The SEFI newsletter contains information about SEFI’s recent activities as well as a summary of the latest stories in higher engineering education in Europe and worldwide. News@sefi is sent for free to SEFI members. All previous issues are available on www.sefi.be “members only”.

All staff and students of an institutional member of SEFI are entitled to receive free copies of the newsletter. So, if you know anybody interested in a free copy, please contact us.

IN THIS ISSUE

FROM SEFI

Annual Conference 2011-
SEFi and the European University-Business Forum
SEFI student column:
  - Contest on Developing the Learning Context in Engineering Education
  - Trainers’ Forum 2011 Vienna

From members and partners
From EUCEET:
  - Short information on the EUCEET Association
From EUA:
  - EUA report outlines steps to ensure financial sustainability of European HE.
  - EUA supports development of HE reforms in Romania.
From ESMU:
  - MODERN Conference and Workshop.
From EDEN:
  - EDEN’s 20th Anniversary
From Europe
From the European Commission:
  - ERASMUS for Young Entrepreneurs
  - Climate change: Commission sets out Roadmap for building a competitive low-carbon Europe by 2050
From the European Science Foundation:
  - EUROPEAN GENDER SUMMIT 2011
From the Rest of the World
From the African Science Academy:
  - Designation of a new president
From Singapore:
  - A statement on International university ranking.

Publications:
ESMU: Handbook on Benchmarking in European Higher Education

For your calendar

FREE ACCESS TO THE EJEE THROUGHOUT APRIL! EDUCATION FREE FOR ALL!

Throughout April 2011, FREE ACCESS will be available to the European Journal of Engineering Education. This will include content from the entire journal archive, as well as the most recent articles.

Access will be available from 1st April 2011 until 30th April 2011 inclusive through the journal webpage at: http://www.informaworld.com/ceee

Don’t forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more updates.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue!

2011 SEFI Student Year
The SEFI Annual Conference 2011 will be organised in a very special context. Indeed, 2011 is the SEFI Student Year and therefore, the Conference will be organised on the concept of the pairing “student-professor”. What does this means?

It means that a student will be paired with a delegate with equal responsibilities to work together. Students will have the responsibility of accompanying his/her delegate in the pairing moments, working the topics/tasks with checklists and timelines and must possess the ability to share information and to help the delegate working with the electronic device. Students will also have the responsibility to help the organization in small tasks during the Flash week in connection with their pairing. Also they will have their own moments (student moments, organized by the students themselves). The tasks content will be not disclosed previously but it can be a quick sharing of what has been learned during a paper presentation, compiling a list, discussing the pros and cons of a topic, finding the answer to a question and other short-term tasks, including developing a presentation, making project boards or doing engineering fair projects like. The event’s organizers believe that the benefits of pairing include improved cooperation, quick completion of a task and peer support. Students who come to Lisbon in a pairing process, are limited to an equal number of delegates, and will have: free accommodation, transport from the hostel to the conference venue, electronic version of the proceedings, welcome reception, coffee breaks, lunch boxes, gala dinner, closing ceremony, Flash moments, tracks. And if they want to bring accompanying persons they are invited, but they will have to pay the fee of 150€ plus accommodation, transport, food, etc.

SEFI STUDENT Column

Contest on Developing the Learning Context in Engineering Education

SEFI, TEK, and Dassault Systèmes organise a student contest on developing the learning context in engineering education. The contest is open to all engineering students in Europe. Participating teams of students or student associations must submit a best practice example of an implemented action or project, which aims at developing the learning context of engineering education in cooperation with labour market. The action or project may have already been implemented, or you can apply for funding to implement a development idea. Maximum of 10 ideas will be funded by a grant of 300 – 600 Euro.

The total amount of grant funding available is 4000 Euro. Deadline for application of the grants is 29th of April 2011

The winners will be selected and awarded according to the following assessment criteria:
- Originality of the idea, estimated effectiveness of the idea, potential for wide dissemination of the idea and success in documenting the idea. The competition documents must be submitted by 9th of October 2011.
- The teams placing first in both categories (students and student associations) will receive a gift certificate worth of 750 euros. Representatives from the winning teams shall be invited to BEST
Presidential Meeting in Copenhagen in November 2011 to receive the award. Traveling costs are reimbursed 550 euros per team. The second-place teams in both categories will receive a gift certificate worth of 400 euros.

