

6 January 2025

Announcement of the EFCA Future Leaders' Competition 2025

We are delighted to announce the launch of the sixteenth edition of the EFCA Future Leaders' competition!

Open to professionals aged 35 and under working for EFCA-affiliated firms, this event aims to showcase Europe's next generation of leaders and highlight the diversity and attractiveness of pursuing a career in our industry.

The competition offers Member Associations a unique opportunity to engage with these future industry leaders and showcase their countries' top talents. Together, we enhance the visibility of our strong and growing EFCA network within our sector and beyond.

Since the 2024 Competition, new submission processes and five excellence categories have been introduced to highlight the Future Leaders' role within a project and reflect the extensive skills required to meet society's expectations of professionals in our sector:

- Quality of Submission / Presentation;
- Engineering;
- Digital & New Technologies;
- Impact on Climate & Biodiversity;
- Contribution to Society.

The overall winner of the EFCA Future Leaders Competition 2025 will be determined by summing up all entries across the excellence categories (excluding quality of submission/presentation) for the EFCA Grand Prix.

Meet the winner of the EFCA Future Leaders' Competition 2024



Diego Apellániz Quintana is the Head of Design at Kevee (Germany). Driven by the urgency of climate change and recognising the significant impact of the built environment on this crisis, he has spearheaded the development of a comprehensive tool that integrates AI, structural design, and CO2 assessment. Widely adopted by architects and engineers worldwide, this tool plays a crucial role in curbing embodied carbon in construction practices. Users can employ it to compare the embodied carbon of different slab systems, pinpointing the most environmentally sustainable design, which can then be assessed against diverse criteria. Notably, its applicability extends beyond new constructions to encompass the renovation of existing buildings. Expanding on this accomplishment, Diego is currently directing his efforts towards developing an application to automate the design process for residential homes.

How do the Member Associations (MAs) participate?

The MAs promote the competition to their member firms, collect the entries, ensure the submissions are complete, and then forward them to the EFCA secretariat by 31 March 2025.

Each MA may nominate up to **5** candidates.

How do the Future Leaders (FLs) participate?

The FLs prepare their submission according to the competition rules below and submit their application to their national association by a given deadline (before the EFCA deadline).

Conditions for nomination

1. Age limit: 35 years on the 31st of March 2025;
2. Working for EFCA-affiliated member firms or a physical person;
3. The submitted project must have been completed while the individual worked for an EFCA-affiliated member firm or physical person.

How to apply

To be eligible for the EFCA Future Leaders' Competition, candidates must submit:

1. Project Presentation:

Candidates have the freedom to select their preferred mode of project presentation (PDF, MP4, PPT(X), PPS(X), Doc(X), or Prezi). Only one file will be evaluated.

To ensure a high level of comparability and fairness in the evaluation process, it is requested that the jury's review of each submission does not exceed a maximum of 5 minutes. This guideline ensures that submitted videos should not surpass the 5-minute mark, and presentations should be designed to be reviewed within the same time frame.

2. CV:

Entries should include a short CV with the candidate's birthdate.

3. Statement of Director/Supervisor:

A statement from the director/supervisor is required in conjunction with the project presentation. This statement should confirm the following:

- a. The submission accurately reflects the Future Leader (FL) role in the project.
- b. The materials used in the project are permissible.
- c. The submitted project is authorised for use.
- d. The Future Leader prepared the documents submitted.

All materials must be in English or accompanied by an English translation.

The MA will send the entry/entries to the EFCA secretariat electronically to the following address: fl@efca.be. It is **strongly recommended** that this be done using a WeTransfer or Dropbox system. The preferred format for filenames is **Country - Family Name - First Name**.

EFCA will e-mail a return receipt to the Member Association. If you do not receive one, please get in touch with the secretariat without delay.

What are the evaluation rules and criteria?

The EFCA Future Leaders' Competition focuses on the candidate's contribution to the project rather than the project itself or the company's involvement. It is critical that the candidate's role in the project is well explained. The candidates should explain their project's unique or innovative features and how they enhance the overall knowledge of the industry on the topic.

Therefore, the jury, composed of members from the EFCA Board of Directors, the previous competition winner, and members of the EFCA Future Leaders Steering Committee, will make their decision based on the following 5 Excellence Categories:

1. Quality of Submission / Presentation: Focus on the submitted entry's overall presentation quality, including design and creativity.
2. Engineering: Emphasis on the engineering elements within the submitted entry, such as scientific rigour and innovation.
3. Digital & New Technologies: Emphasis on the project's application and integration of digital technologies.
4. Impact on Climate & Biodiversity: Emphasis on the project's positive contributions to environmental aspects, including climate and biodiversity.
5. Contribution to Society: Emphasis on the project's contributions to the engineering community and its broader impact on society.

The candidates don't need to address each of the Excellence Categories. Some projects will naturally score well in some categories and not in others.

Awards

The jury will aggregate points for each category to determine the winners. To identify the overall champion of the EFCA Future Leaders' Competition, the jury will combine entries across all categories (excluding the quality of submission/presentation) to award the Grand Prix. In principle, there will be:

- one overall award (judged across categories 2 to 5) and
- one award for each of the five Excellence Categories.

Fewer awards may be selected if no candidate meets one of the category requirements.

Prizes

We would be honoured to welcome all the winners to join us in Luxembourg on 15 and 16 May 2025 to participate in the EFCA GAM & Conference. Depending on the number of winning categories, a grant will be awarded to support the winners' participation in the event (capped amount to be determined).

Presentation of the winning projects

The place and time of the award ceremony will be communicated in due time.

The winners will also have the opportunity to present their projects in Luxembourg.

Yours sincerely,



Inés Ferguson
EFCA President