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Take your seat for the 2012 YP Forum!



Our programme for Lisbon on 24-25 May 2012 promises value at every level.

The YP Forum is THE annual event for Young Professionals from the sector in Europe. With a primary focus on business, knowledge and networking, it provides added value to the YPs and their employers.

Expert Aart Bontekoning (Netherlands) will run an interactive session on managing generational and cultural differences for a company's future success.

Technical and innovative aspects of some of this year's YP competition projects will be presented and discussed.

The Forum also aims to build up the YP network across Europe, and this year's event will be the starting point to build closer ties between the EFCA European network, and FIDIC's global network.

Following the Forum, the YPs will be taken on a site visit of the Alcântara waste water treatment plant, a fine example of Portuguese engineering innovation.



Waste water treatment plant, Alcântara

http://www.simtejo.pt/listagem.aspx?caso=IMAGEM&lang=pt&id_class=66&name=Obra-e-Projecto-ETAR-de-Alcantara

and

www.youtube.com/watch?v=28MVXYWZ7pE

On 25 May, the YPs will participate in the annual EFCA conference, on the theme "Developing the Engineering World – winning strategies". The conference offers YPs new knowledge, experience, and networking with representatives of the sector from across Europe. YPs can register for the Forum, site visit, conference and gala dinner for the very special rate of EUR 180. The Hotel Fénix offers very reasonably priced accommodation. For the programme, online registration, and hotel arrangements, see www.efca-conference2012.com

YP competition 2012

It was another high-class challenge this year. With 31 entries from 11 countries, the judging was severe.

The winner is Charlotte Spliethoff, project manager and geotechnical consultant at Grontmij (Netherlands), who wins an expenses-paid trip to Lisbon for the annual YP Forum and EFCA conference. She is one of the team leaders on an international project to produce a good practice compendium for the design, construction, maintenance and improvement of artificial levees (dikes).

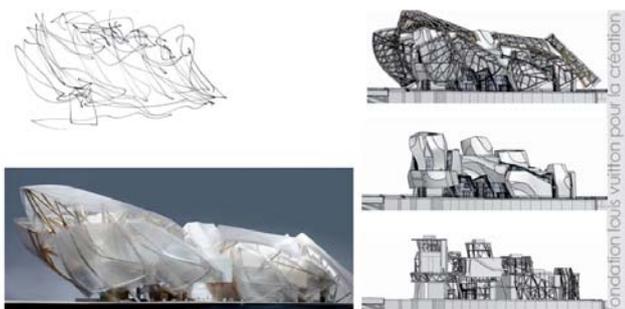


Recent catastrophes, caused by storms or failure of sea defences, are set to increase as a result of climate change; a vivid reminder of why such structures are vital to coastal and low-lying populations.

Runners-up in the competition are Mette Ryom Nielsen (Denmark), for her innovations in groundwater mapping methods,



and Miquel Peiro Sendra, for his contribution to the Fondation Louis Vuitton building.

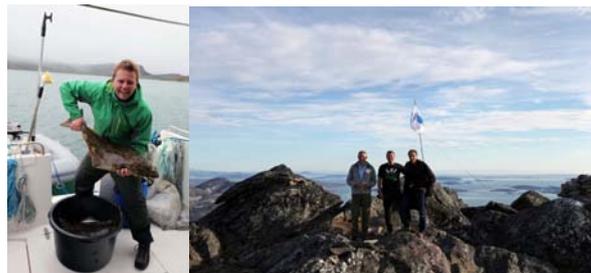


Eleven other entrants received Honorary Mentions.

The certificates will be presented during the EFCA annual conference on 25th May 2012 in Lisbon.

For further details of the winners, see the EFCA website:
<http://www.efcanet.org/News/Detail.aspx?id=373>

A YP's life in.....Greenland



Thomas Jensen is a Dane working for Orbicon. He was winner of the EFCA YP competition in 2010.

So Thomas, how did you end up working in Greenland?

Orbicon has been working with projects in Greenland for many years, so it was an obvious choice to set up an office there. It is located in the capital Nuuk, where most companies have their headquarters. Since Orbicon searched for someone who would help start the office in Greenland, I chose to apply and after a short process, I got the job.

The first projects have been very varied; everything from consulting for the construction of a water tank in northern Greenland, to meetings with local actors and at the same time ensuring that the new office is furnished and ready for more employees. In the office we have two engineers, and together we form the initial basis for Orbicon's interests in Greenland.

