“Definition of the Emerging Biosystems Engineering Discipline in Europe”

1st ERABEE Workshop, 3-5 April 2008,
Madrid, Spain

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHOR (S)¹

Author(s)*
University/Faculty (s), Department, Street, Zip code, Country

1. Specify the main characteristics and give a definition of the Biosystems Engineering discipline based on your expertise and/or any recent developments in your country. Please justify the definition with adequate references.

2. In reference to the core curriculum included in the FEANI Report Template (pages 16-27; http://www.eurageng.net/usaee-tn.htm) propose possible revisions in the existing modules, if needed, and/or suggest any new module(s) that might be included with regards to the Biosystems Engineering discipline.

3. Describe the current situation of the Biosystems Engineering discipline or any relevant discipline in your country. In case no such programme of studies exists please explain if the need for such a transition or evolution from the traditional Agricultural Engineering programme of studies to the new emerging discipline of Biosystems Engineering is under discussion, consideration or it is foreseen in the future, in any way. Please explain the relevant policy related channels for such a development in your country.

4. Will such a transition have an important impact on a) the Institutional structure, b) the students’ enrolment, c) the professional status and d) the national and international attractiveness and to which extent? (based on reported analyses, if any, or on your personal assessment as an expert).

5. Has the societal need for such a transition been identified at a national level? If yes, was it based on pertaining questionnaires circulated to employers, professionals and professional bodies, alumni, etc. Has this societal need identified by any independent market analysis, or independent reports of the private/industrial or public sectors? Please justify.

¹ For the preparation of a workshop paper (5-8 pages) and a short (10 min) presentation
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6. Envisage the influence such a tradition may have in your country on the labour market (e.g. industries, companies, private and public sector, freelance work and self-employment) and on the employability of the Biosystems Engineering graduates based on your expertise. More specifically try to identify areas where new job opportunities for Biosystems Engineers may arise in the labour market in your country, especially with respect to the current situation of the Agricultural Engineers. Please identify and justify possible conflicts with other established disciplines.