist the President in his task (see art. 19 of the statutes : *The Vice-President elected in an odd year shall serve a three-year mandate as Vice-President.*)

Members eager to submit their candidature shall send a CV and Motivation letter to the SEFI HQ **before the 20 March 2015** to be reviewed by the board of directors meeting on the 28 March 2015 in Valencia.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

According to the Article 14 of the Statutes of SEFI, the General Assembly to be held in Orléans on July 2, 2015 will elect 7 Members of the Board of Directors (hereafter: Directors) with a mandate of 3 years. (see art. 14 of the Statutes and section IV of the By-laws)

Directors are requested to attend 3 meetings per year and, candidates representing an institutional member of SEFI are invited to demonstrate the support of their institution relating to their candidature. Directors must be in the position to fully cover their travel and accommodation cost.

The list of SEFI AC members 2014-2015 is available on http://www.sefi.be/?page_id=52.

Members eager to submit their candidature shall send a CV and Motivation letter to the SEFI HQ **before the 20 March 2015** to be reviewed by the board of directors meeting on the 28 March 2015 in Valencia.

FUTURE SEFI ANNUAL CONFERENCES

SEFI institutional members willing to organise SEFI annual conferences as from 2017 are invited to send an official expression of interest signed by their Rector or President **before March 20th 2015**.

A full application dossier will have to be submitted **before June 2015**.

The Guidelines governing the SEFI Annual Conferences can be obtained by contacting SEFI HQ: info@sefi.be.

REPORT ON THE JOINT WORKSHOP WG ON CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND THE WG EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

The joint workshop was held on Tuesday 16th of September, during the SEFI 2014 conference in Birmingham. The goal of the joint workshop was to develop a broader understanding of the consequences Open and Online Education have for Curriculum Development and vice versa and how this works out in practice. The intention was to stay as close as possible to the insights of practical experiences of the participants and use their contribution to sharpen the group discussion in the second half of the workshop. In the first part was given an introduction by Urbano Domínguez on "Innovation and Curriculum Design" - and an introduction by Pieter de Vries on "Creating a Learning Environment with MOOCs". In the second part of the workshop the two themes were being discussed in groups using statements prepared by the organizers and/or proposed by the participants. The intention was to have a lively exchange of views and insights, pose questions and make suggestions for both working groups to focus on in the coming period.

SEFI ACTIVITIES FOR DEANS

7th European Convention of Engineering Deans

The 7th SEFI-CESAER European Convention of Engineering Deans will be held at the Universitat Politècnica de València (Technical University of Valencia), in the School of Design Engineering (ETSID) from the 26th to the 27th of March, 2015. The objective of this convention is to provide a **framework for deans** in engineering universities and education and research institutions in Europe to share experiences and discuss key issues aimed at improving the strategies, policy and performance of Engineering Higher Education institutions.

A major strength of this annual international meeting, jointly organised by CESAER and SEFI, is that its outputs, results and conclusions are fed into the network of participating institutions, which contributes both to the individual growth of univer-

sities and to the enhancement of EU policy regarding engineering education and research.

The convention is addressed to Deans from all over Europe. The central theme of the 2015 edition is “

- Management for engineering deans
- Research: Quality in practice - PhD Education and Research in a global context
- Teaching and Learning - What and How: Online education and E-learning in a global context

The following speakers will kick off each session, initiating the interaction with and among the participants:

- Director Francisco Michavila, UNESCO Chair for Univ. Manag. and Policy, UP Madrid
- Director Rob Mudde, Graduate School of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, TU Delft
- Emeritus Professor in Engineering, Peter J. Goodhew, FEng, University of Liverpool

We warmly invite you to participate in this unique event. It will be a good opportunity to get to know the ETSID and the UPV, one of the leading Engineering Education institutions in Spain, which is committed to pedagogical excellence and innovation and has a long-established tradition in Engineering education and research.