What professional experience are you gaining here that would not be possible back home?

There are many international companies in Greenland, particularly focussing on the mining and petroleum industry, which means that several of the projects are an interplay of local companies, authorities and major mining and oil companies. This strengthens your professionalism in working together, and creating something across linguistic and cultural differences. Personally it is very rewarding to get to stand on your own two feet, and participate in the strategy for how to achieve the targets set for the office in Greenland.

What are the main challenges?

Clearly, there is a historic close relationship between Greenland and Denmark. Many Greenlandic laws and decision processes are based on the Danish model, which makes it easier to get acquainted with such legislation. With regard to the language, many Greenlanders speak Greenlandic and Danish so it is easy to create a common platform. Even Nuuk is a very small city, 16.000 inhabitants; there is a lot to do in the spare time. It is easy to find things to do for example hunting, fishing, sports, skiing, cinema etc.

You are also involved in the FIDIC Young Professionals group; tell us how the EFCA and FIDIC YPs are planning to cooperate more closely in future.

Although there currently is no YP network in Greenland, it is interesting to follow what happens with FIDIC and EFCA YPs. I think the two organizations should create even closer cooperation between the YP groups around the world. There's a golden opportunity to lay the groundwork at this year's YP Forum in Lisbon, to which the FIDIC YP steering committee is invited.

NEWS ROUND UP

Belgium

Euro-Polis 2050* proves a huge success

**Student contest to promote innovation and creativity*



Euro-Polis 2050 is a competition for engineering students run by ORI, the Belgian Association of Engineering and Consultancy firms, to raise the profile of the engineering sector and to give students first-hand experience of how a consulting engineering firm actually works, with a focus on the necessity for innovation and creativity in engineering.

The teams, from Belgian colleges and universities, are given 24 consecutive hours in which to develop complete concept for Euro-Polis, an imaginary city of the future.

The second edition of the competition was held in November 2011. The students started with a brainstorming session and out-of-the-box thinking about the concept of an underwater city. Plenty of creative and innovative ideas emerged. Afterwards, with a ticking clock in the background, the teams worked on their project of 'life in an underwater city'.

The Jury Prize went to the team Chez Cinq Chefs of KaHo Sint-Lieven, Ghent. Their project used the flow of water in the Gulf Stream to generate energy and make the Atlantis Project habitable. ISIB2 of ISIB Brussels won the Public's Prize. They impressed with the concept 'Blue Energy for a Green City'. The coaches awarded the social project produced by the UCL students 'Les Rikuikuis' with the 'Out-of-the-box'-Prize.



Jury and winners of the Euro-Polis competition



Denmark



With point of departure in the FRI strategy for 2012-2015, the FRI – YP Steering Committee has chosen to make two areas of interest our top priorities in the following year:

First, we consider **Globalization** as an important focal point for our efforts, since the increasingly international nature of the industry today presents both challenges and opportunities. We wish to prepare our members for increasing competition, as well as enable them to think creatively, in order to secure future Danish competitiveness in the consulting engineering industry.

Dealing with globalization creatively, serves as the foundation for our second area of interest: **Innovation and education**. FRI – YP considers innovation as a crucial element in maintaining Danish competitiveness, and we believe that the Danish educational structure should reflect this importance. In an attempt to put innovation and education on the agenda, we will organize an innovation competition – Innovation Cup – which will provide our talented young members with the opportunity to use their full creative potential in an area with future prospects.

Although FRI – YP's agenda has a rather global perspective, it not only allows us to look outward, but it forces us to start from within. That is, we need not just to adapt to the external environment, but to reinforce and develop the internal environment of the Danish engineering industry, so as to differentiate ourselves from foreign companies and their services. Once again, innovation and education play a crucial role in this way of dealing with globalization, but we also have to secure a continuing flow of students who want to become engineers to our universities. Therefore, FRI – YP will

create more awareness of the industry in Denmark through focused media campaigns, as well as actively sustain our impact on Danish middle school children, by developing and promoting earlier initiatives, for instance 'The Script' – a manual to Danish engineering companies on how to provide interesting and educational internships for middle school children, thus facilitating the interaction between the industry and potential future stakeholders.

Through these and other initiatives, we believe that FRI – YP can contribute to a stronger and more competitive Danish industry, for the benefit of our members.

