



EUCEET Association

# NEWSLETTER 3/2015

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## FROM THE EUCEET ASSOCIATION

### The World Engineering Education Forum WEEF2015

The 3<sup>rd</sup> EUCEET Association Conference took place in Florence, being part of the World Engineering Education Forum WEEF2015 at the Congress and Exhibition Center of Florence, on 22-23 September 2015.



The 2015 Forum, followed previous ones held in Singapore, Lisboa, Buenos Aires, Cartagena and Dubai. The World Engineering Education Forum has become a unique opportunity for our community to exchange and discuss new ideas. WEEF 2015 provided an opportunity to do the same, while renewing a consolidated tradition.

The umbrella organisation, which stands behind the Forum every year, is IFEES (International Federation of Engineering Education Societies), founded in 2006. Since then, IFEES has grown to include more than fifty members and representatives from all continents of the world.

In addition to founding the Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC), the International Institute for Developing Engineering Academics (IIDEA) and the Student Platform for Engineering Education Development (SPEED), IFEES collaborations facilitate conferences, exchanges, mutual learning opportunities and events throughout the year related to Engineering Education globally.

Many organisations have joined WEEF 2015: **IFEES** (International Federation of Engineering Education Societies), **IGIP** (International Society of Engineering Pedagogy), **EUCEET Association** (European Civil Engineering Education and Training Association), **ENAAE** (European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education), **COPI** (Italian Conference for Engineering), **SEFI/EEDC** (European Engineering Deans Council), **GEDC** (Global Engineering Deans Council), **IIDEA** (International Institute for Developing Engineering Academics), **BEST** (Board of European Students of Technology), **SPEED** (Student Platform for Engineering Education Development).

From more than 300 papers submitted from 61 countries from all continents, 235 papers were scheduled for the scientific program of the conference with 8 parallel tracks. The conference had 22 Special Sessions and Panels as well as 12 Workshops and Round tables.

The Executive Board of WEEF2015 was chaired by Prof. Claudio BORRI from the University of Florence. Among the members of the Executive Board was Prof. Diego Lo PRESI, President of the EUCEET Association.

In the International Advisory and Programme Committee, chaired by Prof. J. C. QUADRADO (Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa), EUCEET Association was represented by Prof. Piotr BERKOWSKI (Wrocław University of Technology), Prof. Jean BERLAMONT (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), Prof. Tudor BUGNARIU (Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest), Linas JUKNEVICIUS (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University), Prof. Iacint MANOLIU (Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest) and Prof. Doina VERDES (Technical University of Cluj-Napoca).

Proceedings of the WEEF2015 are available for download from

[http://icl-conference.org/dl/Proceedings\\_ICL2015.zip](http://icl-conference.org/dl/Proceedings_ICL2015.zip)

### Brief report about the 3<sup>rd</sup> EUCEET Association Conference

Before the EUCEET Association Conference, in the programme of WEEF 2015 was included **EUCEET plenary session**, open to all participants to the Forum, which took place in the Auditorium on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 from 11.00 - 12.15. The **EUCEET plenary session** was chaired by Prof. Diego Lo Presti, President of the EUCEET Association.

Two key-note lectures were delivered in the EUCEET plenary session:

❖ ***"The Leaning Tower of Pisa: a History of Resilience"***

Prof. Carlo VIGGIANI

(Università di Napoli Federico II, XVII Comitato per la salvaguardia della Torre di Pisa)



❖ ***"The Resilient Engineer"***

Prof. Barry CLARKE

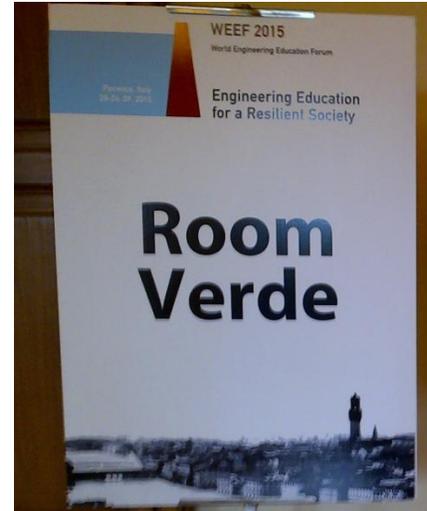
(University of Leeds)

Past President of the Institution of Civil Engineers,  
London



## EUCEET Association Conference

In the 7 hours reserved in the programme of WEEF2015 for the EUCEET Association Conference were organized 4 workshops: two on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 and two on Wednesday, September 23, 2015. The Conference, as well as the General Assembly which followed, were hosted in the “Room Verde” of the Congress and Exhibition Center of Florence.



