



# Newsletter

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF INSULATION CONTRACTORS



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## REMARKS FROM THE SECRETARY



Dear FESI colleagues,

We can look back to a nice and successful event with our members in Den Bosch. Although not all members were able to attend, those who did join our meetings and evening events appreciated the location and the program. FESI is a networking platform, and in order to network efficiently, we need human beings who meet and chat. We were very lucky to have had the meeting and fair at the time that we did, because just a month later, new restrictions were introduced which would have made things more difficult.

The Covid situation seems to be getting worse these days. EiiF has had to cancel their planned physical meetings twice and the same counts for many other events and meetings.

But let's remain positive about the future. From 9th -10th March 2022, we hope to be present in Essen at a joined booth as FESI during the TI-expo. And in May, we will have our FESI spring meeting in Lille. We have asked Greece if they would be able to receive us in Autumn and hope that this would be possible.

Another matter is the succession of the positions within the EC. Next year, we need to fill the positions of the RTC Chair and the Treasurer. I know that it is always difficult to find volunteers, so I strongly urge all of you to look around for potential candidates. Helping FESI by doing some practical work is at the core of an active and thriving federation of contractors in insulation.

For now, have a good ending to 2021. I wish all of you a nice Christmas and a healthy 2022!

Jan Zanen  
Secretary General

# KINGSPAN



FESI Global Informative Partner

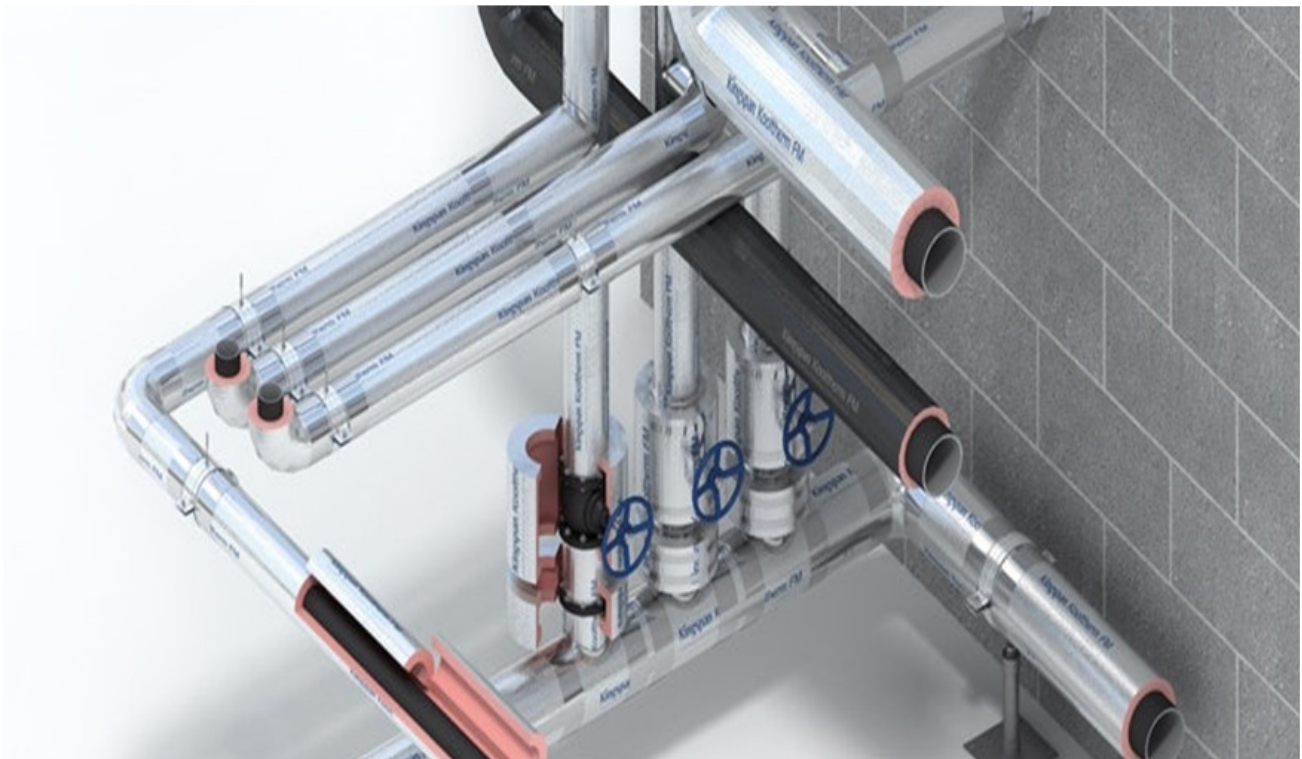
FESI is happy to mention their new Global Informative Partner. An introduction by Arjan In't Veld

## Kingspan Technical Insulation

Kingspan Insulation is a leading manufacturer of high-quality insulation products and systems for building installations, HVAC applications, process and petrochemical applications and refrigeration services. Our facility in Turnhout, Belgium, produces PIR, PUR and Resol foam blocks that are processed in our plant according to their final application. The TarecPir®, TarecPur® and Kooltherm® are further sawn and milled into shells for pipe insulation, customised bends and flange boxes for pipes and boards or other semi-finished products for further processing (e.g. refrigerated trucks).

