

Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales d'Ingénieurs European Federation of National Engineering Associations Föderation Europäischer Nationaler Ingenieurverbände

ENGINEERS EUROPE position paper on Code of Conduct: Ethics and Conduct of Professional Engineers

approved by the FEANI/ENGINEERS EUROPE General Assembly on 07/10/2022

Codes of Conduct

The pan-european statement on engineering ethics and conduct presented below is best implemented through the codes issued by national engineering associations. These codes can, and in general already do, incorporate the listed objectives in a form which reflects national circumstances and allow additional objectives to be added as required by national practice.

Ethical Principle

The decisions and actions of engineers have a large impact on the environment and on the wellbeing of society. This has an enhanced and growing importance as the twentyfirst century progresses. The engineering profession thus has an obligation to ensure that it works in the public interest with particular regard for equality, diversity, health, safety, and sustainability.

In doing so they are required to maintain and promote high ethical standards and challenge unethical behaviour. There are four fundamental principles for ethical behaviour and decision-making. These are honesty and integrity; respect for life, law, the environment and public good; accuracy and rigour; and leadership and communication.

Framework Statement

National associations of engineers, and FEANI with regard to EURING registrants, have codes of conduct which have much in common and which have the intent of implementing the above ethical principle. As a result of this convergence, the European engineering profession as a whole can make a universal statement regarding the conduct of professional engineers.

Individual engineers have a personal obligation to act with integrity, in the public interest, and to exercise all reasonable skills and care in carrying out their work.

In so doing engineers:

Shall maintain their relevant competencies at the necessary level and only undertake tasks for which they are competent

Shall not misrepresent their educational qualifications or professional titles

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Shall provide impartial analysis and judgement to employer or clients, avoid conflicts of interest, and observe proper duties of confidentiality

Shall carry out their tasks so as to prevent avoidable danger to health and safety, and prevent avoidable adverse impact on the environment

Shall accept appropriate responsibility for their work and that carried out under their supervision

Shall respect the personal rights of people with whom they work and the legal and cultural values of the societies in which they carry out assignments

Shall be prepared to contribute to the public debate on matters of technical understanding in fields in which they are competent to comment

Shall challenge unethical behaviour when observed or experienced and enforce best ethical practices in their work assignments.

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