### ➤ Workshop “Water related problems”

The Workshop was chaired by Prof. Jean BERLAMONT (KU Leuven, Belgium).

The invited lecture “*The resilient game: design for risk reduction*” was presented by Prof. Paola RIZZI (Università di Sassari, Italy).

The paper “*Civil Engineering Education Programs - State-of-the-Art in Poland*” by Prof. Piotr BERKOWSKI (Wrocław University of Technology, Poland) and Prof. Marta KOSIOR-KAZBERUK (Białystok University of Technology, Poland) was presented by Piotr BERKOWSKI.

### ➤ Workshop “Sustainable Buildings”

The Workshop was chaired by Prof. Doina VERDES (Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania).

The invited lecture “*Sustainability in Construction*” by Prof. Karen ALLACKE (KU Leuven, Belgium) and Prof. Barbara FERRACUTI (Università Telematica Roma, Italy) was presented by Barbara FERRACUTI.

The invited lecture “*Sustainable Buildings: The Assessing of Resilience*” by Prof. Anca POPA (Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Prof. Laurie BOSWELL (City University London, UK) and Prof. Doina VERDES (Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania) was presented by Doina VERDES.

Three papers were included in the programme:

The paper “*Achieving Earthquake Resilience through Design for All*” by Jon MOSELEY (Freelance civil and structural engineer) and Prof. Stephanos E. DRITSOS (University of Patras, Greece) was presented by Stephanos E. DRITSOS.

The paper “*Innovative Masters Programm “Safety of Civil Engineering Critical Infrastructures and Territories”*” by Prof. Vladimir Nikolaevich ALEKHIN, Prof. Sviatoslav A. TIMASHEV, Assoc. Prof. Ludmila V. POLUYAN, Prof. Evgeny S. GURYEV (Ural Federal University, Russian Federation and Ural Branch Russian Academy of Science) was presented by Ludmila V. POLUYAN.

The paper “*Learning from the Observation of Failures*” by Prof. Pietro CROCE, Prof. Diego Carlo Lo PRESTI, Prof. Maria Luisa BECONCINI, Ing. Nunziante SQUEGLIA, Ing. Martina MUZZI (University of Pisa, Italy) was presented by Martina MUZZI.

**➤ Workshop “Resilient infrastructures”**

The Workshop was chaired by Prof. Piotr BERKOWSKI (Technical University of Wroclaw, Poland). The invited lecture “*Resilience and Sustainability of Civil Engineering Infrastructures*” was presented by Prof. Antonio GOMES CORREIA (Universidade do Minho, Portugal).

The paper “*An Example of Teaching Slope Stability from True Case Histories: Three Year Experience*” by Ing. Ilaria GIUSTI, Prof. Diego Lo PRESTI (University of Pisa, Italy) was presented by Prof. Diego Lo PRESTI.

**➤ Workshop “Energy Efficiency of Buildings”**

The Workshop was chaired by Prof. Tudor BUGNARIU (Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest, Romania).

The invited lecture “*Establishing a Research Center for the Development of a Sustainable Built Environment*” by Prof. Florin BALTARETU and Assoc. Prof. Cătălin LUNGU (Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest, Romania) was presented by Florin BALTARETU.

The paper “*Summary of Developments in the Civil Engineering Capstone Course in Taiwan*” by Dr. Mandy LIU, (Institute of Engineering Education Taiwan) and Prof. Liang-Jenq LEU (Department of Civil Engineering, National Taiwan University) was presented by Mandy LIU.

**Brief report about the 8<sup>th</sup> EUCEET Association General Assembly**

The 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the EUCEET Association took place on Wednesday, 23 September 2015, after the closure of the EUCEET Association Conference.

Prof. Diego Lo Presti presented the Report on the activity of the Association between the General Assembly held in Vilnius on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015.

The discussions which followed focused mainly on the result of the second application for the project “*Resilience by design*”, which forms the object of a distinct chapter of this Newsletter.

Prof. Jean Berlamont presented a short report on the QS Subject Focus Summit “*Civil Engineering*” which he attended, as EUCEET Association representative, on June 8-10, 2015, in Singapore. Detailed information on this event were inserted in the Newsletter 2/2015.

