

Press release

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New initiatives from EFCE

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With this press release, the European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) announces the start of a new activity to increase the visibility of chemical engineering in Europe and to enable the Federation itself to reach all its Member Societies, and, of course, you, as a member of one of the societies.

As you know, the European Federation of Chemical Engineering, created fifty years ago, is a platform where all European chemical engineers, without exception, work together to exchange experiences and knowledge on all subjects related to chemical engineering. It is also the aim of the Federation to have well-balanced participation from academia and industry, north and south, west and east.

The Federation puts a lot of emphasis on the work of the Working Parties. There are currently 23 Working Parties, covering practically all the basic areas of chemical engineering. Nevertheless, the recent creation of Sections, which are more open, has enabled more interdisciplinary interactions.

Among the annual meetings of the Working Parties are international congresses and symposia open to scientists and engineers all over the world. The Federation also helps the Member Societies to organise general congresses on chemical engineering, such as ECCE (the flagship of the EFCE), CHISA and WCCE, which have a wide range of topics and participants.

All information about the Working Parties and Sections is available on the website of the Federation at www.efce.info.

After the Federation's first 50 years, working and planning on behalf of the chemical engineers in Europe, we are convinced that the collaboration with the Member Societies can be made even more effective through a more direct link.

A Task Group has been created within the Executive Board of the Federation to propose and monitor actions to achieve this objective. This task group consists of the EFCE Executive Vice President, Prof. Dr. Nomen, E, members of the Executive Board (Dr. Novosad, CZ, Prof. Dr. Voncken, NL, Prof. Dr. Gani, DK, and Dr. Molzahn, D), Mrs. Legrand, Vice President of the French Federation (Gay Lussac), and the Frankfurt office of the General Secretariat (Dr. Meier, Mrs. Honndorf). As chairmen of the Working Parties on CAPE and Education, Prof. Dr. Gani and Dr. Molzahn also represent their Working Parties in the Task Group.

The Federation, in its recent Executive Board meeting, has agreed on the following direct action initiatives.

The first initiative is a direct communication line with you through the journals of the Member Societies, two or three times a year, to inform you about the latest developments and news from the Federation.

Members of the Executive Board, Working Party Chairmen or any of us who would like to announce something to the others will have the possibility to do so. Communication from the society members should be channelled through the appropriate society.

The communications will be published in English, but each association member will have the right to translate it into the appropriate language, if they wish to do so. If we want to have a strong, powerful and influential Federation, we need to combine our efforts in reaching our members and beyond. Therefore, please think about the Federation, what you would like it to be, what you need from it and how the Federation can best meet your needs. Also, think about what you can do for the Federation.

The second action we would like to announce is two awards, starting next year, to be presented by the Federation. The first is the *EFCE Student Mobility Award*, which will be presented to European students of chemical engineering and related fields who have studied successfully for at least one semester in each of at least two different countries. The second award, the *EFCE PhD Thesis Award on CAPE*, aims to recognise the best PhD done in Europe in the field covered by the Computer Aided Process Engineering Working Party (CAPE-WP).

Both awards will be presented every 2 years, during one of the congresses organised by the Federation. The Student Mobility Award will be given during ECCE congresses and the PhD Thesis Award on CAPE during ESCAPE congresses organized by the CAPE-WP. The first award will be presented during the 7th World Congress on Chemical Engineering, to be held in Glasgow next July. This congress, as you know, is also the European Congress on Chemical Engineering.

You will shortly receive the application rules for the EFCE Student Mobility Award. We kindly ask you to use all the means of dissemination available to you to ensure that all students of chemical engineering in your country have the opportunity to apply. We will directly contact the heads of department, high school directors and faculty deans of educational institutions all over Europe. Your contribution, however, is vital. The more you disseminate the award rules, the higher is the probability that your students could win.

Let me conclude thanking you in advance for your cooperation; we need to unite our efforts to maintain the cohesion of chemical engineering, while accepting and promoting the necessary diversity.

Prof. Dr. Rosa Nomen
Executive Vice President