The event is generously supported by Mathworks, as a SEFI Corporate Member.

The Programme, details of accommodation, attendance fees, venue facilities, important dates and other useful information will be available online shortly on the meeting's website eced2015.webs.upv.es/

JOB OPPORTUNITY IN GRANTA DESIGN



Granta Design is a spin-out from Cambridge University that develops resources to support and enhance materials education at over 1,000 universities and colleges. Granta's main education resource, CES EduPack, is very well-known and is currently used by universities and colleges worldwide across undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in engineering, design, and science subjects.

Academics using CES EduPack in their teaching are supported by a website of teaching resources and a team of Materials Education Consultants who can provide additional training and advice. The Materials Education Consultants create teaching resources and guide the development of CES EduPack by working in collaboration with leading universities and the Materials Education Community. They attend engineering education conferences and present papers on topics we have been working on.

Granta is currently looking to add another person to our Teaching Resources team in order to better support our growing international teaching and research commitments.

You can find out more about the role here: http://www.grantadesign.com/jobs/mat_ed_consultant.htm

TU DELFT



‘Engineering Education in a Rapidly Changing World. Rethinking the Mission and Vision on Engineering Education at TU Delft’

Education director Aerospace Engineering, Aldert Kamp, recently published his vision on the future of engineering education. Kamp signals that although the world has seen many drastic changes in the past decades, these have not significantly altered engineering education.

The result is that current curricula do not prepare engineers well enough for their future jobs in a global and fast moving market. Kamp: ‘Engineers are no longer the people who solve problems by means of only technology. The new engineer helps to define what problems actually need solving and he/she leads the multidisciplinary and international teams that will tackle them. Of course, the engineer still has deep knowledge of engineering disciplines, but he/she more than ever also needs an eye for society and human nature.’

In the article entitled ‘Engineering Education in a Rapidly Changing World. Rethinking the Mission and Vision on Engineering

Education at TU Delft' Kamp discusses which changes he believes are necessary to make engineering education future proof, focussing on 8 aspects. What is most important? Kamp: "In the future an engineer is no longer characterised by what he/she knows, but by the way he/she learns in the course of a lifetime.

More information: <http://www.lr.tudelft.nl/en/current/latest-news/article/detail/aldert-kamp-huidig-curriculum-bereidt-ingenieurs-onvoldoende-voor-op-snel-veranderende-wereldwij/>

The Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Centre for Education and Learning holds its Second Innovation Room

The second *Innovation Room* will be held on Friday February 13th. It will precede the PhD defence ceremony of our well know colleague, Maartje van den Bogaard. The title of her thesis is "*Towards a model for first-year engineering study success. A mixed methods approach.*"

Such a state-of-the-art scientific topic will be matched with even more state-of-the-art science, with presentations from an internationally renowned researcher from the Netherlands plus a rising star in the field of education and study success research, all the way from Sweden, namely Prof. Jeroen van Merriënboer and Jonas Forsman, MSc.

More information on : <http://educationandlearning.nl/agenda/article/detail/cel-innovation-room/>

VHTO



The International Network 'Gender & STEM: Educational and Occupational Pathways and Participation' was initiated by VHTO, (Dutch) National expertise center on girls/women and science/technology (www.vhto.nl) and Associate professor Helen Watt (Monash University, Australia) with the aim to interrelate research results on the subject of gender and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and gain more insight into the various, closely connected aspects of career choices and professional careers of girls/women (and boys/men) in STEM. The second aim is to detect new approaches to actually improve the underrepresentation of girls/women in STEM.

Since 2007, the International Network of Gender & STEM has gained more than 80 members, most of them researchers in the field of Gender & STEM, set up a website, sent out newsletters and organized two conferences. A summary of the last conference can be found in the latest [newsletter](#) of the network.

More information on www.genderandstem.com.

