



**EUCEET Association**

# **NEWSLETTER 1/2020**

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## FROM THE EUCEET ASSOCIATION

### 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the EUCEET Association

The 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the EUCEET Association will take place in Castilla-la-Mancha, Spain, on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020, kindly hosted by the University of Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM).

### 2021 EUCEET Association Conference

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the EUCEET Association will be held in the spring of 2021 and will be hosted by Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece). This Conference on Civil Engineering Education will be a joint EUCEET/AECEF event.

The Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties (AECEF) is a free association of Civil Engineering educational organisations and their staffs, research institutes, engineering companies, and other - public as well as private - organisations or individuals involved in civil engineering.

AECEF was founded on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1992 as a non-governmental, apolitical and non-profit making organisation.

## FROM MEMBERS

### Polis University, Albania



On December 6, 2019, POLIS University in co-operation with Co-PLAN, AUA and with the support of the Embassy of Japan, organized a scientific and awareness-raising forum on "**Challenges of the Construction Industry and Resilience to Natural Disasters**". This intensive, six-hour activity brought together professionals and technicians, scientists, academics, specialists of public institutions, media, students and civil society representatives, who discussed issues of city development, the challenge of construction and reconstruction in Albania in the context of two seismic events with significant consequences on human lives and economic damage, September and November 2019.

Experts from POLIS University and Co-PLAN, experts from the Polytechnic University of Tirana, IGJEUM Institute and the Municipality of Tirana contributed to this technical, scientific and awareness raising forum. A group of experts from Japan brought their country's historical experience in dealing with natural disasters, post-crisis response and society and city recovery, and in particular planning the resilient reconstruction of the city, in anticipation of future crises.



From left to right: Emeritus Prof. Ljulieta Bozo, Dr. Doc. Merita Guri and Ambassador of Japan to Albania, Mr. Makoto Ito



Photo taken at the forum



## École des Ponts ParisTech, France

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Training Program of Excellent Engineers in Vietnam (PFIEV)**  
**25 November, 2020**



The PFIEV programme ("*Programme de formation des ingénieurs d'excellence du Vietnam*" - Programme for Engineering Excellence in Vietnam) celebrated its 20th anniversary on 25 November, 2019, at the National University of Civil Engineering (NUCE).



Delegates' photo

Since its inception in 1999, the program has been continuously developing new specialties through its 11 engineering excellence training options. In 2018 there will be 18 new specialties. Initially taught in Vietnamese, they are now taught in English and French. Ecole des Ponts ParisTech is involved in this program alongside other French and Vietnamese Grandes Ecoles.

PFIEV is a program that aims to train engineers, future Vietnamese executives, with a high scientific qualification corresponding to the needs of local Vietnamese and international companies by mastering two foreign languages, French and English.

It participates in the modernization of Vietnamese higher education and graduates every year 200 to 250 engineers in 18 different scientific fields. It was created following the Francophonie Summit organized in Hanoi in 1997 in the presence of the Vietnamese President, Tran Duc Luong and French President Jacques Chirac.

The PFIEV is made up of 4 Vietnamese member institutions: the Hanoi Polytechnic Institute, the Hanoi School of Civil Engineering, the Danang Polytechnic Institute and the Ho Chi Minh City Polytechnic Institute.

It benefits from the support of 9 French institutions: École Centrale SupElec, École des Ponts ParisTech, École Nationale de la Mécanique et d'aéronautique Poitiers, Grenoble INP, INSA Lyon, Toulouse INP, Institut Polytechnique de Marseille, École Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications de Bretagne and lycée Louis Le Grand.

This program is supported by the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the French Embassy in Vietnam and the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training. The PFIEV is accredited by the French CTI ("commission des titres d'ingénieurs") until 2022 and at the European level with recognition of the Master's level diploma. The 4 Vietnamese institutions are accredited HCERES (haut commissariat à l'évaluation de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur). Each year, 12 Vietnamese teachers are received in the French partner establishments and benefit from

pedagogical assistance to improve their courses and be at the forefront of innovations in their discipline. Thus 12 one-month grants from the French government are awarded for this mobility. At the same time, two teachers from the Lycée Louis Le Grand help them to adapt the content of their courses to the needs of local businesses. The French Embassy in Hanoi provides support for the setting up of French as a foreign language courses.

The French partners of the PFIEV provide pedagogical support for this training, take part in seminars, participate in the mixed juries of the engineering project defense, help develop the program of this training, train in the use of laboratory equipment and participate in the annual meeting of the PFIEV's National Improvement Council.

More information: <http://pfiev.nuce.edu.vn/en/20th-anniversary-of-the-establishment-of-the-training-program-of-excellence-engineers-in-vietnam-pfiev.html>

### Ceremony of awarding the title of Doctor Honoris Causa to Mr. Thibaut SKRZYPEK

During the anniversary ceremony, Mr. Thibaut Skrzypek (Ecole des Ponts ParisTech, spokesperson for the French consortium supporting the programme) was awarded the degree of Doctorate Honoris Causa of the School of Civil Engineering in Hanoi.