Interested? Please visit the website http://www.tek.fi/studentcontest

Trainers’ Forum 2011 Vienna

Trainings are a crucial part of NGOs’ knowledge transfer system, they are sessions where theoretical and practical know-how is exchanged in an interactive way. The purpose of Trainers’ Forum is to gather young trainers from all European NGOs to meet, share their experience and to improve European youth training system. After the success of the first edition in 2010, BEST moved the concept further to a tradition and organized a second forum at the beginning of March in Vienna.

The event gathered altogether 100 trainers from 26 different organisations and various experience levels to discuss the training quality and trainers’ development issues in their organisations. The main driver of the event was 2 days of OST (Open Space Technology) sessions where 67 topics were tackled, varying from specific delivery techniques and exercises’ development all the way to external recognition system and trainers’ impact on society. All topics were raised by the participants on the spot and lead by their diversity and passion for developing the training field.

One additional day was allocated for longer and more thorough discussions on delivery methods of specific topics in order to train the participants on applying those approaches in their future sessions. 10 different subjects were touched and they can be found along with OST sessions’ topics on Trainers’ Forum website: http://trainersforum.best-eu.org/

Outcomes of each discussion have been reported by the topic owners and are available for Trainers’ Forum participants. In this way the results are communicated back to all organisations and applied in their training systems. BEST is currently discussing opportunities for hosting the third edition of Trainers’ Forum in 2012 in order to focus on investigating new training areas, develop already existing ones and to establish a stronger cooperation between NGO trainers.

by Teele Kundla, BEST

FROM EUCEET

On 3rd December, took place at Universidad Politecnica de Barcelona, hosted by the Escuela de Caminos, Canales y Puertos, the 3rd General Assembly of the EUCEET Association.

The EUCEET Association was founded on 12th March 2007 under Belgian Law, as an expression of the sustainability strategy promoted by the Thematic Network EUCEET (European Civil Engineering Education and Training).


Members of EUCEET Association can be higher education institutions, professional associations of civil engineers, companies. There are currently 48 members of the Association from 25 countries.

The Administrative Council of the Association, elected at the 3rd General Assembly in Barcelona, has the following composition:
- Prof. Jean BERLAMONT (K.U. Leuven) President
- Prof. Benjamin SUAREZ (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya Barcelona) Vice-President
- Prof. Marie-Ange CAMMAROTA and Prof. Roger FRANK (Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées),
- Colin KERR (Imperial College London), Asst. Prof. Marina PANTAZIDOU (National Technical University of Athens) and Prof. Pericles LATHOPOULOS (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

The General Secretary of the Association is Prof. Iacint MANOLIU (Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest) and the registered office of the EUCEET Association is at the SEFI Headquarters in Brussels, 119, Rue de Stassart. The Permanent Secretariat is hosted by the Technical University of Civil Engineering in Bucharest, Bul. Lacul Tei 124.

EUCEET Association will organize its first conference in Patras, on 24-25 November 2011, with the theme: “New trends and challenges in civil engineering education”.

Detailed information about the Conference can be found on the Conference site http://www.euceet.upatras.gr

FROM EUA

The new EUA report outlines steps to ensure financial sustainability of European higher education.

The European University Association (EUA) has published a comprehensive new report on the financial sustainability of European universities.

This is a crucial issue for Europe’s 5,000 plus universities. As the number of university students continues to rise across Europe, and the economic downturn has led to cuts in public funding in many countries, higher education systems are faced with the challenge of creating sustainable funding models to secure the future of university education.

This report underlines that universities need both sufficient resources, and a long-term planning horizon to invest in their future academic and research activities, and thus to continue fulfilling their role in society. EUA believes that future financial sustainability depends on reliable, sufficient public funding, and on the autonomy and support necessary to explore successfully complementary funding options. Its findings are based on an online survey completed by more than 150 universities across 27 countries, by site visits and by workshops involving a wide range of institutions.