AALBORG UNIVERSITY— UCPBL



The Aalborg Centre for Problem Based Learning in Engineering Science and Sustainability organised on 28 January 2015, a seminar on **Developing Student Competencies with PBL**.

Increasing focus is placed on students' development of competencies relating to collaboration, learning, communication and management of knowledge. These competencies are closely tied to PBL – working with problems and in groups. However, how do we ensure the continuous development of these competencies through an entire education? What could this kind of progression look like and how do we make this progression visible in our educations?

More information on <http://www.ucpbl.net/events>



On 20 - 21 January, the Aalborg Centre in PBL received a delegation from the Chinese Academy of Engineering - Tsinghua Center for Engineering Education.

ESADE AND AALTO UNIVERSITY TEAM UP TO TRAIN ENTREPRENEURS COMMITTED TO INNOVATION



Aalto University has signed a new agreement with Spain's ESADE Business School. The two institutions will expand their offering of training, leadership development and support for entrepreneurs and executives dedicated to innovating through design and technology as a means of creating new business opportunities.

The agreement was signed by Aalto University President Tuula Teeri and ESADE Director General Eugènia Bieto.

ESADE and Aalto University have launched several highly attractive training programmes rooted in their shared commitment to innovation. One example is the Internship Innovation Programme (I2P), in which multidisciplinary teams of ESADE and Aalto students propose innovative solutions to real-life problems faced by Spanish and Finnish companies. The first editions of I2P have featured the participation of nearly 100 ESADE and Aalto students as well as organisations such as HP, Repsol, BBVA, Planeta, Kekkilä and the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communication.

Under the new alliance, ESADE and Aalto University will be launching the Double Master Degree in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a two-year programme held in Barcelona and Helsinki that leads to degrees from both the Aalto Programme International Design Business Management and ESADE Programme Master in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

In addition to these new launches, ESADE and Aalto University Executive Education will continue their successful Design Thinking for Business Innovation, a joint programme that will train executives in a cutting-edge management method for innovation in the marketplace.

More information on www.aalto.fi/en/current/news/2015-01-21-002/

KU LEUVEN: ENGINEERING4SOCIETY CONFERENCE



Raising awareness for the societal and environmental role of engineering and (re)training engineers for participatory design. Technology plays an important role in facing societal challenges. A recent UNESCO report affirms the role of engineering as the driver of innovation and social and economic development, but also stresses the need to transform engineering education, curricula and teaching methods in order to emphasize user relevance and a problem-solving approach to engineering.

The social sector today is confronted with a growing number of problems that would benefit from engineering input. Engineering education today has little or no focus on topics such as poverty, exclusion, addiction, discrimination, violence prevention, reconciliation or disabilities. Still, engineering can contribute to build innovative solutions and it has to do this in participation with all stakeholders.

The Engineering4Society conference will build bridges between engineering and the societal challenges we are facing today. It will offer a multidisciplinary platform, looking at inspiring examples from all over the planet.

The Engineering4Society conference is organised by the KU Leuven in collaboration with the Thomas More University College. It is morally and financially supported by the John E. Fetzer Institute (USA) and technically cosponsored by the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology.

More information on www.engineering4society.org

FROM SEFI PARTNERS

EUA Annual Conference registration open



The registration is now open for the EUA Annual Conference 2015 that will take place at the University of Antwerp, Belgium, on 16 and 17 April 2015.

Entitled **"European Universities in Research and Innovation - People, Policies and Partnerships"**, this year's conference will focus on the role of universities in research and innovation. EUA Members are also encouraged to attend the **EUA General Assembly** prior to the main conference where the new EUA President and five new board members will be elected.

A Poster Session on **"University research: For the benefit of society"** will enable universities to showcase examples of how their research findings have contributed to the advancement of knowledge and society at large. EUA is thus looking for poster contributions showing how university-based research in any discipline (for example, developments in biology and health care, energy and the environment, information technology for society, preservation of cultural heritage, etc.) can benefit

society. **The call for posters is open until 30 January 2015.**

The Hot Topic session in the afternoon of the second day will look at **Energy Research and Education**. The session will aim to engage universities in a dialogue on their role in this area through the newly-launched FP7 UNI-SET project, whose objective is to mobilise European universities' research, innovation and educational capacities in the energy field.

