Minutes of EuroFM RNG meeting 29. October 2015, Milan

Participants:
Bernadette Heemskerk; Brenda Groen, Dirk Zonneveld; Knut Boge, Mark Mobach, Michael May, Ouafila Bejja-Essayah; Pieter le Roux, Roberto Valle, Sebastiano Maltese, Sergio Rodriques, Sergio Vega, Susanne Balslev Nielsen, Susanne Hofer, Tricia McCarroll

Minutes: Knut Boge and Susanne Balslev Nielsen

Welcome and opening (SBN)
Susanne said welcome and greeted new as well as familiar members of RNG. The theme of this members meeting is: bridging between research and practice.

Example of Italian Research: KPI indicators for asset management optimisation – A support for technical decision making
PhD candidate Sebastiano Maltese from the Polytechnic Milano presented his Ph.D. project. It is a decision support tool which uses Building Information Models (BIM), technical insights and Italian costs for strategic, tactical and operational asset management optimisation. For further information see https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Sebastiano_Maltese

Sebastiano is completing his Ph.D. in November 2015 and is searching for a job.

RNG Issues – Status and next steps
Susanne gave a status of RNG relevant issues regarding EuroFM and RNG, as it looks from her position:

1. Board collaboration with Monthly Skype meetings. On the agenda:
   - New communication strategy. More lively
   - Rethinking EFMC 2016 +. Combine research and practice.
   - Keeping within the budget (where and how to spend)
   - Positioning in relation to IFMA (continue partnership around EFMC?)

2. Status on the 3 working groups
   - Innovation: Mark Mobach gave a status of work in the innovation working group lead by Mark Mobach (HU) and If Price (SHU). Research that is action focused and problem oriented, behaviourally and spatially grounded, and directed at improved actions. The working group has a series of activities planned including EFMC2016 presentations and exploration of EU funding opportunities.

   - Added Value: Per Anker Jensen and Theo van der Voordt are currently editing the book “Facilities Management and Corporate Real Estate Management as
Value Drivers: How to Manage and Measure Added Value”. It is to be published by Routledge in August 2016. The book has contributions from several members of RNG.

- **Sustainability:** Antje Junghans is the chair. The group which currently consist of Antje, Keith Jones, Sergio V. and Susanne, had no news to report.

3. **EFMC 2016**
The board has together with the conference organizers Informa decided to try a new concept. It is a 2 days concept, which aims for a lower price, more participants and more networking. The budget allows 15 speakers (free participation). To ensure publication possibilities for a larger group, Susanne has ensured the possibility for 15 posters; which will also be able to submit a full paper. 40 abstracts were submitted within the deadline (rejection rate 25%). The scientific committee evaluates the abstracts in a double blind review (+ third evaluation). Information of accepted papers will be sent around November 5th. Deadline for submission January 15 (postponed to 1. February 2016) and 1. March 2016. The numbers of abstracts are lower as there are several competing conferences this year (CIB and Nordic FM conference).

4. **Share your knowledge/publications.**
   EuroFM is a supporter of knowledge sharing in FM. As researchers we are encouraged to
   - submit articles for *EFMI* (Michael May contact person) (1500 words articles for an audience of FM professionals)
   - Upload our work to the EuroFM Knowledge portal (several people have already uploaded something)
   - Susanne will work on making the EFMC proceedings easier available after the conferences as EuroFM research papers.

   Open access – the general research community
   - Research Gate (please establish an account)
   - Academia.edu (please establish an account)

5. **The RNG share of 2016 budget**
   There has been a process of generating a wish list for the budget and a process of cutting down to meet expected income. Susanne wished for 22.600 Euro and ended with 7.000 Euro. Regarding the budget for EFMC it is business as usual (master competition, RNG awards, RNG ticket to scientific committee).

6. **Postgraduate network group**
   Roberto Valle, NTNU, the successor of Giulia Nardelli, presented a vision of what EuroFM can be and an analysis of current Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats; which he has made with fellow Ph.D. students.
Strength: reach and members, credibility and history, and experience and rank. 
Weaknesses: discontinuity and management, funding and members, value and 
perception of value. 
Threats: stability and image, other research networks, time and commitments. 
Opportunities: exposure for individuals and group (publication/dissemination 
system for publications, ranking, etc.), synergy with academia and industry, and 
tools and knowledge sharing (webinars, etc.).

Roberto is hoping for more engagement from the post graduates in RNG.

Suggested vision for RNG: To be recognised as the leading research platform in 
FM where industry and academia researchers alike share their passion for 
improving the management of buildings and work environment.

7. **Next step 1: Improving publication possibilities.**
   This initiative is coming from If Price, Mark Mobach and Herman Kok. The idea is 
to engage with a journal at academic high level and produce a special issue with a 
academic high level (ISI and/or national list) journal. They have identified 
possibilities – business rather than building engineering. Examples are European 
Management Journal (EMJ) (ISI 1.22), Journal of Service Management (JSM) (ISI 2.0), 
and European Management Review, European Business Review. So far no 
journal has accepted this invitation. The RNG supports this initiative, lead by If 
Price.

8. **Next step 2: All FM Ph.D.- dissertations in one place?**
   Mark Mobach suggests that we work on establishing a website with all Ph.D.- 
theses relevant for FM. The nursing profession has 
www.proefschriftenverpleegkunde.nl for nursing theses. Tricia commented that 
it will be an issue of defining FM dissertations, as some are relevant for FM, but 
do not claim to be a FM dissertation. The decision was to investigate further. 
Susanne and Mark have the lead.

9. **Horizon 2020 funding.**
   Susanne encouraged collaboration for EU funding and cited a presentation by 
Eddie Townsend (EU funding specialist). His advice is to see the EU Commission 
is an investor. Control questions: is this an innovative idea? Does the proposing 
organisation/consortium have the skills to deliver?

A part of the RNG meeting was dedicated to a visit of 3 members from the EuroFM Corporate Associates (CANG network chaired by Mauro Rabolini) to get to know each other better. The represented companies were: 
Monica Ricci, HR Director at efm, Italy 
Mauro Rabolini, Global Sourcing Director, CBRE, Italy 
Véronique Barascud-Lacour; Business developer, Archibus, Switzerland 
In three groups we talked about the company’s strategic goals, their general tasks and specific tasks which all reflect an opportunity for research and development projects.

11. Closing

In the closing Susanne invited everyone to the workshop before the general members meeting Friday 30. October. The purpose is to generate ideas for realising the potential in EuroFM which is uniting practice, education and research.

Sergio Vega announced a meeting at 16.00 about the resubmission. The Madame Curie application SUSFM was not awarded. A new attempt is under preparation. Only 15 partners – 1 PhD/partner will be financed.

Susanne informed about the CIB World building Congress, Helsinki 2016 and the Nordic FM conference in Copenhagen, August 2016.

Knut Boge informed that Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences has from August 1st 2015 employed Alenka Temeljotov Salaj as professor in FM.
Glimps from EuroFM Members Meeting in Milan