

Biography



Françoise Côme

After her studies at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) where she obtained a Master degree in Literature and Philosophy (1983), a Post Master Degree (“Agrégation”) to lecture at high schools (1984), an International Certificate (Master+ 2) in International Cooperation with Developing Countries (1984) and a Post Master Degree (DEA) in Socio-Psychology (1986), Françoise Côme started her career with a six-month internship at the European Commission (DG Education) where she worked in the Unit in charge of the development of the ERASMUS EU Education Programme.

She later moved to Amsterdam (Netherlands), to work at the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) where she led the ECF Grant’s Department. In April 1988, she joined SEFI in Brussels, as Deputy Secretary General. In 1993, she was appointed SEFI Secretary General, a position that she still holds today.

From 2004 to 2006, in parallel to her responsibilities within SEFI, she also held the position of Executive Director of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) at the UNESCO in Paris (France).

In 2012, she became Secretary General of the European Engineering Deans Council (EEDC), a new organization that she contributed to create in the context of her duties at SEFI. Since 2011, she is also acting as the European contact for the International Institute for the Development of Engineering Academics (IIDEA).

Professional activities: Coordination of the SEFI network (400 members - universities/associations/corporate partners - in 47 countries), 10 Working groups and committees; Collaboration with the European Commission (DGS Education/Research/Enterprise), UNESCO, OECD, Council of Europe; Contacts and/or development of common projects/initiatives with other engineering associations (CESAER, IGIP, WFEO, ASEE, ABET, IACEE, CLAIU, FEANI, IFEEES, JSEE, RAEE, KSEE, LACCEI, CAEE, ASIBEI, ABENGE, ACOFI, OECD...) or with major European academic organizations (EUA, ESMU, EFMD); Representation of SEFI to approximately 250 international conferences in engineering education or in higher education; Participation in the creation of ESOEPE, ENAAEE, IFEEES, IIDEA and EEDC; Organization of seminars/colloquia/workshops in the field of higher engineering education (notably the 1st ASEE International Colloquium in Berlin 2002); Organization of 25 Annual Conferences for SEFI; Organization of 5 European Conventions for Engineering Deans; Coordination and organization of the World Engineers Convention (WEC) 2003, Shanghai.

Her Projects include: Coordination of and participation in numerous projects under UNESCO (Study Visits for African, Russian and Baltic States Deans) or EU Programmes (ERASMUS Thematic Networks projects within SOCRATES, COMETT, GRUNDTVIG, TEMPUS EU projects in the field of mobility exchanges (staff/students), lifelong learning and CPD, attractiveness of EE, Gender issues, validation of skills, internationalization of engineering studies, curriculum development, university-business cooperation; Member of the Management Committees of HE3 EEIG, E4, TREE, EUGENE Thematic Networks, Techno TN Fora, Member of the Board the EU-Drivers and MODERN (LLP project) and of the ECDEAST project. She served as Chief Editor for former SEFI magazine on engineering education in Europe until 2005; a member of the Editorial Committee of the European Journal of Engineering Education; was Co-editor of the book « SEFI – The First 25 Years », of Cahiers and Documents on Engineering in Europe and of Position papers on the Bologna Process, Engineering Doctorates, Accreditation of EE; Editor of SEFI Annual Reports, news@sefi and of articles on SEFI and EE published in the “European Parliament magazine”. Mrs. Côme is a member of the Administrative Council and Vice-President of the European Network for the Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAAE), Vice-President of the “Cartagena Network of Engineering” (RCI), member of ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education), and representative of SEFI and of ENAAE in IFEES.