The report gives a detailed description of how European universities are currently financed, and looks into the sector’s expectations for future evolutions. It also analyses the many different barriers currently preventing universities from pursuing additional income streams (considering internal challenges and external regulatory barriers) and the possible drivers for stimulating „income diversification“. Importantly, the study reveals that additional funding sources cannot replace sufficient public funding; it concludes with a series of recommendations for creating more sustainable funding models for the future.

A copy of the report is available: http://www.eua.be/Pubs

FROM MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

FROM EUCEET

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A copy of the report is available: http://www.eua.be/Pubs
EUA supports development of higher education reforms in Romania

The European University Association will be working with the Romanian Ministry of Education and the Romanian universities to support the implementation of a major new higher education reform bill that came into force last month. Romania has a large higher education sector with 54 public universities and approximately 40 accredited private universities. The new law, which foresees a reform of the entire HE sector, seeks to diversify the system by grouping all universities (public and private) into three major categories of institutions: research intensive, teaching and research oriented and mainly teaching institutions.

The law requires these reforms and particularly the classification exercise to be supported by an external body. In this initial phase universities will be asked to evaluate, themselves, to which of the three categories – mentioned in the law - they belong, and to provide or confirm the relevant data, much of which has already been collected by the Romanian Quality Agency (ARACIS), and the Romanian Funding and Research Councils.

EUA has agreed to take part in the first phase of this project provided that it is able to support and work with universities in the crucial follow-up phase focused on improving quality and institutional performance. This process will be carried out by the EUA’s Institutional Evaluation Programme over the next three years.

(Source EUA Press release 03/25/11: http://www.eua.be/News/11-03-25/EUA_to_support_development_of_higher_education_reforms_in_Romania.aspx)

FROM ESMU

MODERN Knowledge Exchange Conference and Workshop, Milano 11th to 13th May 2011.

In the context of the “Innovation Union” – a flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 Strategy – structured cooperation between higher education institutions, companies and other stakeholders, it is becoming increasingly important to design new multidisciplinary curricula and equip the new generations with the right mix of knowledge, competences and transferable skills, ensuring a wider employability for graduates and nurturing their ability to generate future economic growth.

The debate will be open on how universities can modernize towards interdisciplinarity, entrepreneurship and stronger business partnerships, how they can better address the innovation gaps by becoming entrepreneurial entities.

Further details are available: www.highereducationmanagement.eu.

FROM EDEN

EDEN is celebrating in 2011 the 20th Anniversary of its establishment

With the raise of the Information Society, the re-positioning of access to information and knowledge, unprecedented opportunities have opened for the initiatives in ICTs and learning. EDEN has been supportive in this challenging environment by promoting and recognising professional development, strengthening the community of scholars, helping consolidation of knowledge, enhancing credibility of new solutions and the quality of learning in the modernising environment, and by encouraging European and international cooperation.

EDEN will make memorable the 2011 Anniversary year to members, partners, friends by special in person but also through the web. Members will experience month by month the Anniversary activities, services, collaboration and recognition of belonging to the Association.

Eden invites us to share the pleasure of the 20th Anniversary year, reveal ideas, advise and discuss how to work better for the community.

(Source EDEN website: http://www.eden-online.org/eden.php)

FROM EUROPE

FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Call for proposals – ERASMUS MUNDUS – Still open!

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission has published the call for proposals for the Erasmus Mundus cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education. Erasmus Mundus’ overall aim is oriented towards the enhancement of European higher education’s quality and attractiveness. Promotion of dialogue and intercultural understanding through cooperation between higher education institutions in the European Union and third countries are some of the key objectives of this programme.