### Lead the way...

Installers have been using traditional materials for the thermal insulation of pipes for years. Can these materials withstand comparison with an innovative material such as Kooltherm®? It is in the interest of both investors and users to keep the cost of pipe insulation as low as possible in the short and long term," says Arjan in 't Veld, Sales Manager HVAC Europe at Kingspan Technical Insulation. "We have summarised the results and conclusions from various practical comparative studies in a White Paper which demonstrates the benefits of Kooltherm® pipe insulation based on various calculations.



## Optimal support

“Many contractors and installers only see the cost of the materials, but what they really need to focus on are the payback periods,” In ‘t Veld believes. The best insulation is a combination of various factors. To be able to do this optimally, you not only need to know these factors, but also apply them in the right way. As an organisation, we like to play a role in this. We regularly give presentations to prescribing authorities in which we actively share the importance of (the right) pipe insulation and the advantages and processing of Kooltherm®. We also support installers and insulators with the calculation and installation of our products, thus ensuring reliability and quality at all times.”

Curious about the Whitepaper? Take a look at [www.kingspan-whitepaper.com](http://www.kingspan-whitepaper.com) or request a Lunch&Learn presentation from Arjan in ‘t Veld via [arjan.intveld@kingspan.com](mailto:arjan.intveld@kingspan.com).



Kingspan Insulation is aware that a circular economy cannot be achieved by producers alone. In't Veld: “We want to and have to do it together as construction and industry. That’s why we like to involve the market in our plans and ideas.”

As Kingspan Technical Insulation group we are developing our business in the EU market rapidly. Therefore it’s important to communicate our message to our stakeholders in HVAC and ( food ) industry as good as possible.

Our membership within the FESI will help us to do this. The FESI training center’s located in different EU countries give us the opportunity to give a dynamic Kooltherm, PIR & PUR training.

Together with my colleague Jan Thijs van Wijnkoop from the technical service department we are very pleased to get in contact with the members of the FESI. We are both looking forward to meet you all!

# REFLECTING ON THE FESI MEETINGS IN DEN BOSCH



After a long period of Covid restrictions, the FESI members were finally able to meet physically in the city of Den Bosch in the Netherlands. From October 12th - 14th, the Industrial Heat & Power fair gave the floor to the insulation sector. It also served as the host location for the FESI meetings.

On October 13th, the FESI morning sessions began with the Recruitment & Training Committee meeting. The FESI chair, Mr. Hans Koole, successfully oversaw the full agenda. FESI investigated the possibility of joining Worldskills Europe. As discussed earlier with our members, FESI believes that Worldskills Europe is an attractive platform for promoting the profession of insulation technicians. However, there are a lot of constraints to consider and before we can go on, a decision has to be agreed upon on a joint basis within FESI. After an explanation of the procedures and requirements for this type of championship, nine national associations spoke out in support for further investigations regarding the cooperation with Worldskills Europe.

Last year, video training modules were introduced by Rockwool, our first Global Informative Partner. They shared a wide range of instructional videos to be used by National Associations and their members. There is great potential in using these videos from the Rockwool Technical Insulation Academy for insulation training centers. The discussion with Rockwool representatives earlier on in the year formed the basis for a comprehensive view on the mutual benefits of incorporating these videos. During the RTC meeting, a committee was established to guide the introduction of the modules and gather feedback. After this, the RTC stressed the need for registration of the insulation training centers in Europe, which can be done through the FESI website. When more training centers are registered, this gives a better impression to asset owners on the professionalism of the insulation sector. Registration of training centers will be enforced by the agreed project to develop a European standard for insulation technicians in order to help NAs to be better able to link to a qualification framework.

The Thermal Technical Commission plays an active role in recommending standardization for piping design. The well-known problem of too little space for proper insulation makes it necessary to convince engineers, consultants and asset owners that installation thickness requires proper engineering in the earliest stages of projects. A draft document will be presented in the spring 2022 meeting in Lille.

FESI president, Dr. Rudolf Jürcke, shared his vision for the upcoming period. The status regarding members has not been changed since the last GA. More than 1000 contractors are represented by FESI and its NAs. SME companies make up the largest proportion of the NA members. FESI is an information platform, and a relevant message to spread out is that insulation plays a significant role in the energy transition. The question is how exactly this information can be spread across the members of the NAs. And a second question is, is it worthwhile for them?