More information: <http://pfiev.nuce.edu.vn/en/ceremony-of-honorary-doctorate-to-mr-thibaut-skrzypek.html>



Mr. Thibaut SKRZYPEK expressed his feelings at the ceremony

### Aurélien Alfonsi, New Director of CERMICS

04 February, 2020

Aurélien ALFONSI, the new Director of CERMICS (Ecole des Ponts applied maths lab), takes over from Eric Cancès in this position. His research focuses on risk modelling and quantification in finance and insurance, as well as on numerical probabilistic methods. He has supervised several theses on the modelling of various financial risks using so-called "affine" random processes and has written a book on the numerical approximation and simulation of these processes.

Aurélien Alfonsi is in charge of the *Probability* course of the 1st year of the engineering cycle at École des Ponts ParisTech, professor in charge of the course at Ecole Polytechnique, and head of the Master of Finance and Data.

Aurélien Alfonsi is also a member of the INRIA MathRisk project and participates in the "*Financial Risks*" chair.



**Forum of Real Estate and City Professions 2020**

26 February, 2020



École des Ponts ParisTech presented its training offer in relation to real estate, building and urban planning at the *Forum des métiers de l'immobilier et de la ville* held on 26 February 2020 at the Palais des Congrès de Paris.

This event was an opportunity to discover all of ENPC Specialised Masters and, more specifically, the MS Smart Mobility, which this year is being given pride of place.

About the exhibition:

The exhibition got together in the same place the different actors of the sector: companies, associations and training organizations where students and professionals met to find a job/internship, find training, learn about real estate professions, etc.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.fmiv.fr/>

**A Night to Undertake, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition**

27 - 28 February, 2020

École des Ponts ParisTech is launching the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of **Une Nuit Pour Entreprendre** (#1NPE) which was held from Thursday 27 February to Friday 28 February at École des Ponts ParisTech.

This introductory event to business creation aimed to encourage engineering students to develop their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. The principle is simple: working in small groups, students have one night to develop an innovative project. These projects are submitted in the early morning to a jury made up of members of École des Ponts ParisTech and entrepreneurs. The event was open to higher education students.

## Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest, Romania



### Passing away of Professor Nicoleta RĂDULESCU



The members of the EUCEET Association, the community of teachers and civil engineers of Romania received the very sad news about the passing away at the end of the year 2019 of Professor Nicoleta RADULESCU.

Prof. Nicoleta Radulescu was Professor of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering at the Technical University of Civil Engineering (UTCB) in Bucharest. She started her teaching career within the Department of Geotechnics and Foundations at UTCB.

Involved in the life of the university was member at different times in the Council of the Faculty of Civil, Industrial and Agricultural Buildings, the Council of the Faculty of Engineering in Foreign Languages and the UTCB Senate she was extremely active and concerned about the problems of university education in the field of construction.

As Director of the Department of Engineering in Foreign Languages, he succeeded in establishing the Faculty of Engineering in Foreign Languages-FILS in 2007, a faculty whose first dean was until 2012.

Professor Nicoleta Radulescu held important positions in European, National and International Organizations and was actively involved in the life of the geotechnical professional community in Romania and abroad.

In Romania she was member of the Romanian Geotechnical Society (SRGF) and General Secretary of SRGF between 2000-2012, member of the Technical Committee on the Geotechnical Engineering Design Codes and Technical Committee on the Structural Engineering Design Codes, member of the National Certification Committee for Geotechnical Engineering Technical Experts and Authorized Design Checkers.

In the year 2013 Prof. Nicoleta Radulescu was designated as Board member of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE). Since 1990 she was member of ISSMGE, and then member of the TC18 „Deep Foundations” ISSMGE and TC212 „Deep Foundations” ISSMGE.

Professor Nicoleta Radulescu is well known by the members of the EUCEET Association. She was member of the Management Committee of the four Thematic Network Projects EUCEET (1998 – 2010).

At the first General Assembly of the EUCEET Association (Warsaw, 24 October 2008), she was designated as member of the Administrative Council (2008-2010).

## Tomsk State University of Architecture and Building (TSUAB), Russia



### TSUAB experts conducted an examination of the Glazkovsky bridge in Irkutsk

Tomsk State University of Architecture and Building has successfully fulfilled a municipal contract, surveying and testing the Glazkovsky Bridge over the Angara River in Irkutsk, and provided the customer with a full report. The 8.5 million ruble contract for this project was signed on August 5 by the Committee of Urban Development of Irkutsk city administration.

Because the design specification required complex and multifaceted tasks, specialists from several specialized universities were involved in work on the site: Siberian State University of Communications (STU, Novosibirsk), Irkutsk State Transport University (IrGUPS), Siberian State Automobile and Highway University (SiBARU), and Tomsk State University of Architecture and Building (TSUAB).

Glazkovsky Bridge, opened in 1932, is an architectural monument. Of the Siberian universities working on this collaboration, TSUAB is the only participant with a license to carry out activities for the preservation of Russian cultural heritage and also a member of a self-regulatory organization in the field of architectural and construction design.