This year’s Call for Proposals encompasses the three types of Actions that finance programmes of different levels of cooperation and partnership:

Action 1: Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes
-Action 1A: Erasmus Mundus Master Courses (EMMC)
-Action 1B: Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates (EMID)

Action 2: Erasmus Mundus Partnerships
-Action 2 – STRAND 1: Partnerships with countries covered by the ENPI, DCI, EDF and IPA instruments (former External Cooperation Window). EACEA has included a new lot (16) for Argentina under this action and this particular strand in forms of corrigendum.
-Action 2 – STRAND 2: Partnerships with countries and territories covered by the Industrialised Countries Instrument (ICI)

Action 3: Promotion of European higher education
-Projects to enhance the Attractiveness of European higher education

The announcement for Erasmus Mundus call for proposals has been published on the EC’s website on 16 December 2010 and is available together with specific documents and application packages for every action.

Deadline for submission of applications: 29 April 2011

Call for proposals – Intra-ACP Academic Mobility Scheme

Call for proposals has been announced by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission in January 2011 with the main aim to build and enhance cooperation between higher education institutions, and students and staff mobility in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) region.

The support in this scheme is provided to higher education institutions, individual students, researchers, and university staff. The Intra-ACP
academic mobility scheme is funded through the European Development Fund and is built on the African Union’s Mwalimu Nyerere programme for Africa. The cooperation between institutions as well as students and staff mobility can take place within the framework of two lots:

- Lot 1: the focus is placed on the African component of the intra-ACP academic mobility scheme - which aims to support and further expand the Mwalimu Nyerere Scholarship Scheme of the African Union Commission (AUC)

- Lot 2: with an emphasis on the Caribbean and Pacific component of the intra-ACP academic mobility scheme - that will facilitate academic mobility within and between these two regions

The overall aim of this programme is to enhance access to quality education and promote student and staff mobility (academic and administrative), thus strengthening the competitiveness and attractiveness of the institutions in the targeted regions. The long-run objective of the Intra-ACP programme is to promote sustainable development and poverty alleviation by producing trained and high-quality professionals in this region.

For higher education institutions: 6 May 2011
For student and staff mobility, applications will be available after the first partnership selection round (around August/September 2011)


ERASMUS for Young Entrepreneurs

In February 2009, the European Commission launched Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE), a pilot scheme allowing young businesspeople to spend between one and six months with an established entrepreneur in another EU country.

This new cross-border business exchange programme aims at helping new or would-be entrepreneurs to acquire the relevant skills for managing a small or medium-sized enterprise and experienced businessmen or women, looking for fresh perspectives and international cooperation opportunities.

The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme is entitled to put innovative ideas into practice. Whether for new or highly experienced entrepreneur, the programme offers strong added value to the applicants business.

Exchange of knowledge and experience, better business networking possibilities across Europe and new commercial relations for European businesses are guaranteed for the participants.

During the project – similar to the Erasmus student exchange programme – aspiring entrepreneurs are paid up to €1,100 a month to shadow an experienced business owner, in order to improve their own skills and transfer knowledge across borders.

According to the European Commission, as of March 2011 more than 3,000 entrepreneurs had applied to take part in EYE and more than 600 partnerships had been established. Unfortunately numerous applications were not matched in an established partnership, but partnership companies are already eager to renew and develop their participation.

Whether EYE can continue after 2013 will depend on the results of negotiations on the financial framework for the EU budget in the next period (2014-2020).

More info on the programme: www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu


Climate change: Commission sets out Roadmap for building a competitive low-carbon Europe by 2050

The European Commission has adopted a Roadmap for transforming the European Union into a competitive low carbon economy by 2050. The Roadmap describes the cost-effective pathway to reach the EU’s objective of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% of 1990 levels by 2050. Based on the cost-effectiveness analysis undertaken, the Roadmap gives direction to sectoral policies, national and regional low-carbon strategies and long-term investments. The EU needs to start working on long-term strategies, and the Roadmap provides guidance on how this transition can be achieved in the most cost-effective way.

The European Commission has also taken the initiative because leading the global transition to a low carbon and resource-efficient economy will have multiple benefits for the EU.

The European Council has endorsed the objective of reducing EU emissions of greenhouse gases to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050 as Europe’s long-term contribution to preventing dangerous climate change.

