



Foreword

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FOREWORD

EuroFM's mission is the advancement of knowledge in Facility Management in Europe and its application in Practice, Education and Research. To achieve this, ongoing attraction and retaining of young talents to the discipline is a necessity, both in terms of practitioners and researchers; including those who are going to teach coming generations. It is therefore extremely positive that a "grass-root" group of Young Researchers and Practitioners in FM (YR&P) from different countries, who have met at European FM conferences, have decided to investigate the current gap in young professional engagement in FM with particular focus on national FM associations. The result is the present report, which present the findings from a survey conducted in autumn 2016.

By people involved in FM it is well known that the industry and profession has an image problem. Ordinary people do not know what FM is, and it is difficult to explain in a short and simple way, what FM is and covers. The quite abstract definition of FM in the European standard 15221-1 on FM terms and definitions does not provide much help to explain the essence of FM to people outside the industry. Hopefully, the new and more concrete definition of FM in the new ISO 41011 standard on FM vocabulary will be more helpful. According to this standard, FM is an *"organizational function which integrates people, place and process within the built environment with the purpose of improving the quality of life of people and the productivity of the core business"*.

It appears from the findings from the survey that the image problem not only concerns FM as an industry and profession but also the national FM associations. Most respondents are not a member of their national FM association and many are not even aware of it. These results should be a wake-up call for the national FM association to focus more on engaging with young professionals. They are just as dependent on attracting young professionals as the industry and the profession. For EuroFM, which has national FM association as an important part of its members, this should also be taken serious as a challenge for the future development.

I have together with my former colleague Susanne Balslev Nielsen, who until recently was chairman of EuroFM's Research Network Group, had the pleasure to support the YR&P group with guidance on how to conduct the survey. We also gave them the opportunity to make a pilot test of the survey during CFM's Second Nordic FM Conference, which took place in August 2016 at the Technical University of Denmark. I congratulate the authors with the results and express my appreciation of the strong commitment the YR&P group has shown by their initiative to contribute to the advancement of FM.

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