France

At the December 2011 meeting of the Syntec young engineers' association, Francisco Roca shared with his colleagues how he succeeded in securing his second prize in the EFCA YP 2011 Competition. Also, he shared why his attendance at the EFCA 2011 meeting in Berlin was meaningful to him. Extending boundaries and meeting fellows from different countries with similar problems and different approaches to solve them was a very valuable experience. He thus encouraged everyone to participate in this year's competition, extending EFCA's network in France.

Also, Syntec invited Bruno Gomart, president of Mercuzia. He talked about how to manage risk on the international atmosphere through a variety of cases that he has encountered as a professional. Cultural differences are a major challenge and handling them with an open-mindset appeared to be key. Each individual tends to analyse their environment with a filter that has been culturally inherited. Because of this filter, which varies in function of our past experiences, we can easily misinterpret another person's words or actions. As a result, our own reactions may be inappropriate and conflicts arise. Mastering communication is thus essential.

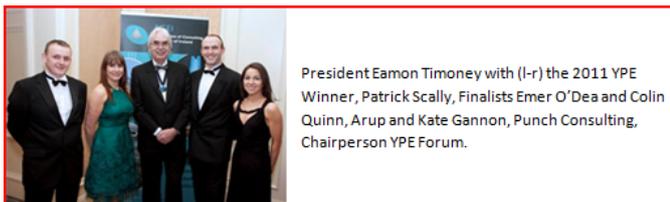
Germany

Some twenty German YPs from the VBI Professional Group held a rafting week-end in Bad Reichenhall. The wet adventure made a perfect environment for a team working experience, as well as plenty of interesting discussions on topics related to the profession.

Ireland

In November 2011, the YPE Forum in Ireland launched its Young Professional of the Year 2012 Award, to recognise a young professional engineer who has well developed technical capabilities, excellent communication skills, business acumen and strong ethical values. The finalists of this competition were entered into the EFCA Young Professional competition for engineering excellence.

Two Irish entrants were awarded honorary mentions in the 2011 EFCA competition. These entrants are Colin Quinn, a finalist in the YPE of the Year 2011 and Paraic Rattigan. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on their achievements and wish them every success in their future careers.



President Eamon Timoney with (l-r) the 2011 YPE Winner, Patrick Scally, Finalists Emer O'Dea and Colin Quinn, Arup and Kate Gannon, Punch Consulting, Chairperson YPE Forum.

This year the YPE Forum has been working to raise the profile of the professional engineer, and recently released a position paper on Flooding in Ireland, in the aftermath of extreme weather conditions in late 2011.

In 2012, we plan to continue to build links between the Irish and European engineering society by our involvement in EFCA's YP community.

Netherlands



The Dutch YP network is continuing to grow slowly, despite the difficult economic situation in the industry. The visibility and image of the group is also becoming stronger, and their input more highly valued. As pressure within the industry is still rising and the horizon of decision-making is shortening, activating the young professionals becomes more difficult. Despite these circumstances, we are slowly growing thanks to the connection of the YP-group on national level with the YP-groups within the companies (mostly large firms).

For this year's activities, the focus will be on strengthening the connection with our fellow young professionals outside the industry (clients and third parties) as well as improving the added value for joining the network and visiting the activities. A mix between content and networking, in combination with "setting the scene" for future business contacts, is our first priority.

The activities will vary between organizing workshops (entrepreneurship, design competition), publishing opinion articles, feedback to the national organization on its mission and strategy, and cooperation with other groups outside our sector on a structural basis. The track record of the YP-group already shows some interesting leads to new sectors and main clients.

In conjunction with the national association's mission and lobbying agenda, there will be a strong focus on international markets and cooperation.

For both the EFCA and FIDIC annual meetings, at least one YP will represent the Dutch YPs. Besides that we are planning closer collaboration with our German and Danish colleagues in joint activities, the exchange of knowledge and building business opportunities. Third we will proactively promote the Erasmus Young Entrepreneurs programme and the Junior Professional Officers programme.

The capacity of the young professionals board is refreshed on a structural basis and assured for the coming years. Also its position within the national association, budgets and the cooperation with the other association committees is structurally arranged.

Poland

YP training

A training meeting for YPs has been held in the Polish association SIDiR, run by a senior experienced colleague, Mr. Włodzimierz Kiernożycki. The subject of the meeting was “The role of an Engineer in terms of Polish law”.