More information and registration: www.eua.be

Joint Statement on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)

CESAER, EARTO, EUA, LERU and Science Europe, members of the European Research Area Stakeholder Platform, are expressing their great concern regarding the European Commission's proposed regulation for the new European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) in a joint statement released on 23 January 2015.

Following the launch of its "Investment Plan" at the end of last year, on 13 January the European Commission published its proposal on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). This is the first step of the legislative process which the Commission hopes to complete by June this year. EUA shares the Commission's belief that investment in Europe's competitiveness is crucial to our future success and supports efforts to address the investment gap. However, such efforts, must not come at the expense of reducing budgets that heavily affect EU university research.

The European Commission's proposal highlights the details of the amounts that would be set aside in the EU's 2014-2020 financial framework to support the new fund. In a statement released on 18 December, the European University Association (EUA) welcomed the principal goal of the initiative to support projects in key areas such as infrastructure, education, research and innovation, but insisted that the Horizon 2020 budget should be protected, a view shared by a number of its member National Rectors' Conferences. EUA therefore expresses its strong disappointment as it becomes clear that Horizon 2020 funds would make up a third of the 8 billion Euros channelled for the EFSI.

In particular, the European Research Council (ERC), the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) and the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT), core components of the EU research policy, would be heavily hit over the whole period. For example, the ERC funds could be reduced by 221.2 million Euros and MSCA by about 100 million Euros, while the EIT would contribute 350 million Euros (making for a cut of about 13% of the EIT budget). Research related to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) would also take a large part of the Horizon 2020 budget cut (306.8 million Euros).

More information on : www.eua.be

'Rankings in Institutional Strategies and Processes' (RISP) – French report launch

On 21 January EUA published the French version of the report relating to the 'Rankings in Institutional Strategies and Processes' (RISP) project. The publication, launched at an event hosted by one of the project partners, the French National Rectors' Conference (Conférence des présidents d'université - CPU) in Paris, outlines the results of this pan-European study of the impact and influence of rankings on European higher education institutions.

RISP has built upon two previous reports on rankings published by EUA ([2011](#) and [2013](#)), which focused on analysing the methodologies used by the main international rankings. The 2011 report was also translated into French. RISP, however, has been primarily concerned with examining in depth how rankings are used by universities and on providing recommendations regarding their appropriate use.

The report demonstrates that the vast majority of participants have set up processes and structures to monitor their performance in rankings and relevant developments. It also advises universities to continue to respect their institution's mission when using rankings for strategic planning purposes.

The discussions at the launch event focused on issues such as the impact of rankings on the recruitment of international students; potential links between rankings and institutional restructuring or university mergers; the role of the media in terms of communication about rankings; and the tendency for universities to be dichotomous in their response to rankings, for instance criticising their methodologies and influence while also using them to inform decision-making and in their marketing material.

The main project activities included an online survey followed by a series of site visits to institutions and a roundtable with senior university managers and stakeholders.

To the report: www.eua.be/News/15-01-22/Rankings_in_Institutional_Strategies_and_Processes_RISP_%E2%80%93_French_report_launch.aspx

ICTEE 2015

As part of the Second International Conference on Transformations in Engineering Education, Kurt Larsen, World Bank Education Specialist, and Krishna Vedula, Executive Director of the IUCEE and former President of IFEES, held a workshop on "Implementing Strategies for Engineering Education in India Towards 2025" at Infosys in Bangalore on January 9 2015. The Workshop was very interactive with frank discussions between representatives from the engineering institutions; industry representatives and the regulatory bodies for engineering institutions. The Workshop focused on developing recommendations and action points for engineering education in India to be undertaken over the next 10 years in the areas of:

- Strengthening Governance, Leadership and Management at Engineering Institutions;
- Improving the Quality of Teaching, Learning and Research at Engineering Institutions;
- Fostering Stronger Industry/Institute Collaboration;
- Building Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Engineering Education.

