The researcher of the year 2015 had two nominees

- Hannah Hahn from Germany
- Roberto Valle from Norway.

Both candidates are working with interesting and important topics in their research. Hannah has systematic methodology and future orientation in her research where she lately has dived into the world of digital natives. By using systematic methodologies of road mapping and in depth studies she is contributing to the development of knowledge base in Facilities Management – she is the one telling what are the future needs of the user. Her background is in sociology and it provides a good starting point to contribute to multidisciplinary field of facilities management.

Roberto Valle is enthusiastic in investigating energy management practices. He is the one who wants to contribute to policy makers as much as development of more sustainable facilities management. He has identified his research approach clearly and constructs his research to what we have already and is well aware of on climate mitigation of the built environment – he wants to develop a systematic approach to energy management practices, and create knowledge-based interdisciplinary system for practitioners.

Hannah is doing her research in private sector (Johnsons Controls) and Roberto in the ongoing research project in the university (NTNU). Both of them are on their early phase of researcher career and they identified EuroFM as an essential forum for developing and sharing ideas among others.

The jury is enthusiastic about the fact that a researching practitioner was among the nominees, indicating that research and practice are closely interwoven within our community; however, it also showed that for some of our business partners it may take some more time and serious effort to completely open up their methods and data, given their commercial interests. Tesla has shown that it can be done, so we invite practitioners to follow this path in order to strengthen and advance research in FM!

As always the decision to choose one out of two nominees was a hard and difficult job. After thorough discussions and reflections jury ended up to nominate the researcher of the year 2015 and he is Roberto Valle. He has a clear focus in his research and he has identified very actual research cap in sustainable facilities management. He is open to scientific debate – according to his own words he “Loves learning – loves sharing”. He has been active in reflecting his research results with local Norwegian facilities management network and will contribute with his expertise and inspire also for EuroFM community.