*“Our University has extensive experience in surveying and designing the repair of architectural monuments. This is our ‘highlight,’ our competitive advantage. We are well-known in Moscow, St. Petersburg and many Russian cities,”* said Pavel Yelugachev, the Vice-rector for Research. *“In 2016, TSUAB received a perpetual license to preserve cultural heritage objects (historical and cultural monuments) of the peoples of the Russian Federation. We have the right to develop design documentation for the conservation, repair, restoration, adaptation and recreation of cultural heritage sites of the Russian peoples.”*

TSUAB specialists had to assess the technical conditions of the bearing structures of the Glazkovsky Bridge in Irkutsk and check them for compliance with modern standards for road safety, load capacity, durability and maintainability of the structure by assessing relevant parameters.

After receiving the design specifications and the source data, the specialists of the Department "Engineering Geology, Bridges and Structures on Roads" of the TSUAB Faculty of Road Construction examined and tested the bridge, and additionally conducted studies as part of the non-destructive control of building structures. The project was managed by Pavel Yelugachev, and undergraduates Alexey Bannikov and Eldar Negmetzhanov were active participants in the project. The department's work resulted in a five-volume report, which has been submitted to the customer for approval.

*“We were not surprised. Since 1932, the scheduled routine maintenance necessary for artificial structures of this type has not been carried out on the bridge”,* Pavel Yelugachev comments on the results of the research. *“Due to this there is an accumulation of under-repaired parts, which can be eliminated through a basic repair.*

*I would like to note that today most municipal structures do not have operating regulations, and this leads to the fact that the treatment of such structures becomes an unbearable burden for different*

*budgets. I am convinced that each ruble saved on the maintenance of the structure will later require five to six rubles of investment to bring the structure into acceptable condition. All the required work was done strictly in accordance with the specifications and work schedule. We can say now that it was not an easy task, but the road and bridge builders are used to hard work. We are proud that we helped preserve an architectural monument of Siberia”.*

For reference:

Glazkovsky Bridge over the Angara River in Irkutsk was built in 1931-1936 by the project of P.N. Polikarpov, an engineer, and I.A. Frantsuz, an architect, in honor of V.I. Lenin.

The total length of the bridge is 1245 m. It is supported by 5 river and 32 coastal supports. When it was built, it was the only bridge of such construction in the Soviet Union and Europe. Its special feature is the size of its arches with a very large degree of bending of arches.

This is a four-span reinforced concrete bridge, the length of the central spans is 80 m, the extreme spans are 70 m. Its width is 18 m. It has a four-lane traffic including a two-track tram, there are pedestrian walkways on both sides. The bridge complex also includes an overpass over the railway, two flyovers and four exits.

### **TSUAB has developed a new method for strengthening metal structures**

23.12.2019

Specialists of Tomsk State University of Architecture and Building have developed a new method of reinforcing metal sheet structures using fabric based on carbon fiber composites.

A similar material is created from carbon fiber consisting of thin filaments with diameters from 5 to 15 micrometers formed mainly by carbon atoms. This makes the fabric light but simultaneously increases the strength characteristics to double those of steel.

*“The combination of lightness and strength of the material made it widely used in aerospace industry both in Russia and the world,”* says Andrey Plyaskin, the head of the Department of Metal and Wooden Structures, TSUAB. The carbon fiber is also used in construction to reinforce the concrete supports of bridges by an external reinforcement system. The department at TSUAB was the first to decide to use strength properties and try to strengthen the metal structures. Some pretension attempts were made to use the entire strength resource of the material and increase the elastic modulus.

Engineers of Eastern Oil Company Tomskneft are already interested in developing this product. Now TSUAB and Tomskneft are researching under a contract for the restoration of vessel serviceability with the use of carbon fiber composites. Specialists will use the method to strengthen oil reservoirs, and to settle tanks and separators.

The technology of using carbon fiber composite has a number of significant advantages over traditional methods: when strengthening, it is not necessary to dismantle the corroded sheet steel. Also, there is no need for welding operations, and it makes the process more economical and safer.

After cleaning and special treatment, the tanks are covered with an external reinforcement system. When there is a high percentage of wall wear, bandage belts are arranged around the entire circumference of the tank.

TSUAB engineers completely investigated the joint work of the “steel-carbon plastic” composite, as well as developed the technology for the application of the adhesive composition, surface preparation, and fabric tension.

Now the engineers of TSUAB are moving to the practical application stage and development to the standard of Tomskneft. On December 18, engineers from Tomskneft visited the TSUAB laboratories. They watched experimental studies which confirmed the properties of the carbon fiber fabric and its effectiveness.

Steel samples reinforced with carbon fiber have been successfully tested on a tensile strength testing machine with good results. Cyclic tests of the corner weld joint, using the digital optical system Vic-3D, were demonstrated to Tomskneft’s specialists. The development to the organization's standard, inspection of reservoirs and implementation of strengthening projects will now be conducted. Representatives of Tomskneft are ready to transfer two horizontal tanks for pilot testing.