The web-cast, the key conclusions from EEI 2025 including the proposals for improving teaching, learning, research, innovation and entrepreneurship as well as governance of engineering institutions is being disseminated online.

Several IFEES/GEDC, and also SEFI colleagues were present during this workshop such as Hans J. Hoyer, **Xavier Fouger** (official representative of SEFI), Khairiya Mohd Yusof, Seeram Ramakrishna, R. Natarajan, Anette Kolmos...

For more information: www.ifees.net

ACA event: What's new in Brussels? Recent developments in European Policies and Programmes



Like every year, in 2015 ACA will start its series of events with the already legendary What's new in Brussels? seminar. This time round, the focus will be on the new EU programmes in education and research, and especially on Erasmus+. The seminar will try to identify and analyse the experience made with the start of this programme.

What worked, what did not and what needs to be improved are some of the guiding questions behind the programme. They will be answered by a multiplicity of actors, such as the European Commission, national agencies and, most important, university representatives.

Once again, the event features knowledgeable experts from the European Commission, such as Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, Claire Morel, Bodo Richter and Georgi Dimitrov. Karin Christen will present Switzerland's 'shadow Erasmus+'. Representatives from Erasmus+ national agencies and universities will share with you their experience with the first programme year. To round things off, the seminar includes a speech by former Secretary General of DAAD, Christian Bode, on the recent report of a 'high-level group' of wise women and men on the modernisation of European higher education, and of Uwe Brandenburg, who will present a recent study on the impact of the Erasmus Programme.



We are glad to inform you that
[online registration, call for paper and hotel reservation](#)
 for the **WEEF 2015 Forum** are now open in the official website:
www.weef2015.eu

Deadline of the abstract submission is **March 15, 2015**
 Deadline of the early bird registration fee is **June 30, 2015**
 A **preliminary program** of the congress will be available soon!

CALENDAR

February 2015

2 Orléans, FR

DEADLINE for Abstracts SEFI Conference 2015 ([link](#))

3 Brussels, BE

ACA event: What's new in Brussels? Recent developments in European Policies and Programmes ([link](#))

4 Brussels BE

International Networking Conference—Mobilizing Universities of Applied Sciences for H2020 ([link](#))

6-7 Brussels, BE

EU Studies Fair 2015 ([link](#))

25-27 Vienna, AT

The Social Dimension in European Higher Education ([link](#))

26 Brussels, BE

European Investment Bank Round Table on University Policy ([link](#))

March 2015

12-13 Aalborg, DK

Workshop on PBL ([link](#))

26-27 Valencia, ES

7th European Convention for Engineering Deans ([link](#))
eced2015.webs.upv.es

27 Valencia, ES

EPICES project Transnational Meeting ([link](#))

28 Valencia, ES

SEFI Board of Directors Meeting

31 Brussels, BE

ENAAE Administrative Council Meeting

April 2015

16-17 Antwerp, BE

EUA Annual Conference 2015 ([link](#))

23-24 Atlanta, US

ABET 2015 Symposium ([link](#))

Please find the complete list of our upcoming events on www.sefi.be

[SEFI's event or SEFI related event](#)

SEFI's partners events

INTERNATIONAL PRESS REVIEW

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



European Research Area Newsletter

The latest edition of the ERA newsletter focuses on gender in research, a timely topic coming in the wake of the 2014 [ERA Progress Report](#). This report provides an overall picture of progress made on the ERA priorities, including gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research. It underlines that gender issues in research and innovation have gained increased recognition in policy agendas at national, European and international level, as well as within research organisations. However, the pace of change is too slow and there are still many disparities among countries. The persistence of gender bias in careers, of gender imbalance in decision-making roles, and the lack of a gender dimension in research programmes remain. More information on : http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/newsletter3/index_en.htm

Erasmus + Programme Guide

The new edition of the Erasmus + Programme guide is available. The Erasmus+ Programme Guide is an integral part of the [2015 Erasmus+ Call for Proposals](#). Organisations and institutions seeking funding in the framework of this call must comply with the conditions for participation and funding expressed in this Guide.

