

Minutes EPIEM Cambridge June 2010

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European Students of Industrial Engineering and Management
www.estiem.org



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
Participants	3
<i>Present</i>	3
<i>Interested, but could not come</i>	3
Minutes of the discussions held	3
<i>Identified gaps in IEM education in Europe</i>	4
<i>Ideas for the further development of EPIEM</i>	4
<i>Ideas for cooperation between EPIEM and ESTIEM</i>	4
<i>List of keywords collected</i>	5
<i>Agreed upon Action Points</i>	5

Introduction

In 2009, the idea was born to build up a network of Industrial Engineering and Management Professors from Europe, which later got its name “European Professors of Industrial Engineering and Management”. During the next months, this idea was further developed with joint efforts between the University of Cambridge and ESTIEM, “European Students of Industrial Engineering and Management”. On June 25th, 2010 a meeting with several professors took place in Cambridge to kick off the development of this network.

Participants

Present

- Marlene Andrih (University of Aveiro): mamorim@ua.pt
- Luis Miguel Ferreira (University of Aveiro): lmferreira@ua.pt
- Ana Raquel Xambre (University of Aveiro): raquel@ua.pt
- Dusan Dobromirov (University of Novi Sad): ddobromirov@uns.ac.rs
- Stevan Stankovski (University of Novi Sad): stevan@uns.ac.rs
- Mladen Radisic (University of Novi Sad): mladenr@uns.ac.rs
- Richard Harvey (University of Siegen): harvey@mip.mmb.uni-siegen.de
- Jim Platts (University of Cambridge): mjp@eng.cam.ac.uk
- Sebastian Katzung (ESTIEM): sebastian.katzung@estiem.org
- Sebastian Geese (ESTIEM): sebastian.geese@estiem.org

Interested, but could not come

- Prof. Van Krogh (ETH Zurich)
- Christian Schuchhardt (University of Bremen)
- Ulrich Bauer (University of Graz)
- Jan Fransoo (Technical University of Eindhoven)
- Thomas Spengler (University of Braunschweig)
- Mathias Henningsen (University of Linköping)
- Klaus Thoben (University of Bremen)

Minutes of the discussions held

After the meeting was opened by Jim Platts from the University of Cambridge, Sebastian Katzung and Sebastian Geese from ESTIEM gave a presentation about their organisation, whose full name is “European Students of Industrial Engineering and Management”. After this introduction, Jim asked the participants how the ESTIEM Local Groups at their universities are doing and introduced them to the concept of Summer Academy. All this turned into finally talking about gaps in IEM education in Europe and thoughts on how to further develop the concept of “European Professors of Industrial Engineering and Management”.

Identified gaps in IEM education in Europe

- Activities not directly related to courses, but educating soft-skills, are not promoted enough at many universities. ESTIEM can jump in with this and, thus, this is something that ESTIEM promotion should rely on at many universities
- Extracurricular activities or practical work are often not timetabled into the study schedule. For example, at many universities industry placements have to be taken, but students have to decide themselves when to do it (seems to be quite common at Germany Universities). A good example is the University of Cambridge, where they even include ESTIEM activities (organised by Local Group Cambridge) into their study timetable. Generally, practical work (may it be for learning or earning money) is not enabled and coordinated enough.
- Jim Platts: Universities teaching technical skills, but not how to become worthwhile people
- Jim Platts: It should be listened more to students, for example, the ESTIEM students.
- Richard Harvey: Universities should be selling their international courses better

Ideas for the further development of EPIEM

- Next meeting parallel to ESTIEM Council Meeting in Finland, maybe some involvement of the professors into the programme (for example, some panel discussion). The feasibility of this idea needs to be further elaborated by ESTIEM and the organisers of the Council Meeting.
- Luis Miguel Ferreira: “We cannot formalize everything.” There was some agreement to keep the network informal and emphasise personal contacts to people rather than a formal structure
- Euroma Cambridge 2011 as “once in a lifetime opportunity” → slot/track about how teaching looks like in 20 years → could be used to apply for Grants, could be brainstormed about at the meeting parallel to the Council Meeting in Finland → people from Novi Sad to further develop the idea
- Fuzzy idea for the future: Concept paper for the European Union about what manufacturing looks like in 20 years
- Platform for discussion on how IEM students should be taught and what professors could do to support and help students better, not only to become good engineers, but also how to become worthwhile people and good leaders
- Richard Harvey: Many of the developed ideas sound good for EU funding

Ideas for cooperation between EPIEM and ESTIEM

- ESTIEM finding out how many Erasmus Exchanges are going on between ESTIEM universities. This could be interesting for the professors as a base to further foster Erasmus connections.
- ESTIEM as some sort of “Erasmus marriage agency” → finding out about universities with similar study programmes and helping the professors to foster connections → ESTIEM people as matchmakers
- Professors better introducing the idea of EPIEM to ESTIEMers at the Council Meeting in Finland (so that ESTIEMers really understand what it is about). An idea could be to have this introduction followed by some short panel discussion to give the professors input for what they could talk about during their meeting. For this it would be crucial that the professors are invited early enough, so that they can plan well ahead
- EPIEM facilitating connections between professors and Local Groups
- EPIEM increasing awareness about ESTIEM among professors in the respective universities and also promoting it more to students there, for example, by promoting the chance to improve one’s softskills by joining ESTIEM.

List of keywords collected

Based upon the questions, if the professors would be willing to travel to participate in EPIEM meetings, the following keywords were brainstormed.

- Travel & Involvement → Commitment
- Quality leverage
- Initiative → from where?
- Best Practice Sharing
- Deliverables
- EU
- Erasmus marriage agency → establish contacts/connections between universities with similar programmes
- Rule stretching/trust
- Student project patronage

Agreed upon Action Points

- ESTIEM: elaborate the feasibility and desirability of EPIEM meeting parallel to ESTIEM Council Meeting in Finland
- ESTIEM: Make the survey results about IEM specifications at ESTIEM universities available to participants of the EPIEM meeting
- ESTIEM: Share results of the survey of opinions about IEM education
- Richard Harvey & Jim Platts: Find out missing email-adresses and create an email-list for professors
- EPIEM: define how to stay in contact
- EPIEM & ESTIEM: define what both sides ought to get out of the cooperation and how to reach it
- ESTIEM: send around these minutes (Richard needs list of participants)
- ESTIEM: Share an outline of the Council Meeting in Finland, think about how to involve professors
- ESTIEM: share newly gathered contacts with Jim Platts
- People from Aveiro: Further develop the idea of having a slot at the Euroma 2011
- People from Novi Sad: Further develop the idea of the concept paper for the EU
- ESTIEM: Support EPIEM with finding out about grant opportunities for the concept paper
- ESTIEM: Share the contacts of the professors who stated their interest to late for this meeting

The aim as agreed upon would be to have at least one professor from each ESTIEM university in the network (they could also well serve as contact professors for the ESTIEM Local Group). To reach that a mailing list shall be created and further professors shall be contacted. However, they shall be contacted only once (maybe twice), but if not reacting then would give a clear indication of a lack of interest. An idea could be that each of ESTIEM's Local Groups nominates one professor from their university to be contacted and invited to the network.