The Roadmap sets out a cost-efficient pathway to reach this goal, recommending that Europe should achieve it largely through domestic measures since by mid-century international credits to offset emissions will be less widely available than today. By 2050 the EU should therefore reduce emissions by 80% compared to 1990 levels through domestic action alone. Any credits used would increase the overall emissions reduction beyond 80%.

The comprehensive economic modeling underlying the Roadmap shows that to achieve an 80% ‘domestic’ reduction by 2050, cuts of the order of 40% and 60% below 1990 levels should be achieved by 2030 and 2040, respectively. All sectors will need to contribute. Current policies are projected to reduce domestic emissions to -39% in 2030 and -40% in 2050.

Moreover, the low carbon investment - in clean technologies, infrastructure such as 'smart' electricity grids and environmental protection - will have multiple benefits. It would stimulate new sources of growth, preserve existing jobs and create new ones.

The Roadmap takes the form of a Communication that is addressed to the Council, European Parliament and EU bodies. The Commission invites them, member states and stakeholders to take the Roadmap into account in the further development of EU and national policies for achieving a low carbon economy by 2050.

Further information:

Questions and Answers on the low carbon roadmap: MEMO/11/150
Low carbon roadmap:


FROM ESF

EUROPEAN GENDER SUMMIT 2011

The European Science Foundation, genSET - gender in science, and the European Cooperation in Science and Technology will have their first European Gender Summit on 8-9 November 2011 in Brussels.

The first European Gender Summit provides a forum for stakeholders from research, industry and policy to jointly explore how gendered methodologies can stimulate innovation and advance scientific excellence. The summit will map the current state of knowledge, provide a forum for interdisciplinary debate and draw up concrete action plans for research and innovation policy.

The Summit programme is organised around five key themes: changing research cultures; changing innovation cultures; emerging trends and institutional best practice; policies for creating gender and socially
responsive science environment. Presentations and panel discussions will be combined with knowledge exchange and networking sessions, an exhibition and a presentation of best practice examples. A special session for science editors, science journalists, scientists and science policy makers on how to communicate gender issues in science is also included.

(Source ESF website: http://www.esf.org/conferences)

FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD

FROM AFRICA

From the African Academy of Science

Ahmadou Lamine Ndiaye from Senegal, an ASI Fellow, has just been elected the new president of the Nairobi-based African Academy of Sciences (AAS). He succeeds Mohamed H.A. Hassan. AAS, established in Trieste, Italy, in 1985 and headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, is a continent-wide, non-political and non-profit organization whose mission is to champion science-based development in Africa.
(Source AAS website: http://www.aasciences.org/)

FROM SINGAPORE

International university ranking: “From where I sit - Work on facts behind the figures.”

A statement by Seeram Ramakrishna, professor and vice-president (research strategy), National University of Singapore.

“The global comparison of universities is a relatively new phenomenon - in vogue only since 2003. Global rankings receive the most attention from the policymakers of the emerging countries of Asia and the wealthy Arabian countries that aspire to develop world-class universities, plus the European nations keen to revalidate their leading universities and to ensure value for their investments. There are now more than 10,000 universities globally. Comparing them is by no means a simple exercise - it requires substantial resources and well-developed databases. But some organisations that publish global rankings are not yet backed by mature business models that allow them to leverage extensive databases and mature methodologies that stand up to intense scrutiny.”

“The availability of reliable databases is central to the success of any ranking. Ranking organisations use information on research publications, such as the number of citations per paper, citations per academic and the number of papers they publish. But the databases used do not always distinguish between different authors bearing similar names or between self-citations by the author and citations by others, or between positive and negative citations. Institutional affiliations abbreviated in multiple ways can also cause problems. More effort is needed to perfect these databases.”

“Currently, global rankings also fail to properly illustrate key aspects of scientific research, such as field-specific peaks of research excellence. Given the limited availability of research funds in many countries, is it possible for any single institution to achieve high levels of global excellence in all research fields?”

While the global ranking of universities has value in today’s world of informed choices, such exercises are a work in progress.”