Work on the strengthening of tanks for Tomskneft are planned to occur permanently.

The developers are Andrey Plyaskin –head of the Department of Metal and Wooden Structures at TSUAB, Artyom Ustinov, Artyom Danilson – assistants at this department, Viktor Bunkov and Vladislav Kosovsky – engineers.

Several experienced professors of the university support the young team, including Vasily Plevkov, Anatoly Klopotov and Yuri Abzayev.

## FROM PARTNERS

### EURASHE Roundtable “Regional engagement of Universities of Applied Sciences: concept and impact”

13 February, 2020

Brussels, Belgium



Photo taken at the Roundtable

On 13 February 2020 EURASHE organised a Roundtable “*Regional engagement of Universities of Applied Sciences: concept and impact*” which gathered professional higher education experts and policymakers to discuss the importance of the Universities of Applied Sciences (hereafter – UAS) in the European regions. The event was hosted by the Portuguese Permanent Representation to the EU. A representative from the Joint Research Centre (European Commission) gave an overview on the ongoing HES project which focuses on how higher education can contribute to the Smart Specialisation Strategies.

Andrea-Rosalinde Hofer from the OECD presented results of the Benchmarking Higher Education System Performance (2019). Peter Baur, from DG Education and Culture (EAC) introduced the European Commission's and the OECD's initiative HEInnovate which serves as a self-assessment tool for Higher education institutions who wish to explore their innovative potential.

The event's participants also had a chance to hear about TEFCE project which aims to develop innovative and feasible policy tools at the university and European level for supporting, monitoring and assessing the community engagement of HEIs.

The outcome of the Roundtable will feed into the recently launched "UASiMAP" project which will map and further support the regional engagement activities of European professional higher education institutions, in particular Universities of Applied Sciences. More about the project [here](#).

More about the event and speaking points on: <https://www.eurashe.eu/eurashe-community-discussed-the-impact-of-universities-of-applied-sciences-on-the-regions/>

## SEFI 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

20 - 24 September, 2020

Enschede, The Netherlands



### Theme: Engaging Engineering Education

Engineering students engage with society designing new solutions to help solve complex problems. Interdisciplinary opportunities arise when they engage with other disciplines. Engagement of businesses and organisations helps to prepare our students for their future career.

The 48<sup>th</sup> SEFI Annual Conference focuses on engaging current and future students in their education and in an engineering career by bringing together teachers, researchers, engineering professionals, students, managers, policymakers and deans in higher education.

### Topics:

- Interdisciplinary engineering education, linking different disciplines both inside and outside engineering, linking with society.
- Engineering curriculum design, challenge-based education, maker projects, use of professional tools.
- Sustainability and ethics, embedded and dedicated approaches.
- Mathematics in the engineering curriculum.
- Physics in the engineering curriculum.
- Higher education and business: collaborations and career support.
- Diversity and inclusiveness.
- Internationalisation, exchange options, joint programs.
- Future engineering skills and talent management.
- E-learning, open and online learning, blended learning, virtual reality.
- Engineering in Schools, improving visibility of engineering disciplines.
- Niche & novel engineering education topics.

More information: <https://www.sefi.be/2019/12/10/call-for-papers-sefi-2020-annual-conference/>

## ECCE – European Council of Civil Engineers

### 71<sup>st</sup> ECCE General Meeting was cancelled



The 71<sup>st</sup> ECCE General Meeting that was originally planned to take place from 21-23 May 2020, in Malta, hosted by the Kamra tal-Periti (Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers) was canceled due to concerns around the coronavirus (COVID-19), and in accordance with health guidance from the World Health Organization, the European authorities and national governments.

The next General Meeting of the European Council of Civil Engineers will be held in October 2020, Sofia, Bulgaria.

### 4<sup>th</sup> European Engineers Day "*Engineering intelligence in a digitalized Europe*"

24 June, 2020

Brussels, Belgium



The 4<sup>th</sup> European Engineers' Day 2020 will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020, in Brussels, Belgium co-organized by the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE), European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) and European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI).

More information: [http://www.eccengineers.eu/news/2020/4th\\_european\\_engineers\\_day.php](http://www.eccengineers.eu/news/2020/4th_european_engineers_day.php)

### SEFI Summer School for PhD students Engineering Education Research

22 - 25 June, 2020

Leuven, Belgium



The 2020 SEFI Doctoral Summer School provides an opportunity for PhD research students engaged in engineering education research (EER) to learn from experts and their peers.

Students will participate in workshops led by experts, centered on aspects of research in EER such as:

- **Introduction: What makes EER so special?**  
Journals, reference papers, ontology, epistemology, research groups in Europe.
- **Quantitative Research Methods**  
Data collection (surveys, experiments, etc) and data analysis (statistical analysis, quantifying subjective data, common flaws, etc.)
- **Qualitative Research Methods**

Data collection (interviews, focus groups, think-aloud, etc.) and Interpretative analysis of the data within different research methodologies (Grounded Theory, Phenomenology, Phenomenography, Case study, etc.)

