

F E D E R A T I O N N E W S

2015 edition of the EFCA Young Professionals (YP) competition launched	p1
EFCA Board meets with Italian association OICE	p1
National transition to the new EU public procurement regime: keeping the Directive's spirit!	p2
New EU rules on concessions: light legal framework	p2
EU-wide methodology on Life-Cycle Costing (LCC)	p3
Working with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD): Opportunities for Consultants	p3
EFCA agenda	p4

2015 edition of the EFCA Young Professionals (YP) competition launched



networking for new knowledge

For five years, the EFCA YP competition has been highlighting the talent of Europe's next generation of leaders, and showcasing the diversity and attractiveness of a career in our sector.

The competition is open to all professionals aged 35 and under, and working for firms in the membership of the national associations.

Entries are to be submitted through the national associations.

The winners will be announced at the EFCA Conference in Oslo on 28-30 May 2015.

Details can be found at <http://www.efca.be/YPs.aspx> and the LinkedIn group 'Young Professionals within EFCA'.

To encourage the interconnectivity of European Young Professionals, the conference programme is providing a networking platform and active workshops for young engineering consultants.

RIF (Rådgivende Ingeniørers Forening) YPs enthusiastically started the planning of excellent value YP sessions that will inspire all participants.

EFCA Board meets with Italian association OICE

At a joint OICE-EFCA Board meeting in Rome, EFCA president Flemming Pedersen underlined the need for communication and mutual support to profile the industry and improve the business environment.

OICE representatives brought up the matter of the evaluation of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) and discussed key challenges in implementing a best value procurement process, i.e. adding quality issues to the tender evaluation.

Other extensively debated issues were Building Information Modeling (BIM), standards for sharing BIM data, BIM adoption and competitiveness, and conditions for BIM adoption.

Finally, the meeting exchanged views and experiences on the use of the professional capacity criterion 'experience with FIDIC

contracts (or equivalent experience) in some regions.



OICE welcomed the EFCA proposal to enhance the dialogue and cooperation, particularly in the areas of European standardisation and export competitiveness in the international environment.

National transition to the EU new public procurement regime: keeping the Directive's spirit!

EFCA is taking initiatives to reap the potential benefits of the considered move from the lowest cost bid concept to a highest value concept.

EFCA's Internal Market Committee is closely monitoring the national transposition of the public procurement Directives and provides a platform for sharing best practices as the new rules are implemented and applied. In this context, the Committee is compiling an overview of the the status of the national transposition process in the member states.

At the same time, EFCA is advocating the introduction of a European standard/system tool for the evaluation of price/quality ratios in order to enhance the use of the MEAT (Most Economically Advantageous Tender) criterion and promote a practical approach.

New EU rules on concessions: light legal framework

EFCA's Internal Market Committee examined the provisions of Directive 2014/23/EU on the award of concession contracts that entered into force on 17 April 2014.

The new EU Directive includes a definition of concessions, which levels the playing field in the EU.

It sets out minimum requirements for the award of concession contracts by public authorities to procure works or services from private suppliers, in particular: technical and functional requirements of the concession, minimum requirements of the tender, conditions for participation (i.e. professional and technical ability and financial and economic standing), criteria for exclusion of economic operators, objective award criteria and direct award (in certain cases corresponding to the negotiated procedure without prior publication).

However, no award procedures are set forth and the contracting authority has the freedom to organise the award procedure, as long as it is communicated to all participants.

Finally, the Directive foresees ample possibilities for modification of concession contracts, in line with the similar provisions of the public procurement directive.

Directive 2014/23/EU is filling a legal gap and aims at ensuring transparency. The challenge will come from transposition and application in member states.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/partnerships/concessions/index_en.htm

EU-wide methodology on Life-Cycle Costing (LCC)

EFCA organised an explanatory meeting between LCC experts and the European Commission to take a close look at the development of European methodology for the calculation of life-cycle costs.

Under the EU procurement rules, life-cycle costing is optional.

The Clean Vehicles Directive (Directive 2009/33/EC) defines common rules for calculating life-time costs linked to the operation of vehicles. The use of this common EU methodology is mandatory, if the awarding authority decided to value lifetime energy and environmental impacts.

It will be a challenge for contracting authorities to assess the life cycle of products and works on the one hand and services on the other.

The Commission informed EFCA that a research project possibly could be set up in 2016 under the Horizon 2020 programme (i.e. the EU Research and Innovation programme for the 2014-2020 period) to enable knowledge sharing, closer collaboration and the development of a common LCC methodology.

Working with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD): Opportunities for Consultants

EFCA and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) organise a one-day bespoke workshop in Brussels on 13 November 2014.

Senior representatives from the EBRD will provide guidance and lessons learned on the HOW, DOs and DON'Ts of obtaining consultancy contracts with EBRD and its clients in the EBRD countries of operation.



Participants will hear about strategies for winning contracts and the main differences between the EBRD's Procurement Policies and Rules (PP&R) compared to the Practical Guide for EU-financed External Aid Contracts (PRAG).

Sessions will be **interactive**.

