



*Société Européenne des Ingénieurs et des Industriels (SEII)*  
*European Society for Engineers and Industrialists*  
*Europäische Gesellschaft der Ingenieure und Industriellen*  
*Europese Vennootschap van Ingenieurs en van Industriëlen*

## **INTERNATIONAL ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON CONTINUING ENGINEERING EDUCATION**



It is generally admitted that, due to the accelerating pace of technological development, Continuing Engineering Education takes on a growing importance, particularly in ‘traditional’ industrialized countries, as the US, European countries and Japan. But, this general agreement hides a number of issues and challenges :

- An **‘operational’ challenge** linked with the difficult dialog between academia and business :
  - Industry calls for engineers having a broader set of competencies, not only in the domain of “soft” skills, but also as regards digital literacy and the ability to work in a globalized world.
  - Universities and other schools of higher education are making some efforts to respond to that demand and to improve their offer of continuing education, but there is still much work to do to that effect.
- A number of **‘social’ issues**, as for instance :
  - The variable phenomenon of deindustrialization that we are witnessing in the above-mentioned countries.
  - A certain lack of attractiveness towards the engineering profession, particularly among female students.
  - A strong trend to act reactively rather than proactively, both in the higher realms of ‘political’ decision-makers and among the largest part of the population.
  - Authorities’ lack of willingness to politically and financially sustain initiatives and programmes in that field.

The **aim of this international round table conference** is to deal with the challenge of providing engineers with the competencies sought after by today’s and tomorrow’s industry, with an emphasis on :

- The provision of Continuing Engineering Education : both tools ( MOOCs, etc. ) and content ( including the question of intergenerational relationship at work ).
- The specific needs of Europe ( as compared to other parts of the world ).
- The development of a long term approach ( to foster proactive solutions ).

The conference will be divided in two parts :

1. First, a series of **relatively short presentations** (  $\approx$  30 min each ) made by some stakeholders from academia, industry and the world of engineers, who will present their point of view, suggestions or solutions.
2. And, second, a **relatively long and carefully prepared debate** between the audience and a panel composed essentially of the speakers, which will result in a number of recommendations.

We intend to have the debate video-recorded and to publish some form of proceedings of the whole conference.

We shall keep you informed when the programme is completed.



The conference will coincide with a meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Association for Continuing Engineering Education and we can already count on their collaboration. Some other associations linked with engineering education and lifelong learning will certainly also bring their support.

Marc GOOSSENS, Secretary General of SEII, Member of the Council of IACEE  
President of the Organizing Committee of the Conference

**SAVE THE DATE !**  
**8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018**