To read the complete article: http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=415401&c=1
(Source: THE website 03/10/2011 http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=415401&c=1)
PUBLICATIONS

Handbook on Benchmarking in European Higher Education

ESMU has issued this handbook as the outcome of a two-year EU-funded project and the work of four Benchmarking groups on University Governance, Curriculum Reforms, Lifelong Learning and University-Enterprise Cooperation.

The handbook offers a detailed methodology to carry out effective benchmarking exercises from the selection of indicators, data gathering and the design of an action plan to improve institutional performance.

The handbook can be downloaded: Handbook PDF.

Further information regarding our benchmarking activities are also available on under: http://www.education-benchmarking.org/.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 2011

SEFI BUREAU MEETING
Brussels, SEFI HQ
04 April, 12:00-18:00

IEEE EDUCON 2011
“Learning Environments and Ecosystems in Engineering Education”
Special Track “New Pedagogic Challenges in Engineering Education” in cooperation with IGIP
04-06 April 2011 in Amman, Jordan
http://www.educon-conference.org/educon2011/

INQAAHE Conference 2011
“Quality Assurance: Foundation for the Future”
4 - 7 April 2011, Madrid, Spain
http://www.inqaahe.org/madrid

The Materials Education Symposium
Speakers from leading universities talking about their approach to materials teaching and their use of teaching resources
7-8 April 2011, Buckingham House, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, UK
http://www.grantadesign.com/symposium/cambridge/agenda.htm

European Association for International Education (EAIE) Executive Forum
Global Development Challenges: Are European Higher Education Institutions Concerned?
### SEFI Student year

#### 8 April 2011, Oslo, Norway
  - 8-9 April 2011, Ranchi, India

#### EUA Annual Conference - 10th anniversary
- “Investing Today in Talent for Tomorrow”
  - 13-15 April 2011, Aarhus, Denmark

#### BEST General Assembly
- 14-22 April 2011, Belgrade, Serbia

#### 9TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL FURNACES AND BOILERS (INFUB-9)
- 26 - 29 April 2011, Palacio Estoril Hotel, Estoril, Portugal

#### National Qualifications Frameworks Conference
  - 27 – 28 April 2011, Pullman King Power Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

### MAY 2011

#### EUGENE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
- Lisbon, ISEL
  - 05 May 2011- 14:00

#### SEFI ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
- Lisbon, ISEL
  - 06 May 2011, 10:30-18:00

#### APMAS Congress Turkey 2011
- “Advances in Applied Physics and Materials Science Congress” 2011
  - 12-15 May 2011, Antalya, Turkey
  - [www.apmas2011.org](http://www.apmas2011.org)

#### 4th MODERN Conference
- “Developing a strategic agenda for university knowledge exchange”
  - 13 May 2011, Milano, Italy
  - For more information visit: [http://www.highereducationmanagement.eu/activities/conferences/knowledge-exchange](http://www.highereducationmanagement.eu/activities/conferences/knowledge-exchange)

#### 7th HUMANE study trip
- Quality and Renewal - administrative support for excellence in teaching and research
  - 17 - 21 May 2011, Uppsala University, Sweden

#### PASCAL Universities Regional Engagement-PURE Conference: “Regional Development and Higher Education - The Next Decade”
- 19 and 20 May 2011, Brussels
  - [http://pure.pascalobservatory.org](http://pure.pascalobservatory.org)

#### CEPES & Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu conference: Life after graduation
- 19-21 May 2011, Sibiu, Romania
### ACA Annual Conference

**The Excellence Imperative. World-class Aspirations and Real-world Needs.**


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### Academia Europaea and Wenner Gren Foundations International Symposium

**The Role of Trust in Higher Education: Ethical and Quality Standards in Research and Teaching**

26-28 May 2011, Stockholm, Sweden


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We hope that you enjoyed this issue of **News@SEFI**

The next issue will be published at the end of April

Please send suggestions and contributions to **info@sefi.be**

*Deadline: April 25th 2011*

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SEFI receives the financial support of its corporate partners

- MathWorks
- Dassault Systèmes
- HP

and its corporate members

- Siemens
- Granta