In 2013, the EBRD and its clients awarded more than 2,800 consultancy contracts with a total value of in excess of € 173 million in all fields related to consultancy advice.

The programme and the registration form are available at <http://www.efcanet.org>

FIDIC 2014 Award Recipients announced at the FIDIC 2014 Gala Dinner in Rio de Janeiro



Awards were presented for the following European projects:

Outstanding Project Award:

France - [Jacques Chaban-Delmas vertical lift Bridge](#)

Spain - [Madrid M-30 M-RÍO](#)

Awards of Merit:

France - [La Caserne Dam on the Couesnon River](#)







Portugal - [Braga Municipal Stadium](#)

Spain - [Cerro Prieto. PV Technology Evaluation Plant](#)

Spain - [Ciudad Grupo Santander - Santander Group City](#)

United Kingdom - [Cleaner Seas for Sussex](#)

E F C A A G E N D A

Barometer Task Group	Brussels	30.10.2014
D&S meeting	Malaga	07.11.2014
<p>EBRD - EFCA SEMINAR</p>   	Brussels	13.11.2014
Board of Directors meeting	Madrid	27-28.11.2014
<p>MEG Conference Mediterranean Engineering Group Contact: internazionale@oice.it</p>   	Rome	27-28.11.2014
Internal Market Committee	Brussels	11.12.2014
Board of Directors meeting	Berlin	20.02.2015
European External Aid Committee	Brussels	17.03.2015
Board of Directors meeting	Brussels	24.04.2015
Board of Directors meeting	Oslo	28.05.2015
EFCA GAM & Conference	Oslo	29.05.2015



INTERNAL MARKET	p5
Freedom to provide services: the European Court of Justice (ECJ) specifies subcontracting rules	
EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES	p5
€ 11.9 billion EU funding to improve transport infrastructure	
Structural Funds: 17 countries receive Commission's green light	
Over € 11 billion to support reform in enlargement countries	
Cooperation priorities for the Eastern and the Southern Neighbourhood	
EU support for sustainable energy for all	
Development programmes signed with 25 ACP countries	
€450 million aid package for Benin	
Making Big Data work for Europe	
CONSULTATIONS	p7
MISCELLANEOUS	p7
EU enlargement in 2014 and beyond: progress and challenges	
Subsidies and costs of EU energy	
Energy Performance Certificates across the EU	
2014 European Competitiveness Report 'Helping Firms Grow'	
Eurostat regional yearbook 2014	
The Future of Europe is science	
Better Growth, Better Climate: The New Climate Economy Report	

INTERNAL MARKET

Freedom to provide services: the European Court of Justice (ECJ) specifies subcontracting rules

A demand for a minimum wage has no bearing on a subcontractor from another member state.

According to the ECJ, a national law that requires payment of a minimum wage to employees of a subcontractor in the framework of the award of public tenders, does not apply when the public tender is carried out in the member state in which the subcontractor is established.

The ECJ declares that imposing a minimum wage on a subcontractor established in another member state, in which minimum rates of pay are lower, constitutes an additional economic burden that may prohibit, impede or render less attractive the provision of services in that other Member State.

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/documents.jsf?num=C-549/13>

EU FUNDS & PROGRAMMES

€ 11.9 billion EU funding to improve transport infrastructure

The European Commission invites the member states to propose projects to use €11.9 billion of EU funding to improve European transport connections.

Member states have until 26th February 2015 to submit their bids. The projects will receive EU funds but must be co-financed by member states.

The funding will be attributed to the most competitive projects and is concentrated on the nine major transport corridors forming the core trans-European transport network. The selected projects will be announced in the summer of 2015.

The EU will be spending € 26 billion on transport infrastructure from 2014 to 2020 via the Connecting Europe Facility. Although this is three times as much as during the preceding programming period it barely is one tenth of the funds the Commission considers necessary over the next seven years to develop corridors.

<http://inea.ec.europa.eu/>

http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/cef/cef_transport/cef_transport.htm

Structural Funds: 17 countries receive Commission's green light

17 partnership agreements have now received the Commission's go-ahead. Strategies for Slovenia, Sweden, Austria, Malta, the UK, Italy, Spain, Croatia, Ireland, Belgium and Luxembourg are still to be adopted.

The document, which needs to be approved for each EU member state, describes the main areas for use of the budgetary envelope that each of them benefits from under the EU's cohesion policy.

The operational programmes that have to accompany each country's strategies also are for approval of the Commission.

http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/agreements/index_en.htm

Over € 11 billion to support reform efforts in enlargement countries

The new Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) will operate under simplified rules and will target strategic priorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey for the next 7 years.

The Indicative Strategy Papers set out the key areas where financial assistance is most useful to meet the accession criteria.

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/news_corner/key-documents/index_en.htm?key_document=080126248ca659ce

Cooperation priorities for the Eastern and the Southern Neighbourhood

The over € 5,5 billion funding package includes bilateral and multi-country programming documents for the first years

of the Multi-annual Financial Framework period (MFF 2014-2020).

