



## The leading Research Network platform in the field of Facilities Management: report from the Research Network Group Chair

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# EuroFM Reports

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## Practice Network Group

Karin Schaad, Chair



In the last issue, we were still getting ready for the Members Meeting in Milan. This event is already history and I dare say that the attendees took full advantage of an interesting program

with good presentations and lively discussions within their network groups. On the second day of the meeting, the matchmaking and brainstorming session was very well received and especially the icebreaking "Competence Bingo" was a lot of fun for everyone involved. The idea was, of course, to encourage members of all three networks to actually get out of their comfort zones and specializations, and find out how they can each bring value to the other groups by sharing knowledge and collaborating on common projects. To this end, there were several short presentations demonstrating

what such projects could be and how the work could be set up to benefit all parties.

Looking back, a lot has been achieved in the past year. The following issues are but a few of our recent accomplishments:

### Video "Women in FM"

At the Members Meeting we were able to proudly present the completed "Women in FM" video. The project started as an idea after the "Women in FM" panel discussion, which was held at the EFMC in Glasgow and followed in the footsteps of the American series "High Heels and Hard Hats". The four female panelists and their moderator all hold FM jobs in senior management positions. Their presentations and the following discussion about their careers and the challenges they encountered and overcame were so inspiring that actually one of the male spectators insisted that this should be filmed and made available to young women in the FM profession. And now, just a couple of short months later, there is an equally inspiring and motivating video of the same women available on the EuroFM website and YouTube for all interested parties to download and share. A big "thank you" goes to our panelists, but also to the EuroFM Team for making this possible in such a short time span!

### Site Manager Certification

Since the start of the Site Manager Certification in Austria in September 2014, several additional country associations, such as Bulgaria, Italy and Spain have now joined

the program. Others have already expressed their wish to do so in the near future. The Pan-European Site Manager Certification is a way for associations to offer a European quality standard for FM professionals and to generate income which can then be reinvested to the benefit of their members. For FM professionals, the certification is the chance to be assessed and obtain proof of their FM related skills, which will also be of added value to their employers.

### Internship Program

The Internship Program for FM students was initiated by various parties earlier this year and later discussed in both the Education and Practice Network Groups. The EuroFM board has now decided to further promote this program by facilitating the setting up of a platform where interested companies can post vacancies or job offers and students or placement offices can search for internships or jobs. With the approval of the EuroFM board and of both Network Groups, this project will now be moved forward by putting together a taskforce to decide on the next steps and work out the details.

### European FM Leaders Conference

After the European FM Leaders Conference in London last year, which was initiated by the Dutch FM Association, a new installment was held at rather short notice during the Members Meeting in Milan and was incorporated into the Practice Network Group's Meeting.

While there was a lively exchange in the

afternoon of the first day, after the General Members Meeting, several conclusions were reached and a task list was developed for further meetings. These should stand alone and provide the Leaders of the European FM Associations with a foundation on which to exchange ideas and data, and discuss association related issues. If possible, this Conference should be added on to the Members Meeting twice a year and allow FM Leaders to fly in and out on the same day if they so wish. Agenda points will be collected from the group members in advance and an agenda will be sent out in due time to allow for attendees to schedule the meeting and prepare for the discussions. In addition, a section will be set aside on the EuroFM website for associations to enter information about their structure and contact details thereby facilitating access and better networking possibilities. We will prepare a template as soon as possible to make sure information about the associations is homogenous.

So, from my perspective, things are really moving along and I am very much looking forward to seeing even more progress in the field of FM in the time to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [karin.schaad@bluewin.ch](mailto:karin.schaad@bluewin.ch) if you have any suggestions or complaints concerning the Practice Network Group, the PNG program or anything else related to it.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you again at the Winter School in Stuttgart!

## Education Network Group

Pekka Matvejeff, Chair



After the success-ful London meet-ing last Fall, EuroFM Educa-tion Network Group has put lots of effort into fulfilling the needs and aspirations of our members. The efforts were concret-ized further in the

Hague meeting in February, 2015. Based on the feedback, we have decided to focus on a few things, in which our members and other stakeholders seem to have greater expectations.

Our way of doing things is to involve FM students as much as possible to work in different projects for the benefit of the FM industry. In practice, one Dutch student has already started a Thesis project, which includes an inventory of all FM curricula in European Universities of Applied Sciences. Along with this, we have started to make more visible all excellence/honors programs offered in our member universities. All this work is targeted especially to our PNG and CANG members, so that they

would be able to be in the front line, when "picking out" and recruiting the potential future FM leaders graduating from our universities.

Another important project that we have just launched is the developing of the internship process offered by European Universities of Applied Sciences. There is a great potential of skilled and enthusiastic students ready to enter trainee-positions in organizations. Again: our intention is to help especially our PNG and CANG member organizations, as well as other stakeholders to benefit from this future FM potential. We also invite all our IFMA partners and national FM associations to join this development process.

I would like to address special thanks to our active ENG members, who have put lots of effort into these developments during the previous months. In order to be successful, we would like to invite all our members, no matter which part of the industry you represent, to bring in your ideas for developments and also join us in the fruitful networking. We all know that networking is a two way street: it is giving and getting. Usually, one should give something first in order to get something back in return. Joining the work is the easiest way to get to "the wells" of all the knowledge and information one is striving for.

Don't forget our Student Poster Competitions in Glasgow!

## Research Network Group

Susanne Balslev Nielsen, Chair



**The leading Research Network platform in the field of Facilities Management**

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The Members Meeting in Milan has just finished and it is a very satisfied Chair of the Research Network Group who is reflecting on the event. Our group, comprising 17 researchers, had the opportunity to

participate in the Milan meeting, which had a general attendance of more than 50 participants in total. This Members Meeting was planned to support the interaction between practitioners, researchers and educators and therefore the time devoted to individual networks was reduced. This worked well for us as researchers because it was interesting and relevant to hear what others were doing and intellectually stimulating to discuss how our association could develop further. One reason for this is that most of us are not only researchers, we are also educators and consequently, looking for inspiration and collaboration opportunities.

In my view the benefits of participating in the Members Meeting are: 1) the unique possibility for gaining an insight into FM in other countries; 2) to find collaboration partners; and 3) to develop an international profile. With regard to FM, we are a leading European network and together we can

move the academic body of knowledge, content of education, and FM practices, provided we practice relevant knowledge production and appropriate knowledge sharing. This I find is strongly motivating.

With this said, there are also signs that the planning for an engaging Members Meeting should not be taken lightly. At least six senior people, from what I consider the RNG core, did not attend the meeting. This was mainly due to other commitments but perhaps also because the agenda and the expected outcomes were not attractive enough. So again, the preparation of the Members Meeting is not an easy task and should be

carefully planned. I am, however, not at all worried about the RNG because activities are also taking place outside the Members Meetings, such as, researchers participating in each other's PhD evaluations or forming partnerships for research projects.

The Milan meeting was another step towards bringing practice, research, and education together and we improved our ideas of how to make the interests and skills more easily accessible for EuroFM members. The RNG is in a good state and I was very pleased to welcome those that participated in the RNG for the very first time. Once again, welcome!

To be recognized as the leading Research Network platform in the field of Facility Management where industry and academia researchers alike share their passion for improving the management of buildings and supporting the well-being of those who occupy them.

Roberto Valle, Ph.D. student at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) articulated this nice formulation of the vision of the EuroFM research network group at our meeting.