Participants will have the opportunity to engage with the engineering education community and to present their current research and receive feedback from other students and experts.

### **ORGANISATION**

The summer school is organised to foster discussion and thus numbers will be limited to 20 students to facilitate a comfortable environment. All sessions have a highly interactive format, facilitating the exchange of ideas and opinions. Participants will be required to prepare work before the summer school and to engage in exercises each day to prepare for an in-depth discussion of specific topics.

### **WHAT IS INCLUDED?**

The cost for each participant is €300 which includes lunches and coffee each day. Participants need to make their own accommodation arrangements. More information will follow on the website.

### **WHO CAN ATTEND?**

PhD students conducting research in engineering education are invited to apply. The application form will be available soon on the website.

**WEBSITE:** <https://iiv.kuleuven.be/english/phd/sefi-summer-school-eer/sefi-summer-school-Engineering-Education-Research>

**CONTACT:** [summerschoolEER@kuleuven.be](mailto:summerschoolEER@kuleuven.be)

## **Going Global 2020 - The conference for leaders of international education**

29 - 30 June, 2020

QEII Centre, London, UK

Going Global is a conference for leaders in international education to debate the future of further and higher education.

- Providing a unique platform for knowledge sharing.
- Connecting local, national, regional and global agendas.
- Providing a global network for policy makers and practitioners working in the field of international education.
- Supporting evidence led policy decisions deriving from research and regional policy dialogues.
- Supporting global thought leadership.



The conference is addressed to the university or college vice-chancellor, president or principal, an adviser, minister or government representative, journalist or policy and strategy maker, or a professional and trade body working in international education.

**Conference themes:**

- The global learner
- The global learning institution
- The global learning context.

More information: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/going-global>

**EHEA Ministerial Conference postponed to November 2020**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications at national and international level, the EHEA Ministerial Conference will take place on **19-20 November 2020 in Rome, Italy (La Nuvola Conference Centre)**.



The Bologna Global Policy Forum would take place on Thursday afternoon, and the Global Summit on Higher Education on the afternoon of the 20th and on Saturday 21.

More information and updates on: <http://www.ehea.info/page-ehea-ministerial-conferece-rome-2020>.

## FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION



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

#### ERASMUS+ Call for proposals 2020

2020 is the last year of the current European Union programme for mobility and cooperation in education, training, youth and sport. The expected budget of over €3 billion, an increase of 12% compared to 2019, will provide even more opportunities for young Europeans to study, train or gain professional experience abroad.

#### How will Brexit impact the Erasmus+ programme?

The Withdrawal Agreement foresees that the UK will continue to participate in the current 2014-2020 EU programmes, including Erasmus+, as if the UK was an EU Member State until the closure of the programmes. This means that UK beneficiaries can continue to take part in grants awarded under the current MFF until their end date, even if it is after 2020.

The possible participation of the UK in future programmes after 2020 will depend on the outcome of the overall negotiations on the future relationship between the two parties.

Information from: [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about/brexit\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about/brexit_en)

#### Information for beneficiaries whose activities are impacted by coronavirus

Publication date: Friday, 6 March, 2020

In the context of the measures taken by national competent authorities to contain the spread of the coronavirus, EACEA has been consulted on the potential effect of such measures on EU funded projects whose implementation could be hindered, or partially / temporarily affected, by mobility restrictions. In that regard, EACEA reminds that **participating organisations should contact the individual participants who already are in, or are planning to leave to or from the affected areas within the coming weeks; they should follow the formal and official prescription issued and/or adopted by the local competent authorities.**

Within this context, **the ordinary implementation of the planned actions shall be normally carried out, as far as possible, and it is for the participating organisations and individuals to decide on the appropriate and proportionate course of action to take in the light of the measures formally adopted by the competent authorities. Participants should also be reminded of the assistance that can be provided by embassies, consulates and honorary consulates in the country of their stay.**

EACEA also reminds that all the Agreements contain a “force majeure” clause which **may** apply to mobility restrictions, as a direct consequence of the measures taken by the competent national

authorities in charge. However, please note that **the existence of an event of “force majeure” suitable to concretely hinder the ordinary implementation of the planned actions will be analysed on a “case-by-case” basis, and in due time, i.e. when the eligibility of the costs will be assessed.**

You can find additional information on the situation on the [Commission website](#), and on the website of the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#) (see also this [Q&A](#)).

### Erasmus Charter for Higher Education

The [Erasmus Charter for Higher Education \(ECHE\)](#) provides the general quality framework for European and international cooperation activities a higher education institution may carry out within Erasmus+. The award of an ECHE is a pre-requisite for all higher education institutions located in a Programme country and willing to participate in learning mobility of individuals and/or cooperation for innovation and good practices under Erasmus+.

The Erasmus Charter contains the fundamental principles to be respected by HEIs when participating in Erasmus + programme.