Prof. Jean Berlamont, Treasurer, presented the report on the financial situation of the Association and the accounts of 2014, which were approved. The budget for 2016, presented eventually, was also approved.

In the working plan for 2016, a central point will be the preparation of a renewed application for the project “*Resilience by Design*”.

The 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Association will take place in the last decade of September 2016 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, hosted by the Technical University Cluj-Napoca. It will be, as in the past, a one-day event, in which the GA will be preceded by a workshop.

Before the closure of the General Assembly, Prof. Liang-Jenq Leu from National Taiwan University, made a very interesting presentation entitled "*A Trilogy of Hands-on Training in the Civil Engineering Department at the National Taiwan University: Cornerstone, Keystone and Capstone Courses*".



A picture taken in *Sala Verde*, with some of the participants at the General Assembly  
(from left to right: Tudor Bugnariu, Laurie Boswell, Diego Lo Presti, Piotr Berkowski, Doina Verdes, Thibault Skrzypek, Mia Trifu, Iacint Manoliu, Stephanos Dritsos, Liang-Jenq Leu)

## Result of the EUCEET Association Competition

A competition opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 for the participation at the EUCEET Association Competition for a Master Thesis dealing with the topic "*Studies on civil engineering for a more resilient society*".

6 thesis from 3 universities were received, as shown in the following table:

No	Country	University	Title of the thesis	Name of student
1	Belgium	K.U. Leuven	<i>Influence of damage versus environmental conditions on the dynamic behavior of reinforced concrete beams</i>	Sophie Cobbaert
2	Russia	Perm National Research Polytechnic University	<i>Assess 'Geomassiv' solution efficiency in the reconstruction of buildings</i>	Daria K. Serebrennikova
3	Russia	Perm National Research Polytechnic University	<i>Study the mechanical characteristics of geosynthetic materials for the optimal design reinforced foundation pads</i>	Daniil A. Tatiannikov
4	Russia	Perm National Research Polytechnic University	<i>Study of girder foundation cross beams workset on bearing shell on bases susceptible to karst processes</i>	Novikov Vladislav Valentinovich
5	Spain	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	<i>Virtual wind tunnel experiments using embedded fluid-structure interaction framework</i>	Antonio García Luque
6	Spain	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	<i>Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for an apartment project in Nardovegen</i>	Sílvia San Elias Portet

The jury had the following composition:

- Chairman: Prof. Laurie Boswell, City University London
- Members: Prof. Vladimir Alekhin, Ural Federal University Ekaterinburg; Prof. Linas Juknevičius, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University; Prof. Iacint Manoliu, Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest.

While appreciating the amount of work and the quality of the thesis which entered in the contest, members of the jury considered that only one thesis, of outstanding quality, clearly matched the topic of the competition and, therefore, unanimously declared as a winner **Silvia San Elias Portet** from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, for her thesis "*Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for an apartment project in Nardovegen*" (**tutors:** Amund BRULAND and Rolf Andre BOHNE from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Alejandro JOSA from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona).

**Silvia San Elias Portet** received a prize in amount of 500 EURO and participated, on the expenses of the EUCEET Association at the Conference in Florence, on 22-23 September 2015. At the General Assembly in Florence, she was invited to make a short presentation of her winning project and received from Prof. Diego Lo Presti the Diploma conferred by the EUCEET Association.



### Successful application for Erasmus+ Programme: MARUEEB

EUCEET Association is partner in the project **Master Degree in Innovative Technologies in Energy Efficient Buildings for Russian & Armenian Universities and Stakeholders (MARUEEB)** - applicant University of Genoa, Italy.

Out of the 515 applications submitted for the action Capacity-Building in Higher Education, 452 have been considered eligible, 140 have been selected for funding.

The application MARUEEB has been selected for EU co-funding. The maximum amount of budget to be awarded is 912.200 EURO.

#### *Partnership for the project:*

1. University of Genoa, Italy (applicant)
2. URFU, Ural Federal University, Ekaterinburg (coordinator of the Russian party)
3. SPBPU, St. Petersburg Polytechnic University
4. SUSU, South Ural State University, Chelyabinsk
5. TSTU, Tambov State Technical University

6. VSUACE, Voronezh State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering
7. Russian (Ural region) stakeholder (constructors association, regional authority, chambers of commerce, ...)
8. Russian (SPB region) stakeholder (constructors association,...)
9. National Polytechnic University of Armenia (former SEUA)
10. American University of Armenia
11. Ministry of Education of Armenia
12. AE Consulting LLC, Yerevan
13. Engineering Academy of Armenia
14. Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava
15. Kaunas University of Technology
16. Technical University Gheorghe Asachi, Iași
17. TICASS Consortium, Genoa, Italy
18. **European Civil Engineering Education and Training Association**

### Result of the second application for the project “Resilience by Design”

As decided at 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the EUCEET Association, which took place on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in Vilnius, a second, revised, application for the project "Resilience by Design" was prepared and submitted on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015 under the action KA2 Strategic Partnership of the Erasmus+ programme.

