

FEANI position paper on Code of Conduct: Ethics and Conduct of Professional Engineers

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Ethical Principle

The decisions and actions of engineers have a large impact on the environment and on society. The engineering profession thus has an obligation to ensure that it works in the public interest and with regard for health, safety and sustainability.

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 skill and care in carrying out their work.

In so doing engineers:

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

Shall not misrepresent their educational qualifications or professional titles

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 public debate on matters of technical understanding in fields in which they are competent to comment

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Codes of Conduct

The pan-european statement on engineering ethics and conduct presented above 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.

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