

## SEFI Engineering Ethics SIG Report 2019-20

At the 2019 Annual Meeting a number of changes to the organisation of the SIG took place. Roland Tormey (EPFL) joined Manfred Hampe (TU Darmstadt) as co-chair of the SIG, and a steering group was established. The membership of the steering group is (in addition to the co-chairs) Diana Martin (TU Dublin), Gunter Bombaerts (TU Eindhoven), Janna van Grunsven (TU Delft), Ester Gimenez-Carbo (Universitat Politècnica de València) and Pieter de Vries (TU Delft). The SIG annual meeting also established a number of priority actions for the SIG. These included (a) establishing enhanced communication within the group during the year, (b) hosting an ethics sig focused event, and (c) updating the website. Other priority areas (including acting at the level policy to enhance the status of engineering ethics in European accreditation requirements), were identified as requiring action within a two-year timeframe.

The steering group of the SIG met five times during the year.

The activities of the SIG during the year were:

- To develop a newsletter which is distributed to the SEFI mailing list. A newsletter model was developed by Diana Martin and Roland Tormey who also edited/wrote seven issues which were distributed in the AY 2019-20 (in a full year there will be 8 issues). The layout, design and distribution of the newsletter was managed by Klara Ferdova in SEFI HQ. The newsletter includes a feature article on cutting edge engineering ethics research or practice issues, as well as a digest of recent research and upcoming deadlines. Feature articles include: "[The dynamic world of digital ethics](#)", and "[Teaching Engineering Ethics during COVID-19](#)" and "[Layered case studies in developing ethical reasoning](#)"
- An engineering ethics winter school was hosted by Gunter Bombaerts at TU Eindhoven on 12-13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 (with the support for funding from TU Eindhoven, for which we are very grateful). The aim of the event was to explore in a series of workshops some of the challenges faced by engineering ethics educators, to share best practices and brainstorm future strategies for action. Educators from different countries – ranging from Australia, Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Ireland, UK and US – participated either in person or online. A report on the workshop and its outcomes is available on the SEFI website [here](#).
- The SEFI SIG website was updated by Ester Gimenez-Carbo and Klara Ferdova. By updating the website and by integrating the newsletter content the website has become quite dynamic and returning visitors will find it regularly updated with new content.
- The SIG steering group also sought to support the organisation of the annual conference through encouraging paper submissions, proposing a workshop, volunteering as reviewers, and offering support to the organisers on the establishment of an ethics strand.

Finally, we would like to pay tribute to the support and advice which we received from SEFI HQ. Without that support the work of the SIG not have been possible.