The list of partners was the following one:

No.	Institution	Country
1	<b>UNIVERSITY OF PISA (applicant)</b>	<b>Italy</b>
2	KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN	Belgium
3	EUCEET ASSOCIATION	Belgium
4	ECOLE SPECIALE DES TRAVAUX PUBLICS, DU BATIMENT ET DE L'INDUSTRIE, PARIS	France
5	ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI	Greece
6	PATRAS UNIVERSITY	Greece
7	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI TRENTO	Italy
8	RIGA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF CIVIL ENGINEERING	Latvia
9	TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY CLUJ-NAPOCA	Romania
10	TUCE BUCHAREST	Romania
11	UNIVERSITAT POLITECNICA DE CATALUNYA	Spain
12	VILNIUS GEDIMINAS TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY	Lithuania
13	BIALYSTOK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY	Poland
14	WROCŁAW UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY	Poland

Duration proposed for the project was 3 years (1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 - 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018) and the grant requested was 446964.00 EURO.

Typical systems and associated subjects to be examined were as follows:

- Sustainable structures
- Post seismic disaster recovery
- Preservation of historical buildings
- Disaster mitigations
- Energy efficient buildings
- Impact of the floods on the territory and urban context
- River and coastal systems
- Integrated transportation systems.

The activities were split into four working groups. Each working group referred to a cultural macro - area:

- **WG1 Water - related infrastructures** led by Catholic University Leuven;
- **WG2 Transportation Infrastructures** led by Technical University of Wroclaw;
- **WG3 Sustainable building and Constructibility** led by Technical University Cluj-Napoca;
- **WG4 Energy efficiency of buildings** led by Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest.

Three main outputs were envisaged:

**OUTPUT 1** consists of Reports on the State of the Art of CE Curricula for the 4 macro-areas. In particular what is obsolete and what is necessary to develop innovative, inclusive CE Curricula will be outlined in these Reports. This is achieved during first year and disseminated through 4 multiplier events.

**OUTPUT 2** consists of the development of educative material such as a series of focused, short lectures in multimedia format, available as open access, optional and/or complementary modules, as well as summertime intensive courses. This material will be prepared and used for a 30 days intensive summer course and 4 short educative workshops.

**OUTPUT 3** consists of the final version of Guidelines including the Educative Material in English as well as National Languages, after a feedback/check of the activities held during second year. This activity will be disseminated by a multiplier event (E5) which represents the project closure and will be addressed to all potential stakeholders.

In a letter dated 23 July 2015, the Italian National Agency for Erasmus+ announced University of Pisa that the project "Resilience by Design" was not financed. It obtained a score of 77,5/100, while the minimum score needed for the financing was 91,5/100. A total of 71 projects were submitted to the Italian National Agency, from which only 11% were accepted. To the letter was attached the Assessment Sheet. The scores obtained by the project at the four criteria of assessment were the following ones:

Relevance of the project	28/30
Quality of the project design and implementation	13.5/20
Quality of the project team and the cooperation arrangements	15.5/20
Impact and dissemination	20.5/30

The overall comments to the applicant, formulated at the end of the assessment, stated:

*The proposal addresses objectives that are relevant for the Strategic Partnership Action, with a large partnership bringing in necessary experience and know-how. Some improvements are necessary for a successful application, in respect of a better design of the project management arrangements, that are crucial for a smooth operation of the project activities, and of the LTT activities, to be integrated with provisions about the students participation are*

*awarding of ECTS. The dissemination and exploitation strategy could be more comprehensive, and the sustainability should be developed, for example building around the mainstreaming of project's result in the partners' pedagogical framework".*

In the Report presented at the General Assembly on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 in Florence, Prof. Diego Lo Presti, coordinator of the project, stressed that the second application received a better score (77,5/100) than the first one (69/100), but still not enough for getting the financing.

