



**ENGINEERS EUROPE ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING OF 12 DECEMBER 2018
Minutes**

Opening

- Mr. Peter Vander HIJDEN as Moderator defined the scope and the agenda of the meeting: Brainstorming session in order to qualify for an Erasmus+ project proposal by FEANI, using the expertise and involvement of the Engineers Europe Advisory Group and development of a conceptual idea. No binding decisions will be made at this stage in terms of participation to the consortium partners and/or the details of the proposal.
- Following representatives of the EEAG were present : FEANI (Sec Gen + Treasurer), CESAER, CECIMO, EU STEM Coalition, EFCA, BEST, EYE, Schuman Associates, SEII, AECEF, KU LEUVEN, TH G. AGRICOLA, SME United (former UEAPME). Apologies were received from SEFI, IGIP and MEA.
- Key-message of the Engineers Europe Advisory Group : how to contribute to the society as Engineers.
- 2019 represents a window of opportunity due to changes at the EU level – EP elections, new Parliament, new Commission, Brexit.

Discussion points

- Identification of the appropriate Erasmus+ call for the FEANI/EEAG proposal. After inputs provided by Schuman Associates and Consultant Mr. Dimitrios KOKKALIS, it was agreed that the Call “KA2: Knowledge Alliances” is the most appropriate, given the composition of the perspective consortium (diversity) and the characteristics of the perspective proposal.
- Significance of the project for FEANI/EEAG – illustrate that it relates to a project-driven Organization, building on the existing momentum and further progress. The project proposal should serve as a means to further strengthen relationships among EEAG participants and establish presence of Engineers Europe (*“put Engineers Europe on the map”*). Yet, an Erasmus+ project is not an end in itself for the EEAG.
- Participants presented their experiences from involvement in similar “Knowledge Alliances” projects as well as their first ideas in terms of what needs/problems the proposal should address and its content in general.
- A key-strength of the perspective consortium is rich experience in Erasmus+ projects.
- Points on the general features of the “Knowledge Alliance” call/projects: success factor is to have a simple idea that provides a simple and clear solution/contribution. The diversity of the EEAG group (e.g. industry, universities, students) is a strength and virtue for “Knowledge Alliances”.

- Points on the content/issues of the proposal which should be considered : skills shortage and mismatch, definition of engineering profession, communication deficit, continuous education of engineers, value of engineering profession in terms of working conditions/salaries, digitalization of the industry, interdisciplinary nature/evolution of engineer profile.
- Points on the impact and the results: impact should show how the project will contribute to the society and the engineering sector in general. An issue to consider in terms of results is the form – i.e. what is going to be the form of the deliverables (e.g. a website, a platform, a tool, a report, a practice, etc).
- The issue of innovation and uniqueness of the proposal. A point that was raised was that there are already initiatives that cover the issues/needs that the perspective proposal intends to address (e.g. a lot of competition could be expected on initiatives and project proposals on STEM, digitalization, career prospects for engineers, educational programs). Yet, innovation is not to be understood exclusively as something completely new. In the context of the Erasmus+ program it can be understood as something complementary to an existing initiative (e.g. elevation of a national initiative to a European level) and a key issue is to express the added value of the project. In any case, the issue of how innovative the project is should be particularly considered.

Concluding remarks and next steps

- Criteria that the proposal should fulfil:
 - be specific and focused
 - be unique
 - be sure and capable to deliver
- Concept idea of the proposal: the concept of the “New Engineer”, focus on the profession of the engineer. What is the definition of an engineer, what are the needs, what is the positioning of the engineer in a changing landscape. The concept idea is build on the evolving nature, the dynamism and the changes of the engineering sector/engineer profile.
- The key themes that could be included in the proposal and serve as building blocks for the proposal given the concept idea (changes in definition/needs/evolution of the engineering profession). (
 - Visibility and branding – communication, express added value of the engineer, definition (i.e. interdisciplinary nature of the engineer).
 - Educational reform – skills shortage and mismatch, apprenticeships, soft skills and entrepreneurship, career perspectives
 - Labor conditions – low salaries, work-life balance. It has been agreed that for now the issue of salaries should not be part of the proposal.
- A 3-page document including the concept idea and indicative headlines (“work packages”) with parts to be further elaborated will be drafted by Mr. P. Van der HIJDEN and Mr. D. KOKKALIS and circulated by FEANI ideally the week 17-21 December for EEAG-signatories comment by January 2019. Subsequently a project proposal will be drafted and send in. Deadline for the submission of the proposal is determined at 28 February 2019. An evaluation of the project proposal is to be expected by July-August 2019. No qualification for an EU-funded project under ERASMUS+ will not imply the end of the EEAG.
- Next meeting of the EEAG is scheduled to take place on 7 March 2019 (18.21.00 hrs.).