The document provides information on the priorities of the programme, the actions supported, the funding available for different actions, detailed information on participation.

The conditions for participation in 2015 are described in the latest version.

More information and the Guide in your language on: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/discover/guide/index_en.htm

EUROPEAN FUNDING

ESU warns against tuition fees in EU2020 and ET2020 strategies

The European Students' Union (ESU) urges the European Commission to stop promoting tuition fees as an option for financing higher education. Aims to widen access to higher education should rather be supported, such as national plans for access to education. Too much attention has been given to the economic role of higher education. More should be done to promote it as a public responsibility and a public good. Investments in education should not be considered as targets in austerity measures.

The students' statement analyses various aspects of a mid-term review of the so-called EU2020 and ET2020 strategies for education. They emphasised the need to follow-up on support to student-centred learning, for instance by investing additional funds to back comprehensive reforms. Student-centred learning is characterised by innovative methods of teaching which promote learning in communication with teachers and other learners. It takes students seriously as active participants in their own learning, fostering transferable skills such as problem solving, critical and reflective thinking.

Stakeholders' involvement

The statement, furthermore, underlines how important it is for the European Union to involve stakeholders in all policy discussions. All relevant stakeholders should be integrated into the decision-making process much earlier whenever policies are developed. They should be given a chance to comment on first drafts from the European Commission.

The European Union should also support, encourage and welcome free, academic and rigorous research and policy debate. ESU encourages the European Commission to base its proposals and policy documents on wide objective research and consultation with relevant stakeholders. This ensures that various political and socio-economic concerns are heard.

European Youth Guarantee

Lastly, the students discussed how authorities could follow-up on the European Youth Guarantee and its implementation. Education and training should be considered as integral components of the European Youth Guarantee, using Finland as an example. It will be necessary to follow-up on the implementation of such programmes and guarantees in relation to the goals set out for the higher education systems in the Modernisation Agenda. This falls in line with the cohesive approach to educational policy previously addressed.

More information on: www.esu-online.org/news/article/6001/ESU-warns-against-tuition-fees-in-EU2020-and-ET2020-strategies/

NEW INITIATIVES

InnovaHiEd



InnovaHiEd - Helping Catalyze Innovation in Engineering Education Higher education, especially, engineering and technology education, plays a critical role in developing and sustaining growth, and in society's well-being. It all starts with a well prepared human capital. In order to better address their country's and region's needs, institutions need to look into the future and engage in a never ending process of innovation.

After a long career in academia and industry, and with more than 35 years of academic and industrial experience, **Lueny Morell**, Principal of Lueny Morell and Associates and SEFI member, is now dedicated to helping institutions walk the path of continuous innovation. In partnership with IIDEA and Laspau Center at Harvard University, she has gathered a world-class team of experts with extensive academic and industry experience, offering services to help higher education leaders in transforming their institutions to better respond to their stakeholders' needs and the socioeconomic development challenges they face. Lueny's colleagues and associates range from professors who have dared to change the way they teach and thus increased their students' learning, to deans who championed major transformations in their colleges, to Silicon Valley entrepreneurs and industry leaders who nurtured and expanded academic partnerships. Individuals who have dedicated their lives to improving higher education, especially, engineering education, many world recognized educators with prestigious awards and recognitions. They have transformed themselves, their institutions and higher education – and are making themselves available to help others through similar transformations.

