Like the best well assorted food markets: report from the Research Network Group Chair

Nielsen, Susanne Balslev

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Since not everyone was able to attend the Expo yet, we had to add a day or two to the journey and take that in as well.

For the Members Meeting, too, there will be changes in order to make it even more interesting for FM professionals to attend. While there will be separate network group meetings on the first day as usual, on the second day several workshops will be held where the members of the various groups actually collaborate with each other on developing a solution for the proposed topics. Since the purpose of EuroFM as an Association of Associations is to bring together Research, Education and Practice, these workshops will hopefully lead to a better understanding of what needs and skills each of the groups brings to the table.

At the Members meeting we will also give a short viewing of the video “women in FM” which was produced following the panel discussion with the same title at the Glasgow conference. Although only a small group of people attended the discussion, those who did found it such a motivating and empowering experience that the idea of the video was brought up (by one of the few male attendees, no less!). We are very proud that in the short time span since Glasgow, we were able to capture the essence of the panel discussion in a short video aimed at encouraging young female FM professionals to work hard and aim for the top in spite of all the difficulties they might encounter.

As stated in the last EFMI Issue, the Practice Network Group wants to discuss topics of interest to the FM professionals at every meeting, slots for full paper presentations as attractive to members. In the future, one or two topics from the top of the list will be chosen and presented in the Practice Network Group meetings. I hope all of us have had the opportunity to enjoy the summer break so that we are now full of energy when tackling various challenges wherever we are and whatever we do. It was also very motivating and energizing to meet many of you in the 2015 EFMC in Glasgow.

The EFMC Board has defined the Network’s strategic goals and they were shortly discussed in Glasgow. The discussion will go on in Milan in October. One of the goals is to add value to the members of EuroFM Network through bridging practitioners with research and education. One concrete way under this strategic umbrella is to develop a concept for FM student’s internship-process in such a way that this future FM potential would be easily in reach for our members and on the other hand, students would be offered a platform, where they could find internship opportunities amongst our members.

It was a coincidence that at the same time, when the EuroFM Education Network Group started to develop this idea further, IFMA Foundation and BIFM had similar developments on their agenda in order to promote the idea of working in a collaborative way between Students-Education-Employers to set up sustainable internship opportunities for the future of the FM industry.

Based on the initiative presented by Adrian Anderson (IFMA Foundation) a group of EuroFM, BIFM and IFMA Foundation representatives, gathered together in Milan in October in order to develop the concept idea forward together.

The main objective of this work is to enhance and increase the connection between commercial organizations and the network of Academic Institutions. Another goal is to enhance the collaboration between EuroFM, BIFM and IFMA Foundation.

I am calling all our members to join this development process and ask for your input and ideas into it. Feel free to contact me, if there is a need to discuss this initiative further. Meanwhile, looking forward to meeting you in Milan!