Encouraging is the fact that the criterion "*Relevance of the project*" received the highest score (28/30). There are, certainly, possibilities of improvements for the criteria with lowest scores: "*Impact and dissemination*" (20.5/30) and "*Quality of the project design and implementation*" (13.5/20). In his opinion, a new application, improved by taking into consideration the observations in the assessment, should be prepared and submitted to the new competition in 2016.

The proposal of Prof. Diego Lo Presti was supported by Prof. Jean Berlamont, Prof. Stephanos Dritsos, Prof. Doina Verdes, Prof. Laurie Boswell, Prof. Florin Baltaretu. Participants at the General Assembly unanimously voted for including the preparation of a new application for the project "*Resilience by Design*" in the 2016 working plan.

## FROM MEMBERS

### University of Porto, Portugal



The 8<sup>th</sup> AECEF Symposium on New Actions and Roles of Civil Engineers - Sustainability and Energy will be held at the University of Porto, Portugal, on 5-6 November 2015 and will address themes and sub-themes related to Dealing with Energy, Innovation and Construction, Sustainable Civil Engineering and Building for Future Generations.

It will be organized in cooperation with Gequaltec of University of Porto, College of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering.

Sustainability of the world has become a pressing concern for Society, especially for younger generations. Energy is becoming scarce and expensive and the tendency is that these characteristics will worsen in the near future. The Civil Engineering profession has a major responsibility in addressing these two global issues. Civil engineers have the knowledge, attitudes and skills to help the World becoming a better place with positive prospects for the future.

These are the main motivations for the AECEF Symposium in Porto in 2015. Stakeholders of Civil Engineering (teachers, researchers, engineers, companies, government agencies, professional associations, NGOs) are invited to participate, share and debate innovative ideas, experimental results and education curriculum. The AECEF Symposium 2015 is the perfect Forum to get together and prepare proposals for a better endeavor to Civil Engineering.

The Symposium details are available on the Symposium website at [www.fe.up.pt/aecef2015](http://www.fe.up.pt/aecef2015).

## ECCE – European Council of Civil Engineers

### 62<sup>nd</sup> ECCE General Meeting, Prague, 30-31 October 2015

The 62<sup>nd</sup> ECCE General Meeting - 30<sup>th</sup> ECCE Anniversary, will take place on 30 - 31 October 2015, at the Orea Hotel Pyramida, in Prague, Czech Republic, hosted by the Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians (CKAIT). This General Meeting will be the twin celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ECCE and it will be hosted in the marvelous city of Prague.



More information on: [http://www.ecceengineers.eu/news/2015/62\\_ecce\\_meeting.php?id=41](http://www.ecceengineers.eu/news/2015/62_ecce_meeting.php?id=41)

## FROM PARTNERS

### SEFI 2015 Annual Conference “Diversity in engineering education: facing new trends in engineering”



Annual Conference of the  
European Society for Engineering Education  
University of Orléans



2015  
Monday June 29 - Thursday July 2

281 participants from 38 countries met at Polytech Orléans in Orléans, France to discuss and exchange on diversity in Engineering Education at the SEFI 2015 Annual Conference “Diversity in engineering education: facing new trends in engineering”.



The Conference was welcomed in Orléans by **Prof. Yous-soufi Touré** (President of the University of Orléans, by **Prof. Chris-tophe Léger** (the Director of Polytech Orléans and Conference chair) and by **Mr Frézot** (Representative of the Region Centre).

French National Organisations were also represented with **Prof. Le Gall**, Director Réseau Polytech, **Mr. Mahieu**, President of CTI and **Prof. Cansell**, President CDEFI.

More than 150 papers were presented in the course of 7 parallel sessions covering the theme of the conference ***Diversity in engineering education: an opportunity to face the new trends of engineering*** and structured around different sub-topics such as 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 as well as other topics.

The closing ceremony was the occasion of the formal signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between SEFI and BEST, signed by both Presidents, K. Hawwash for SEFI and J. Clemente for BEST.

