Digitalisation: Opportunities or mainly challenges? An engineering perspective.

Joseph Ickmans, Chair Digitalisation & BIM Committee at EFCA (European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations)
What is EFCA?

✓ The only association representing the engineering consultancy industry in Europe
✓ Comprises of 28 national associations that represent professional engineering consultancy and related services in their own countries
✓ Represents FIDIC in Europe

Mission

- Positively influence EU legislation that impacts on the engineering consultancy business
- Promote fair competition and transparent procurement rules
- Create a network/business platform for member associations and European firms
Digitalisation and BIM Committee

✓ Informing about & sharing information on Digitalisation and BIM developments - monitor CEN/TC 442 (and ISO TC 59), EU BIM Task Group, bSI, etc.

✓ Organise debate and action on EFCA recommendations to positively influence legislators/policy makers at national and European level

✓ Collaboration & assistance in the development of digitalisation

✓ Promote the development of open standards
Opportunities?

✓ Boost in quality → clash/gap checking, less errors, less waste, ...
✓ Processes of communication (BIM) → forced alignment
✓ Innovation boost → parametrical design, attracting young specialists, ...
✓ Digital twin / data transfer
✓ Open standards → equal comparison & data accessibility

Challenges

✓ Investment → Learning curve, software, ...
✓ Shift of tasks & responsibilities → organisation & planning!
✓ Data ownership and accessibility
✓ Intellectual property
✓ New “contractual” partner = ICT
✓ Aligning with clients
✓ Interoperability
Play our part...

- Involved in the whole construction process from feasibility to operate & maintain:
  - Technical management and design – scope of work / technical specifications
  - Project management
  - Environment management - permitting
  - Quality & project control – BIM/SE/…
  - Contract management – procurement / bid comparisons

- Actively “pushing” digitalisation in the construction industry

- Assist clients/business to control the digital future + greener circular economy

---

Engineers consultants

Extended knowledge on processes and risks &
Need for workable open standards

Aligning open standard developments with business &
Assist in mitigation of risks regarding digitalisation

A greener & sustainable future with open data at its core
Approach & actions taken...

- Digitalisation rate ✓
- Involved ICT companies ✓
- Free market

Volatile & complex environment

How:

✓ Collaboration with developers on creation standards, guidelines and tools (Digiplace, bSI, ...)

✓ Advice via expertise towards policy makers (EC) → Aligning legislation with business (practical, efficient, avoid pitfalls, ...) & address risks (ICT supplier monopolies, data accessibility/ownership/IP/...)

✓ Position papers

✓ Guidelines (Booklet on ISO19650)

Connect to / Exchange expertise with policy makers and developer organisations
Our antennas & collaborations

Antennas

Digitalisation & BIM Committee

Collaborations / advice

Common ground
Q & A

Joseph Ickmans
Chair Digitalisation and BIM Committee
M +32 479 86 51 28
joseph.ickmans@tractebel.engie.com

EFCA – European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations
Avenue des Arts 3/4/5 – B-1210 Brussels – Belgium
+32 (0)2 209 07 70 – https://www.efcanet.org