If a higher education institution (HEI) located in a Programme country wish to apply for actions under Erasmus +, it need to apply first for the Erasmus Charter.

Only HEIs from Programme countries can apply for the Charter. For HEIs located in Partner countries, the ECHE is not required, and the quality framework will be established through inter-institutional agreements between HEIs.

According to the Programme Guide, the Programme countries are:

- EU member states
- EFTA-EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway)
- EU candidate countries (North Macedonia, Turkey)

More information:

[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/applicants/higher-education-charter\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/applicants/higher-education-charter_en)

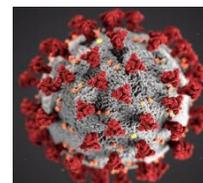
### European Commission Extends the Deadlines for Various Programmes' Calls

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the European Commission decided to extend the deadlines for submission of projects' applications.

- **Information on the new deadlines for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes' calls on:**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/coronavirus-outbreak-deadlines-applications-extended\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/coronavirus-outbreak-deadlines-applications-extended_en);
- **New deadlines for Horizon2020 programme's calls:**  
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home> here.

**Coronavirus outbreak – deadlines for Erasmus+ applications extended**

Publication date: Tuesday, 17 March, 2020



As a result of difficulties experienced by applicants due to the coronavirus outbreak, the deadlines for submission of applications to some Erasmus+ actions have been extended.

More information : [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/coronavirus-outbreak-deadlines-applications-extended\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/coronavirus-outbreak-deadlines-applications-extended_en)

**Coronavirus: Implications for the implementation of programmes managed by EACEA**

Publication date: Wednesday, 25 March, 2020

**Message to the attention of beneficiaries/contractors/experts**

If the implementation of the project or contracts are impeded by the spread of Corona Virus COVID-19, as a first step the beneficiaries/contractors/experts must inform the Executive Agency (EACEA) by e-mail to the responsible project officer you are usually in contact with or the functional mailbox of the Action and describe in detail the issue and its impact on the project implementation.

In any case, the following flexibility measures will apply:

**1) Eligibility of costs in ongoing actions or contracts**

Where individuals who were to take part in mobilities, meetings or events are prevented from doing so, for example owing to their recent contact with someone suffering from the virus or their presence in an area considered to be at high risk, EACEA may consider as eligible (if they fulfill the general eligibility conditions set out in the grant agreement/decision, or contract) expenses of travel or accommodation that could not be cancelled and which are not reimbursed from other sources provided that the beneficiaries/contractors/experts submit relevant supporting documents in this sense (in particular that they have claimed reimbursement and that it was denied).

**2) Where COVID-19 prevents implementation of action or contract**

Where the execution of contracts is impeded because of COVID-19 (for example due to unavailability of key staff, the impossibility of carrying on work in a zone affected by the virus or any other case which can be regarded as **force majeure**), EACEA may accept replacement activities or delayed performance. This could be done following a justified request by the beneficiary/contractor/expert to amend the contract including by extending the period of its implementation/ performance.

**Documentation**

Beneficiaries/contractors/experts must collect and keep the relevant documentation which might be needed at a later stage to prove/justify any decision taken having an impact on the implementation of the project (notably from a financial point of view). Other updates may follow as the situation evolves.

Information from : [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about-eacea/news/coronavirus-implications-for-implementation-programmes-managed-eacea\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about-eacea/news/coronavirus-implications-for-implementation-programmes-managed-eacea_en)

## NEWS FROM THE WORLD

### **RW- 798<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Civil and Environmental Engineering (I2C2E)**

3 - 4 April, 2020

Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

**RW (Research World)** is a REGISTERED International scientific association of distinguished scholars engaged in the field of research.

**RWIRESEARCHWORLD**

[Call for Papers](#)

[Paper Submission](#)

[Registration](#)

[Important Dates](#)



The RW members include research and development center heads, faculty deans, department heads, professors, research scientists, engineers, scholars, experienced software development directors, managers and engineers, university postgraduate and undergraduate engineering and technology students, etc.

**RW- 798<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Civil and Environmental Engineering (I2C2E)** is a prestigious event organized with a motivation to provide an excellent international platform for the academicians, researchers, engineers, industrial participants and budding students around the world to SHARE their research findings with the global experts.

**798<sup>th</sup> I2C2E 2020** will be held in **Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia** during **3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> April, 2020**.

The key intention of **798<sup>th</sup> I2C2E 2020** is to provide opportunity for the global participants to share their ideas and experience in person with their peers expected to join from different parts on the world. In addition this gathering will help the delegates to establish research or business relations as well as to find international linkage for future collaborations in their career path. **798<sup>th</sup> I2C2E 2020** is a premier forum for presenting of new research findings. This conference brings together avid researchers from local and foreign universities.

