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The 2016 EFCA YP competition has ended

This year, a total of 13 young professionals from 8 different countries have participated in the high-level contest.



The winner, Kristoffer Sørensen, is 29 years old and works for Sweco Denmark. He is a project manager and a refrigeration and thermal energy systems specialist.

For his winning project, the installation of a new refrigeration system, Kristoffer worked as refrigeration specialist and project manager, and had the main responsibilities of construction management and commissioning for the client when it came to the replacement of the refrigeration system.

Kristoffer demonstrated special attention to elements of sustainability, innovation, communication, and a vast knowledge in the field of refrigeration. As project manager, he showed a very high level of professionalism and focused project management skills.

The first runner-up, Arnt Fredriksen, 31 years old, works as a specialist engineer in marine hydrodynamics at Multiconsult in Norway. In both of his submitted projects, he proved to have an acute affinity for running experiments, especially in relation to floating structures and marine aquaculture installations.

Finally, Jens Rosenville, 32 years old, has won the third prize. He works as a lead consultant for Rambøll in Copenhagen. For his project, the design of a gas wellhead platform jacket, he had the responsibility of being lead analysis engineer, handled all technical issues with the client, and worked in very close collaboration with the project manager and engineering manager.

All three of these interesting projects can be found on the EFCA YP webpage: <http://www.efcanet.org/YPs.aspx>

EFCA-BACEA YP Forum

On the 2nd and 3^d of June this year, over 120 people gathered from 22 countries for the annual EFCA conference. This time held in Sofia in cooperation with BACEA.

The general conference took place in Sofia Balkan Hotel, a 60 year old luxurious hotel that mixes classical architecture with modern décor. It is also part of the President of Bulgaria's palace, and has a historical Roman fortress beneath its foundations.

Lectures

On the first day, the YP sessions started out with a brief explanation to the YPs of what EFCA exactly is and what the Federation's mission is. It was explained to the YPs that our main role is to represent the national associations to the European Institutions, and aim in that regard to positively impact existing and upcoming EU legislation.

The first speaker, Richard Kerry, set the theme afterwards for the rest of the conference: "The young professionals as a hidden asset to project management. What can the YPs offer to establish themselves as the future leaders?". He explained that the road to becoming a successful leader is paved of course by the YPs themselves, by trying to become the best version that they

can be. Among many things, he listed that the young professional engineer should be an organised worker, a team player, he shouldn't be afraid of asking for assistance or taking risks, and when it doesn't pay off, to admit that he/she was wrong. The young professional should do his/her utmost, and always try to succeed no matter his/her role in a project.

After that, Adrianna Spassova, shared her insights on how to become an effective project manager, particularly by following the [PMI Standard for Project Management](#). Then, Boyan Georgiev spoke a bit more about project management with a focus on using BIM as a project management tool. He explained and detailed the numerous benefits that would ensue from transitioning to a BIM-only workflow, for both the client, the engineer, and all involved project parties.

Later the top three participants of the EFCA Young Professional of the Year competition presented their winning projects. They went in alphabetical order to keep the identity of the winner secret. You can read more about their respective projects in the previous article. Finally, the YP forum was concluded by Cosmin Tobolcea. He explained the importance of sharing knowledge and information between YPs.

Interactive sessions

After the top three YPs presented their projects, it was time for a workshop session organised by Richard Kerry, Paul Wright, and Jonathan Parker. The main theme was risk taking within project management. The conference attendees were separated into four groups, and were given two problems to solve. Each problem represented a real-life scenario and the participants had to identify at least five possible risks, each of which could be classified into a specific category.

Once the possible risks were determined, each team presented theirs, and afterward each person voted on the risk they thought was the most interesting to take into consideration. The winning team received USB dongles.

Social programme

Throughout the duration of the conference, all of the attendees would finish the day off by going out for a joint drink dinner. The overall atmosphere among the YPs was relaxed, fun, and casual. The official programme included a visit of the archaeological site Antique Serdika.

Conclusion

All in all, the annual YP forum was a great success, both professionally and socially.



Not only did the participants manage to expand their knowledge, share and get insights from experiences, and find new ways to tackle project management, but they did so in a friendly manner and made sure to experience the most of what Sofia had to offer, including its nightlife, in good company.

We hope that there will be more participants to next year's EFCA conference, and of course from more countries.

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