

# Productivity: What's going on in Europe

This article focuses on the aims and activities of the European Federation of Productivity Services (EFPS).

The final article in the series by John Lucey, Chairman IMS.

The EFPS was formed in July 1961, with the purpose of promoting the knowledge and application of productivity techniques, in its broadest sense, throughout the countries of Europe. The IMS is one of the founder members and the education syllabus is the cornerstone of the EIE qualification.

Currently, it also provides a network for the exchange of information and ideas between members organisations which are concerned with improving productivity in all sectors of their national economies.

- Promoting the importance of improving productivity
- Providing support and assistance to individuals and industry concerned in this field
- Fulfilling an educational role
- To establish and organise groups for inter-European experience exchange on the development and application of knowledge in the EFPS membership professions
- Initiate conferences, congresses, seminars and working parties in areas of common interest for the membership
- A global network, overseas interactions and the exchange of information are all beneficial in providing enhanced services to members, and also give increased opportunities for raising the profile of EFPS throughout an enlarged Europe

One of the main ways of achieving these goals is through the European Industrial Engineering (EIE) qualification.

One of the main objectives of the EIE seminars is to impart competence in securing and increasing national and international competitiveness of a company.

#### Membership of the EFPS

Currently there are seven countries affiliated to the EFPS

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|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| • England         | Institute of Management Services |
| • German          | German MTM                       |
| • Switzerland     | Swiss MTM                        |
| • Italy           | Italian MTM                      |
| • Austria         | Austrian MTM                     |
| • Spain           | Spanish MTM                      |
| • The Netherlands | VOA?                             |

- The Australian Institute of Industrial Engineers and American Institute of Industrial Engineers are also corresponding members.

It is evident from the organisations detailed above that the major players are the MTM companies who are quite influential in Germany. Although the MTM are associated with predetermined methods of time measurement, they use the full range of modern measurement techniques to improve productivity.

#### Activities

A bi-annual conference takes place in Europe and focuses on productivity in the widest sense. This is a forum for the continuing professional development of the EIE and is mandatory to maintain the qualification.

Each member group organises activities for their student members (similar to our regions, but far more active).

There is an annual membership meeting and organised industrial visits throughout Europe.

By far the largest activity is the EIE.

#### Objectives of the global seminar European Industrial Engineer

Gaining the competence to secure and increase national and international competitiveness

The participant is enabled to face the challenges of new working structures and the opening of markets in a new way of thinking and acting.

From the global objective, operational objectives are derived for the individual units, making it possible for the participant to check progress of his/her knowledge.

Knowledge is gained objectively, as well as being participant oriented, in order to meet the needs of the individual seminar member in the best possible way and encourage learning from one another. This is yet another success in learning which will extend the participant's point of view beyond his/her own field of responsibility.

Cooperative learning of several seminar members has also turned out to be very helpful. In pairs or small groups it is easier to learn and new, informal relationships have an opportunity to develop.

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