It is essential to express the connection between NAs and FESI on the websites of the NAs.

Dr. Rudolf Jürcke also mentioned that NAs must pay close attention to the registration of their local training facilities. He suggested that a training center conference might be a good way to enhance knowledge exchange and strengthen the relationship with FESI. Additionally, it might support our goal to organize a FESI-Championship. Standardization of insulation education would put emphasis on the skills that are needed for good insulation.

## Focus until May 2022

Dr. Rudolf Jürcke mentioned several relevant topics that should be kept in mind for all NAs.

The support of more internal contacts is one of the major and beneficial aspects of a FESI membership. The coherence of the FESI community will be enhanced if all NAs contribute to exchanging information on the local association, their members, new developments and all other relevant topics.

There are several opportunities to create awareness of technical issues, for instance with HVAC, by joining the TTC. FESI views EiiF as an important source of data and tools to convince local politicians about the need for proper insulation and the benefits for the climate change. Membership recruitment is needed in the countries that are not members of FESI.

The spring event in Lille is coming up in 2022. FESI will actively work to create an interesting and engaging event. All ideas are welcome regarding the arrangement of the program.

## Informal relationship events

The interactions at the informal evening events proved that there is still a strong relationship between our members. All guests were gathered in hotel Central in the beautiful city of Den Bosch for a delicious dinner and some drinks at the pub, which was a pleasant conclusion to the event. FESI has always been a gathering of professionals who like to share the good things of life, while we raise our glasses and enjoy the presence of one another. In the 50 years of the federation FESI, there has been a long-standing tradition where nice events are hosted by the national associations. The local customs, interests and food are always highly appreciated by the guests. Let's hope that as we move toward the upcoming period, the Covid measures will not hinder this tradition.





Informal relationship events





# TI-EXPO AND CONFERENCE 2022 IN ESSEN



The Rudolf Müller Media Group, publisher of the trade magazine TI Technische Isolierung in Germany, is organizing a new trade fair in Essen from 9th -10th March. This was already announced in our previous issue. More details are now available:

- Two days of trade fair and conference
- With more than 85 exhibitors from over 10 nations
- More than 30 lectures, workshops and product presentations
- 2000 international trade visitors
- Focused topics and fields of application
- Energy efficiency and sustainability
- Cost savings and amortisation
- Process chemistry and plants
- Refineries and tanks
- Air conditioning, refrigeration and building services
- Transportation and Automotive



TI Technische Isolierung promotes technical insulation by exchanging information and having discussions with people in the industry on relevant topics. To facilitate this, they have set up the TI editorial advisory board. The committee is made up of well-known representatives from various areas of the industry: the association landscape, science, industry, trade, as well as other central areas. There are around 30 people within the committee, including Dr. Rudolf Jürcke, Mr. Karlheinz Kermann and Dipl. Ing Andreas Götze. FESI is an official partner beside ZDB, HDB and EiiF.

During the fair, there will be a shared stand for the associations ZDB, HDB and FESI. One important topic at TI-expo is recruitment and training. HDB and ZDB are expected to have presentations in German during the expo. If FESI has a clear view on the future of the championship by then, we might mention it there.

There is also intention to show an overview of insulation training centers in Europe, so our National Associations within FESI should continue to gather more details on this.

As part of the TI-Expo exhibition, new products and innovative technologies for planning and implementation will be presented. In addition to specialist lectures, the TI Conference also offers practical application examples, thus enabling a more intensive transfer of knowledge. Cross-industry networking is a priority during the two-day event. The specialist magazine, TI Technische Isolierung, is responsible for reporting on the event.

More information can be found here: <https://www.ti-expo.de/en/>

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION IN FOCUS

IRELAND

Waterford Wexford ETB



**wwetb**

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
Phort Láirge agus Loch Garra  
Waterford and Wexford  
Education and Training Board



## Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board

Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) provides a comprehensive range of Education and Training services throughout Waterford and Wexford and is the largest training provider in the South East of Ireland. Training and Apprenticeship courses are delivered at our state of the art purpose built training centres by our experienced team of staff, who provide the very highest standard of training under the national Government Department of Education and Skills brand.



## Apprenticeships in Ireland – Overview

Apprenticeship is the recognised means by which people are trained to become craftspeople in Ireland. Apprenticeship involves a combination of learning in the classroom/workshop and on-the-job training and aims to develop the skills of the apprentice to meet the needs of industry and the labour market. An apprenticeship is the recognised pathway to becoming a qualified craftsperson. Apprenticeships are designed for people who are working in their chosen craft and learning from someone who is qualified in their field and recognised by ETB as an official trainer. Apprenticeships are usually four years long and are delivered over 7 phases of learning in the classroom/workshop and on-the-job training.