Around fourteen YPs have enjoyed this meeting that started with presentation and followed with “case studies” discussion. YPs are planning to make such meetings on a regular basis.



Polish YPs on linkedin.com

A Polish YP section has been launched on LinkedIn with the name: **Young Professionals within SIDiR**.

Everyone from EFCA/ FIDIC is welcome to our group!

Building a cross-border YP network



The YP groups of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands are planning a **joint meeting** in May 2012, around a sailing event.

In true neighbourly spirit, they will discuss what they can do for each other on project related topics, like know-how, work exchanges and best practices.

NEWS FROM EFCA

EFCA-FIDIC Collaboration

MDB Conference 25-26 June 2012



The MDB Harmonised Major Works (Construction) Contract serves as one of the major vehicles for ensuring environmentally and socially responsible procurement and delivery of projects. Its growing importance is recognised not only by the major multi-lateral development banks, but also by an increasing number of bi-lateral funding agencies.

The FIDIC/MDB Harmonised Major Works Contract taking place in Brussels from 25-26 June will broaden the understanding and experience of this contract form, and its wider use in the marketplace. This event is being organised with local support from EFCA.

There will also be a unique opportunity to learn more about the harmonised contract at a special half day workshop immediately prior to the conference. A FIDIC contracts expert will present the FIDIC Conditions of Contract for major works and the specificities and purposes of each form.

Full programme and online registration at http://www1.fidic.org/events/mdb2012/?utm_source=FIDIC+diffusion+List&utm_campaign=901befdb69-bruxels+email+campaign+05%2F12&utm_medium=email

Rio+20: input and vision statements

In June 2012, Rio de Janeiro will host the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), widely known as 'Rio +20'.

FIDIC will be represented in the UNEP SBCI (Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative) General Assembly meeting and Symposium (Sao Paulo, 12-14 June).

At the latter meeting, Stellan Fryxell (Sweden) will present the advance copy of the EFCA-FIDIC White Paper 'Rethink Cities'.

The White Paper is highlighting that cities and urban regions are in the front line as both areas of tension and agents of intervention concerning the major challenges facing the planet.

Cities are the driving force behind economic, social and environmental advancement. Strategies and approaches for the sustainable development of cities are not only linked to socio-political and institutional frameworks; more important is the need to conceive and implement integrated plans and innovative design for the re-arrangement of the economic, social and environmental spheres in cities.

In order to create sustainable added-value within urban environments, the White Book underlines the need for developing common methodological frameworks and an enhanced cooperation between policy makers, local political executives and building/infrastructure professionals.

Project Sustainability Logbook

On the basis of the initiative by the French member Association (SYNTEC), EFCA and FIDIC are collaborating on the production of a Project Sustainability Logbook at international level. It aims to accompany a built asset, or a group of built assets, through all stages of its life by means of benchmarks that are updated regularly. Comprising a collection of tables, the Logbook represents a method to allow the challenges and objectives of sustainable development which are specific to the built asset to be defined and monitored.

The English version will soon be available for distribution on the FIDIC website.



networking for new knowledge

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We're on LinkedIn!

Sign up to our group

“Young Professionals
within EFCA”

Did you know...?

The **YP section** on the EFCA website contains information on upcoming meetings, news and events of the European YP group, as well as national YP groups.

Find out about activities in your region at

<http://www.efcanet.org/YoungProfessionals.aspx>

The **jobs section** on the homepage of the EFCA website has to the job offer pages of national member associations.

Check it out at : <http://www.efcanet.org/jobs.aspx>

The **Members Section** of the YP website gives access to meeting reports, documents and useful resources to help you build up your own local YP group.

Access is password-protected. To apply for access, email us at

yp@efca.be

Want to pass on YOUR message via this newsletter?

We welcome contributions, feedback, articles and photos for publication in this newsletter from all national YP groups within EFCA.

Send items to the editorial team (details in the left-hand box).

About EFCA...

EFCA represents professional associations from 25 European countries, and aims to positively influence EU legislation that impacts on engineering consultancy.

It promotes fair competition and transparent procurement rules, and serves as a networking/business platform for the member associations and their member firms.

The engineering consultancy sector in Europe employs 1 million people and generates an annual turnover of €150 billion.

EFCA represents your firm and your national association. Keep updated on our activities by syndicating to the RSS news feed on our website.

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The European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA) has member associations in 24 countries, and is the sole European federation representing the engineering and related services industry.