## The 44<sup>th</sup> SEFI Annual Conference “Engineering Education on Top of the World: Industry University Cooperation”

12-15 September 2016, in Tampere, Finland

### Call for papers

Subthemes include but are not limited to:

- University-Business cooperation
- Engineering Skills
- Sustainability and Engineering Education
- Quality Assurance and Accreditation
- Continuing Engineering Education and Lifelong Learning
- Open and Online Engineering Education
- Ethics in Engineering Education
- Curriculum Development
- Attractiveness of Engineering Education
- Physics and Engineering Education
- Engineering Education Research
- Gender and Diversity

### Deadlines

13 March 2016 Submission of extended abstracts

24 April 2016 Notification of acceptance

15 May 2016 Submission of full papers

10 June 2016 Notification of final acceptance

30 June 2016 Early bird registration

Instructions for authors available soon on [www.sefi2016.com](http://www.sefi2016.com) - [sefi2016@tut.fi](mailto:sefi2016@tut.fi)



## SEFI Position Paper on Developing Graduate Engineering Skills

In September 2015, SEFI published a new Position Paper “*Developing Graduate Engineering Skills*”, which can be downloaded from the

<http://www.sefi.be/?p=6124>.



## EUA (European University Association)



### EUA calls on European Parliament to defend research in upcoming EU budget

10 September 2015

With the EU Council having presented its position on the 2016 budget to the European Parliament on 8 September, EUA welcomes the widespread support in the Parliament for the Horizon 2020 programme from a series of committees, including the leading Committee on Budgets as well as the Committees on Industry, Research and Energy and Economic and Monetary Affairs.

The negotiations between the EU Council and Parliament have entered a decisive phase with the release of the official Council position on the Commission-proposed Draft Budget 2016. Compared to the 2015 budget, the Commission has proposed a cut to Horizon 2020 in commitments and also a needed increase in payments for 2016, notably with a view to reducing the ongoing payment gap. This backlog in payments is a critical issue for EU programme beneficiaries, who are not receiving payments in time.

The Council has adopted a position including further cuts to Horizon 2020 commitments and bringing down the increase in payments. Compared to the 2015 budget, this would mean a cut of 105 million Euros in commitments. With regard to payments, the Council limits the increase to 840 million Euros instead of 1,05 billion Euros proposed by the Commission.

EUA believes that cutting down even further Europe's leading research programme is unacceptable, in particular after it has been heavily tapped into to set up the financial basis of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). EUA recalls the EU institutions' pledge to minimise the impact of these cuts on the programme, and a commitment by the Commission to exploit margins available in the budget to do so.

EUA fears that using these margins to reallocate funds to Horizon 2020 may prove increasingly challenging in the context of large-scale, cross-cutting emergencies and crises that the EU is already faced with. EU programmes must be allocated sustainable funding and cannot simply be used as reserve funds for other initiatives.

EUA Secretary General Lesley Wilson said, "EUA calls on the European Parliament to remain faithful to its statements in favour of protecting European research and to use its prerogative as final budget authority to ensure a positive outcome for Europe's future."

More information: <http://www.eua.be/activities-services/news/newsitem/2015/09/10/eua-calls-on-european-parliament-to-defend-research-in-upcoming-eu-budget>

### DEFINE – Strategies for funding of Europe's Universities

25 September 2015

Participants from national and regional representations and Brussels-based stakeholders in research and education gathered on 23 September at the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the EU to discuss strategies for efficient funding of universities in Europe. The event was the final milestone of the three-year DEFINE project which looked at funding reforms and restructuring of university systems across Europe.

Today, universities indeed face a challenging and complex financial situation, with public sources becoming scarce in many systems and traditional modes of funding being questioned and transformed. Across Europe, initiatives that aim to restructure and rationalise the institutional landscape through performance-based funding, mergers and so-called excellence schemes, are becoming more frequent.

Thomas Estermann, EUA Director for Governance, Funding and Public Policy Development, presented the [outcomes](#) of the DEFINE project, where EUA and its partners had mapped the use of these tools in Europe and had also explored the impact on university management, activities and missions, and the higher education system as a whole.

During the discussion with university representatives, panellists pointed to important challenges institutions have to face due to the changes in public funding modalities. Thomas Schöck, former Head of Administration of the Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany, pointed to the rigid costs structures of comprehensive universities which make it very difficult to adjust to funding changes. Raphael Zorrilla, Deputy Head of Administration of the Carlos III of Madrid in Spain, highlighted the negative effects of funding mechanisms that privilege research activities over teaching.

The full analysis, together with other examples of the impact of funding frameworks on universities as well as recommendations to policy makers and universities, are assembled in the final publication “[Designing strategies for efficient funding of universities in Europe](#)”, which was launched at the event.