### Industrial Insulation Apprenticeship in Ireland

Industrial Insulation became a designated trade in Ireland in 2008. On completion of a four-year apprenticeship, the apprentice will become a fully qualified industrial insulator, with a QQI Level 6 Advanced Craft Certificate in Industrial Insulation. Most apprentices will work in areas such as HVAC, power plants, petrochemical, pharmaceutical, chemical, semiconductor, food processing and brewing/ distilling. They may also work in commercial and industrial settings such as cold storage, dairy, ship repair industries and fire protection. Many apprentices use the qualification as a platform to launch careers such as engineers, managers, owners of businesses and instructors/teachers amongst others.



### Breakdown of the Apprenticeship system in Ireland

At Waterford Training Centre we train apprentices for Phase 2 of their apprenticeship which lasts for 22 weeks. The apprentice will have served a minimum of 3 months with their employer prior to starting their Phase 2 training. We are the only training centre in the country who train Phase 2 Industrial Insulation apprentices. Our apprentices travel from all over Ireland to the training centre and they will generally stay in local accommodation during the week while attending the course. The apprenticeship system in Ireland is a “Standards Based Apprenticeship” which means that the apprentice must pass all exams at each phase in order to move to the next phase of his/her apprenticeship. At the end of Phase 2 of the apprenticeship the apprentice will be able to:

- Operate a wide range of machinery including guillotine, folding machines, hand and electric swaging machines, hand and electric rolling machines, electric hand shears and hand drills.
- Interpret technical drawings, schematics and diagrams.
- Develop metal patterns and fittings using parallel line, radial line and triangulation methods of development.
- Insulate pipe work, ductwork, valves, flanges and pressure vessels.
- Carry out a wide range of assembly and finishing techniques - self-securing joints, riveting, fasteners, flanging, swaging and banding.
- Operate CNC machinery including the plasma machine, punching machine and press brake.
- Understand and interpret insulation manufacturers’ data sheets and theory related to a wide range of insulation materials.
- Health and safety regulations

We work very closely with employers to ensure that the training the apprentice receives with us is appropriate to suit both the employers' and industry needs. We pride ourselves on training each apprentice to the highest possible standard and at the same time ensuring that they enjoy their time while training with us in the Waterford Training Centre.



WWETB board members



**wwetb**  
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman  
Waterford and Wexford  
Education and Training Board

# SMART ASSET MANAGEMENT VIDEO LECTURES

World Class Maintenance (WCM) is a Dutch network platform for smart maintenance. They recently set up a program for asset management. Video lectures in English are available for free on YouTube.

One of the tasks of WCM is to capture and disseminate the new knowledge that is being developed. This is now mainly done within the field labs and projects and through all kinds of meetings. “That must and can be improved”, says WCM director, Henk Akkermans. His video lectures of the Smart Asset Management course help to facilitate this learning process.

In addition to being a director at WCM, Prof. Henk Akkermans is also Professor of Supply Chain Management (SCM) at Tilburg University. For the past two years, he has taught the Smart Asset Management (SAM) course as part of the SCM program. During this period, approximately 250 Master’s students have followed the course, which consists of seven lectures and two tutorials. In between lectures, the students visit companies of WCM members to see how asset management works in practice.

Because the Smart Asset Management course is a new course, there is no textbook yet. Akkermans actually intended to develop one himself, as he had previous experience with publishing a textbook. However, writing a textbook takes a lot of time and the idea arose to develop and record video lectures. Akkermans said with a smile, “Preparing and recording a recording also takes serious time, but you can publish it directly – per recording”.

The SAM video lectures are based on the fourteen innovation themes identified in the WCM Delphi study, ‘Smart Moves for Smart Maintenance’:

- 3D – AR – VR & Digital Twins
- Asset Portfolio Management
- Condition Based Maintenance
- Degradation Models
- Design for Maintenance
- Behavior & Cultural Changes
- Integrating Asset
- Integrating Asset Management IT-systems
- Knowledge Management
- Life Cycle Costing
- Performance Based Contracting
- Smart Sensor



The video lectures are at a “fairly basic” level, Akkermans explains – “Take the theme of Life Cycle Costing; we explain what it is and what the consequences are for maintenance. But the calculations themselves, we don’t do that. That’s a profession in its own right”.

All lectures are available on YouTube, but it is more convenient to use the Dutch website for the full overview of lectures. The interface is in Dutch, but all videos are in the English language: <https://www.worldclassmaintenance.com/?s=SAM+videocolleges>.

For those who would like to informally start the discussion about FESI and the benefits of a European cooperation, this will help you. We created a set of playing cards with informative text on the box. You would have already received a set of cards in your goody bag last October. When you visit the TI-expo in Essen from 9th -10th March, you can also pick up some copies.



Did you play your cards right?