The European Neighbourhood Instrument with a budget of €15.4 billion for the period 2014-2020 will provide the bulk of funding to the 16 partner countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/documents/financing-the-enp/index_en.htm

EU support for sustainable energy for all

For the period 2014-2020, about 30 developing countries have chosen energy as a focal sector for their cooperation with the EU.

The Commission engages with the private sector to improve the conditions for investment and funding, and thus increase access to sustainable energy or the production of sustainable, reliable and cost effective electricity.

Through a new instrument, the Electrification Financing Initiative (ElectriFI), EU grants will complement private financing in order to make a project bankable. If the investments are successful, the grants will be converted into loans at concessional rate.

A key goal of new EC agreements with Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Rwanda and Togo is to engage with the private sector to improve the conditions for investment and funding, and therefore increase access to sustainable energy sources, even in rural areas where the needs are the greatest.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/energy_en

<http://www.se4all.org/>

Development programmes signed with 25 ACP countries

National Indicative Programmes (NIP) with an allocation of € 339 million under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for the

period 2014-2020 are signed with 10 Caribbean, 10 Pacific and five African countries.

NIPs define the strategy and priorities for EU aid in each particular country. They are prepared in close cooperation with the partner countries so as to ensure that NIPs support national priorities and reflect the local context.

EU funding will focus on a maximum of three sectors per country (possibly four in the case of fragile countries) to achieve maximum impact and value for money of EU cooperation.

It is foreseen that by early 2015, the remaining NIPs will be finalised and signed. In parallel, work on preparing concrete projects and programmes has also started in all 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/acp/country-cooperation/index_en.htm

€ 450 million aid package for Benin (2014-2020)

In addition to continuing the support to the governance sector, the EU aid will be targeted on access to energy and the development of more sustainable agriculture.

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/countries/benin_en

Making Big Data work for Europe

The European industry (large players and SMEs), researchers, academia and the Commission launch a public-private partnership (PPP) to cooperate in data research and innovation.

Investments are expected to reach around € 2.5 billion over 2016-2020.

The Commission has earmarked a budget of around € 500 million in Horizon 2020.

<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/making-big-data-work-europe>

CONSULTATIONS

Cross-border mergers and divisions

The European Commission wishes to assess the functioning of the existing EU legal framework for cross-border operations of companies and any potential need for changes in the current rules.

The consultation will close on 1 December 2014.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2014/cross-border-mergers-divisions/index_en.htm

What do small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in Europe need from future EU policy?

The European Commission launched a survey to help develop future SME policy and upgrade the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA).

The consultation will close on 15 December 2014.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/small-business-act/public-consultation-sba/index_en.htm

MISCELLANEOUS

EU enlargement in 2014 and beyond: progress and challenges

The 2014 Enlargement Package outlines the enlargement strategy, assesses the progress made over the past year by the countries wishing to join the EU in the Western Balkans and by Turkey, and the challenges ahead.

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/countries/strategy-and-progress-report/index_en.htm

Subsidies and costs of EU energy

The report collects a hitherto not existing set of data on costs and subsidies across the various generation technologies in the electricity sector and across all EU Member States.

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas_electricity/internal_market_en.htm

Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) across the EU

The report provides a comprehensive overview of EPC schemes and databases for residential and non-residential buildings across Europe.

It concludes that data gaps, low reliability due to a lack of quality control and limited access to data are preventing member states from exploiting the full potential of the schemes.

http://bpie.eu/epc_2014.html#.VDZQLtFxmUk

2014 European Competitiveness Report 'Helping Firms Grow'

The European report gives a quantitative assessment of the competitive performance of EU industries and provides empirical answers to important questions in the industrial policy debate.

The 2014 member states' Competitiveness Report 'Reindustrialising Europe', provides an indicator-based assessment of the implementation of industrial policy at EU and national level, with a country by country breakdown.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/competitiveness-analysis/european-competitiveness-report/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/monitoring-member-states/index_en.htm

Eurostat regional yearbook 2014

The yearbook provides an overview of European regional statistics covering a wide range of fields.

In addition to the regional yearbook, Eurostat offers two interactive applications on its website: Regional Statistics Illustrated and the Statistical Atlas.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/publications/regional_yearbook

'The Future of Europe is Science'

The report outlines some key opportunities for Europe that could be provided by science and technology, looking ahead to the year 2030.

The report is launched by the Science & Technology Advisory Council to President Barroso.

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/advisory-council/documents/the_future_of_europe_is_science_october_2014.pdf

Better Growth, Better Climate: The New Climate Economy Report

The economic report, released by a commission of global leaders, shows that rapid technological innovation and new investment in clean infrastructure are helping to protect the climate and drive economic growth at the same time.

<http://newclimateeconomy.report/>

EDITORIAL OFFICE: Flemming Bligaard Pedersen, Jan Van der Putten
EDITOR: Anne Croisiau
ADDRESS: EFCA Secretariat, Ave. des Arts, 3/4/5, B – 1210, Brussels,
Phone: +32-2-209.07.70
Fax: +32-2-209.07.71
E-mail: efca@efca.be
<http://www.efcanet.org/>