The developments analysed in the DEFINE project pose a number of questions with regard to university funding and governance, which is one of the priority areas of the EU’s higher education modernisation agenda. In her [keynote speech](#), Margaret Waters, Deputy Head of Unit and Higher Education Policy Coordinator at the European Commission’s Directorate for Education and Culture, underlined the importance of a dialogue between public authorities and universities as a key to success for every reform.

EUA will continue its work on efficiency at institutional level and will also feed the outcomes of the DEFINE project into reform discussions at national and European levels such as the upcoming review of EU funding programmes.

**EUA also released its pilot University Merger Tool during the event. It can be accessed at [www.university-mergers.eu](http://www.university-mergers.eu)**

More information: <http://www.eua.be>

## FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

### News from Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)



#### Erasmus+ Infoday 2015 Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skills Alliances

The next Erasmus+ Infoday on [Knowledge Alliances](#) and [Sector Skills Alliances](#) will take place on the **23<sup>rd</sup> November** in Brussels. Further information will be available soon on the dedicated [event page](#).

Registration will open soon.

#### Details

Time: 09:30 to 16:00

Venue: MCE Centre, Rue de l'Aqueduc 118, Brussels

Country: Belgium

Organizers: The European Commission and the EACEA

More information: [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/events/erasmus-plus-infoday-2015-knowledge-alliances-and-sector-skills-alliances\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/events/erasmus-plus-infoday-2015-knowledge-alliances-and-sector-skills-alliances_en)

#### Modified webpages for the Erasmus Charter and updated list of Erasmus Charter holders

The EACEA has modified the webpages containing information related to the [Erasmus Charter](#).

The landing page now contains the new list of Erasmus Charter holders published in pdf format. Please register to RSS feed to receive an alert each time the list is updated.

On the [beneficiary's space](#), the new procedure for a change of status has now been uploaded.

### From the European Commission – Growth Internal market, industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs



A web publication of a "*CE marking step-by-step e-guide*" is available on the European Commission website in all EU languages on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=8419](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=8419)

The guide explains how to CE mark a new construction product and in addition, what to do if the product changes (its processes, raw materials, testing): this makes it necessary to revise the required documentation. Remember that the rules of CE marking changed on 1 July 2013 and the CE marking of products may need to be updated.



## NEWS FROM THE WORLD

### The International Conference on Soft Ground Engineering

3-4 December, 2015

Singapore



During the International Conference on Soft Ground Engineering, which will be held in Singapore at the end of the year (3-4 December 2015), the debates will focus on the following topics:

- Excavation and retaining structures in soft ground
- Foundations and structures on soft ground
- Ground improvement in soft soils
- Laboratory and numerical studies on soft soils
- Case studies on soft ground engineering problems

More information on the website: <http://www.geoss.sg/icsge2015/>

### The 19<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conference and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia Conference (19SEAGC-2AGSSEAC)

*"Deep excavation and Ground Improvement"*

31 May – 3 June 2016, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The 19th Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conference and 2nd Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia Conference (19SEAGC-2AGSSEAC) will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 31 May – 3 June 2016. A pre-conference short course will be held on 30 May 2016 and the Southeast Asia Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference on 31 May 2016. The Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society



**AGSSEA**

### 19<sup>TH</sup> SOUTHEAST ASIAN GEOTECHNICAL CONFERENCE & 2<sup>ND</sup> AGSSEA CONFERENCE

*Deep Excavation and Ground Improvement*

31 May – 3 June 2016

Dorsett Grand Subang, Subang Jaya, Malaysia

was founded in 1967 at AIT Bangkok by Dr Za-Chieh Moh. In 2007 the Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia was founded also by Dr Za-Chieh Moh. At the 17SEAGC held in Taipei in 2010, it was decided that the 18SEAGC-1AGSSEA Conference will be held in Singapore in 2013. The Singapore Conference was a great success with more than 350 participants. This 19SEAGC-2AGSSEA to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is also expected to be well supported and successful. The Conference will have an Opening Keynote Address, Chin Fung Kee Lecture, Za-Chieh Moh Lecture, S L Lee Lecture, Keynote Lectures, Special Lectures, and Special Session Lectures to be delivered by distinguished geotechnical experts and eminent academicians. Contributed papers from member countries and abroad will also be presented.

The Conference covers a broad range of themes related to geotechnical engineering, including but not limited to:

- Soil Characterization and Properties
- Ground Improvement and Stabilization
- Shallow and Deep Foundations
- Slope Stability, Excavations and Retaining Structures
- Geosynthetics and Geo-Products
- Field Testing and Performance Monitoring
- Engineering Geology and Rock Mechanics
- Design Analysis and Modelling
- Embankments and Dams
- Tunnelling and Underground Space Development
- Others are also welcomed.