Topics of interest for submission include, but not limited to:

- Civil Engineering
- Environmental Engineering:

#### **Video Conferencing**

**Due to the current situation of COVID-19 and Government regulations, the organizers are requesting all participants to join in the video conferencing facility and the publication process.**

More information: <http://researchworld.org/Conference2020/Malaysia/3/I2C2E/index.php>

## ICBAEE 2020: 14. International Conference on Building, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

06-07 April, 2020

Cancun, Mexico



ICBAEE 2020: International Conference on Building, Architectural and Environmental Engineering is the premier interdisciplinary forum for the presentation of new advances and research results in the fields of Building, Architectural and Environmental Engineering.

The International Conference on Building, Architectural and Environmental Engineering 2020 aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars in the domain of interest from around the world to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Building, Architectural and Environmental Engineering. It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Building, Architectural and Environmental Engineering. With its high quality, it provides an exceptional value for students, academics and industry researchers.

Topics of interest for submission include, but are not limited to:

- Advanced construction materials
- Architectural design and its theory
- Architectural environment and equipment engineering
- Architecture and building materials
- Asset management
- Building acoustics
- Building automation and management system
- Building energy saving technology
- Building environmental monitoring and control system
- Building forensic
- Building infrastructure and environment
- Building intelligent and management system
- Building life-cycle – repair and rehabilitation
- Building maintenance
- Building services
- Building technology science
- Building ventilation
- Civil engineering
- Composite and innovative materials in buildings
- Construction economics
- Construction engineering
- Design guides and standards
- Ecological architecture
- Energy efficiency in buildings
- Environmental engineering
- Environmental impact assessment

More information on: <https://waset.org/building-architectural-and-environmental-engineering-conference-in-april-2020-in-cancun>

## BSGC2020 - Future Challenges for Geotechnical Engineering

25 - 27 May, 2020

Helsinki, Finland

### CONFERENCE RESCHEDULED!

The Finnish Geotechnical Society has a pleasure to invite you to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> **Baltic Sea Region Geotechnical Conference** in Helsinki. The conference is organized in parallel with the 18<sup>th</sup> **Nordic Geotechnical Meeting** ([www.NGM2020.com](http://www.NGM2020.com)) at the same venue.



**Due to coronavirus outbreak, NGM & BSGC 2020 Helsinki Conference will be organized on January 18-20, 2021.**

By registering to the BSGC participant has access also to the interesting sessions of NGM without extra fees. The Conference will gather distinguished researchers, engineers and practitioners acting in the field of geotechnics, foundation and environmental engineering on the Baltic Sea Region and around the globe.

The leading theme of the conference is *Future Challenges for Geotechnical Engineering*. The theme emphasizes global trends together with regional and local problems in geotechnical engineering. The climate change, digitalization and urbanization affect profoundly all construction activities including also geotechnical engineering challenging our mindset and ways of working.

#### The conference will be structured along several topics:

- Novel energy solutions in foundation engineering
- Digital applications in geotechnics
- Geotechnical art and historical experiences
- Soil and rock investigation
- Design experiences and theoretical solutions
- Environmental geotechnics and recycling
- Case studies
- Modelling
- Design guidelines
- Foundation engineering and deep foundations
- Ports
- Transport infrastructure

Papers may be submitted on advanced new systems or techniques as well as general research papers indicating future directions. Full papers will be accepted based on their quality, relevance to the theme of the conference and originality. Accepted Scientific papers will be INDEXED via IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science. The program of the conference will cover both oral and poster presentations.

Presentations can cover for example interesting geotechnical projects or practical findings found during earth and foundation construction projects.

More information: <https://www.ril.fi/en/events/bsgc-2020.html>

## The IRES - 845<sup>th</sup> International Conference on E-Education, E-Business, E-Management and E-Learning (IC4E)

6 – 7 June, 2020

Melbourne, Australia

The IRES - 845<sup>th</sup> *International Conference on E-Education, E-Business, E-Management and E-Learning (IC4E)* aimed at presenting current research being carried out in that area and scheduled to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 in Melbourne, Australia.



**Due to the current situation of COVID-19 and Government regulations, the organizers are requesting all participants to join in the video conferencing facility and the publication process.**

The idea of the conference is for the scientists, scholars, engineers and students from the Universities all around the world and the industry to present ongoing research activities, and hence to foster research relations between the Universities and the industry. This conference provides opportunities for the delegates to exchange new ideas and application experiences face to face, to establish business or research relations and to find global partners for future collaboration and is organized by the Institute of Research Engineers and Scientists (the IRES).

The conference would offer a large number of invited lectures from renowned speakers all over the country. The Best paper awards will be given for the papers judged to make the most significant contribution to the conference. Scopus Indexed Journals (\*) are associated with this conference for publication of papers.