We believe in the following basic principles for effective higher education innovation and transformation:

- The mission of a university is three-fold: educate, create, serve
- Each institution is unique and cannot be replicated
- Innovation is a never ending process of continuously seeking excellence
- All stakeholders need to be involved in the innovation process
- Education must be student/learner centric
- The educator's role is to be a catalyst of student learning
- Outcomes assessment is critical for decision-making

We offer mentoring, consulting and expertise in the following areas:

- Strategic Planning
- Competency-based Curriculum Design
- Program and Learning Outcomes Assessment
- Learning & Teaching Environments
- Industry-University Partnerships
- Planning for the Research Endeavor
- Technology for Learning
- ABET Accreditation
- and many others

InnovaHiEd can help institutions in assessing needs and gaps, helping through the development of plans to address those needs, together with institution's leadership, and, accompanying the institution through implementation phases.

For more information and downloading brochure please go to: www.innovahied.com

PUBLICATIONS

Gender Equality Policies in Public Research

The pace of progress on gender equality in European research is too slow, according to a new report on measures taken to ensure a level playing field for women in science.

Dr Anke Lipinsky's report on Gender Equality Policies in Public Research shows that 18 of the 31 European countries surveyed have introduced targets or quotas to ensure gender balance on committees that make key decisions in research, including on recruitment and awarding grants. In 2008, just eight countries had set targets in this area.



The report is based on a survey of members of the Helsinki Group on Gender in Research and Innovation, an advisory group to the European Commission. It says that while advances have been seen in some areas, the number of countries where universities are encouraged to have gender action plans is very low and there are too few incentives for institutions to address gender inequality.

More information on: ec.europa.eu/research/era/newsletter3/special-focus_en.htm

Assuring Quality in Education: Policies and Approaches to School Evaluation in Europe

This report analyses the structures and organisation of school evaluation in primary and compulsory secondary level. It covers all EU Member States, as well as Iceland, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey. Schools form the basic building blocks of education and training systems, and school evaluation is an important way to monitor and improve their quality, as well as to enhance the quality of education at large.

The report analyses the two major types of school evaluation: external evaluation, conducted by evaluators who are not staff members of the school concerned, and internal evaluation, performed primarily by members of its staff. The report contains country-specific descriptions and a comparative review of school evaluation in Europe.



More information on: eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/thematic_reports_en.php

SEFI is the largest network of higher engineering education institutions (HEIs) and educators in Europe.

It is an international non-profit organisation created in 1973 to contribute to the development and improvement of HEE in Europe, to reinforce the position of the engineering professionals in society, to promote information about HEE and improve communication between teachers, researchers and students, to reinforce the university-business cooperation and to encourage the European dimension in higher engineering education.

Through its membership composed of HEIs, academic staff, students, related associations and companies, SEFI connects over 1 million students and 158000 academic staff members in 48 countries.

To reach its goals, SEFI implements diverse activities such as Annual Conferences, Ad hoc seminars/workshops/councils organised by its thematic working groups and committees, SEFI organises European Engineering Deans Conventions, publishes a series of Scientific publications (European Journal of Engineering Education) and Position Papers, is involved in European projects, cooperates with other major European and international associations and international bodies (European Commission, UNESCO, Council of Europe, OECD).

SEFI also participated in the creation of numerous international organisations such as [ENAAE](#), [IFEES](#), [EuroPace](#), [IACEE](#), [IIDEA](#), or [EEDC](#).

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Please send your contributions for the next issue
to info@sefi.be before 20th February 2015

SEFI's corporate partners



The SEFI newsletter contains information about SEFI's recent activities as well as a summary of the latest stories in higher engineering education in Europe and worldwide. **News@sefi is sent for free to SEFI members.** All previous issues are available on www.sefi.be "members only".

All staff and students of an institution, an association or a company member of SEFI are entitled to receive free copies of the newsletter. So, in case you know somebody that is interested in a free copy, feel free to contact us.