More information on the website: <http://www.mygeosociety.org/SEAGC2016/index.html>

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Transportation Geotechnics - ICTG 2016**

**4 - 7 September 2016**

**Guimarães, Portugal**



The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Transportation Geotechnics will be held in September 2016 in Guimarães, Portugal from 4 to 7 September 2016.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ICTG will be composed of workshops and several types of sessions (including one dedicated to Young Transportations Geotechnics Engineers), as well as a technical exhibition, for a better dissemination of findings and

best practices. A special attention will be paid to the publication of all the peer review papers that will be submitted to be indexed by Scopus and ISI Thomson Reuters Conference Proceedings Citation Index.

More information: <http://www.civil.uminho.pt/3rd-ICTG2016/>

### Publication of a new book titled “Ground Improvement Case Histories”

The first edition of the book, Ground Improvement Case Histories, published by Elsevier in 2005, has known a great success. It was thus decided to publish its expansion in a Second Edition.

Edited by TC members (Buddhima Indraratna, Jian Chu and Cholachat Rujikiatkamjorn), the book is organized in three parts:

*Part One: Modification by Chemical Admixtures*

*Part Two: Electro-Kinetic, Thermal and Explosion Based Techniques*

*Part Three: Bioengineering Techniques*

Its content concerns a lot of Ground improvement methods such as jet grouting, deep mixing, geosynthetics, vertical drains, vacuum consolidation...

More information on the links:

<http://www.elsevier.com/books/ground-improvement-case-histories/unknown/978-0-08-100191-2>

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/book/9780081001912>



## CALENDAR

Date	Event	Place
13-16.10.2015	Fifth International Symposium on Geotechnical Safety and Risk (ISGR) 2015  <p data-bbox="889 569 1263 653">Fifth International Symposium on Geotechnical Safety and Risk (ISGR) Rotterdam, The Netherlands 13 – 16 October 2015</p> <p data-bbox="350 716 683 747"><a href="http://www.isgsr2015.org/">http://www.isgsr2015.org/</a></p>	Rotterdam, the NETHERLANDS
30-31.10.2015	62 <sup>st</sup> ECCE General Meeting - 30 <sup>th</sup> ECCE Anniversary 1985-2015  <p data-bbox="350 1087 1227 1119"><a href="http://www.ecceengineers.eu/news/2015/62_ecce_meeting.php?id=41">http://www.ecceengineers.eu/news/2015/62_ecce_meeting.php?id=41</a></p>	Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC
17-18.03.2016	2016—7th NAMES North American Materials Education Symposium  <p data-bbox="350 1560 1065 1591"><a href="http://www.materials-education.com/2016/na/index.htm">http://www.materials-education.com/2016/na/index.htm</a></p>	University of California, Berkeley
17-20.05.2016	15 <sup>th</sup> IACEE World Conference on Continuing Engineering Education  <p data-bbox="350 1871 1057 1902"><a href="http://www.iacee.org/iacee_world_conference_2016.php">http://www.iacee.org/iacee_world_conference_2016.php</a></p>	Porto, PORTUGAL

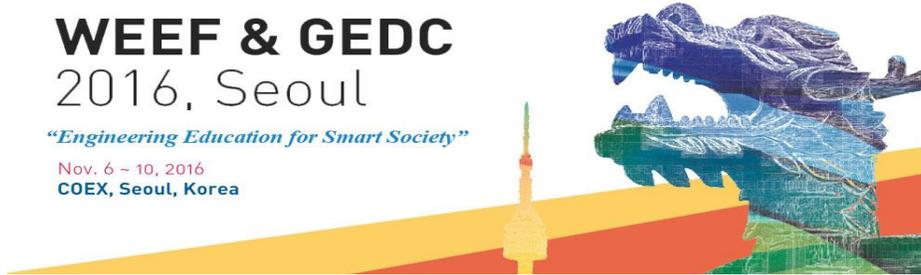
06-10.11.2016 The World Engineering Education Forum & The Global Engineering Deans Council, 2016 Seoul

Seul,  
KOREA

# WEEF & GEDC 2016, Seoul

*"Engineering Education for Smart Society"*

Nov. 6 - 10, 2016  
COEX, Seoul, Korea



<http://www.weef-gedc2016.org/>