Earlier the IRES had conferences held at London (UK), Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Jakarta, Bali, Batam, Bangkok, Pattaya, Phuket, Manila, Hong Kong, China, Johannesburg (South Africa), Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

### Important Dates

Early Bird Registration	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2020
Last date of registration	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2020
Paper submission deadline	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Date of Conference	06 <sup>th</sup> - 07 <sup>th</sup> June 2020

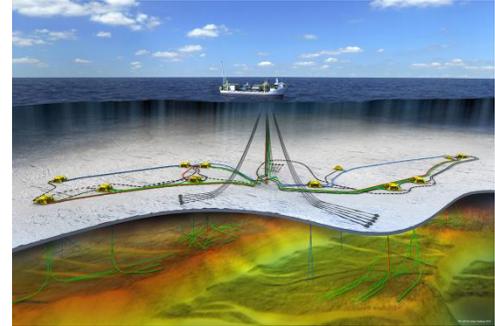
More information: <http://theires.org/Conference2020/Australia/5/IC4E/index.php>

## ISFOG 2020- 4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Frontiers in Offshore Geotechnics

16-19 August, 2020

Austin, Texas

The University of Texas is pleased to invite participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Frontiers in Offshore Geotechnics (ISFOG) to be held in Austin, Texas, on August 16-19, 2020. ISFOG is now in its fourth event and third location following the most recent (2015) symposium in Oslo, Norway and the first two symposia in Perth, Australia in 2005 and 2010.



The fourth ISFOG event will be managed by the Geo-Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Deep Foundations Institute, held under the auspices of the ISSMGE Technical Committee 209 on Offshore Geotechnics, and will host the fifth McClelland Lecture. It will strive to continue providing a specialist forum for practitioners and academics to share solutions and new ideas that address the dynamic challenges of working in offshore design and installation. ISFOG 2020 will highlight emerging technologies related to data science and also emphasize the recent surge in offshore renewables development, both domestically in the United States and globally. Other growing areas of interest include performance-based design and addressing the challenges of an ageing offshore infrastructure, whether it be extending the operating life of these structures or solving the challenges and opportunities related to their decommissioning.

### The Geo-Institute of ASCE

Created by ASCE in October 1996, the Geo-Institute (G-I) combines the talents and perspectives of its members to promote the Geotechnical profession and enhance career development through specialty conferences, journals and practice-oriented publications, educational programs, networking and coalition building, technical committees and task forces and leadership on emerging issues. The 12,100 members and 63 organizational members of G-I include scientists, engineers, technologists, and organizations interested in improving the environment, mitigating natural hazards, and constructing economically engineered facilities.

### Venue

ISFOG 2020 will be held at the AT&T Conference Center, on the scenic grounds of The University of Texas at Austin. The AT&T Conference Center, located approximately 10 minutes north of the city center, offers a range of accommodations within walking distance to several restaurants and popular night-life venues. Transportation to local attractions is offered regularly from the venue.

**Themes**

Submissions are invited addressing Frontiers in Offshore Geotechnics related to the following topics:

- **Site Characterization:** geotechnical testing and modelling, integrated studies, geohazards, sediment mobility and scour
- **Offshore Oil, Gas and Wind Energy Facilities:** foundations, monopiles, jack-ups, moorings, anchors, pipelines, risers, wells, cables, subsea systems, numerical modelling, case studies, cyclic loading
- **Alternative Energy and Other Ocean and Marine Resources:** wind, wave, tidal, current, thermal, gas hydrate, seafloor mining, aquaculture
- **Life Extension and Decommissioning:** fitness for service, foundation extraction, rigs to reefs, asset integrity, repurposing and reuse
- **Disruptive Technologies:** sensing, monitoring, intelligent systems, artificial intelligence, and machine learning
- **Design Methodologies:** performance-based/ whole-life/risk-based design and reliability
- **Rules, Standards and Regulations:** updates to existing design codes, development of new guidance

More information: <https://www.isfog2020.org/>

## CALENDAR

Date	Event	Place
02-04.04.2020	44 <sup>th</sup> International JVE Conference " <i>Vibration and Acoustics in Civil Engineering and Fault Diagnostics</i> "	Dubai, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



<https://www.jveconferences.com/conference/DUBAI-2020>

22-24.04. 2020	Internationalisation in Higher Education for Society (IHES) - IHES Conference 2020 <i>MAKING A DIFFERENCE</i>	Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC
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More information: <https://www.ihes-conference.com/>



<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Place</b>
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24-25.06.2020	Conference Geotechnical Engineering Education 2020 (GEE2020)	Athens, GRRECE
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International Conference on  
Geotechnical Engineering Education  
June 24-25, 2020 | Athens, Greece

<https://www.erasmus.gr/microsites/1168>

20-25.09.2020	48 <sup>th</sup> SEFI Annual Conference	Enschede, THE NEDERLANDS
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<https://www.sefi2020.eu/>



21-22.09.2020	ICCEEL 2020-International Conference on Civil Engineering Education and Learning	Toronto, CANADA
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<https://waset.org/civil-engineering-education-and-learning-conference-in-september-2020-in-toronto>

19-20.10. 2020	50 <sup>th</sup> International JVE Conference	Timisoara, ROMANIA
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<https://www.jveconferences.com/conference/TIMISOARA-2020>

**Date**

**Event**

**Place**

18-20.01 2021

14<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Geotechnical Conference 2020

Helsinki,  
FINLAND



<https://www.ril.fi/en/events/bsgc-2020.html>