

Thursday, 23 May 2024

## EFCA announces the Future Leader of the Year 2024

EFCA is thrilled to announce the **winner** of the fifteenth Future Leader's Competition: **Diego Apellániz Quintana** from **Germany**. Among the **16 entries received from seven different countries**, Diego impressed the jury with his Parametric and ML-based approaches for LCA in the initial design phases. In particular, Diego shows how an engineer becomes an integrator of available tools in order to bring fruits of the technology into engineering field.



**Diego**, aged 33, is the Head of Design at **Kevee**. Driven by the urgency of climate change and recognising the significant impact of the built environment on this crisis, he has spearheaded the development of a comprehensive tool that integrates AI, structural design, and CO2 assessment. Widely adopted by architects and engineers worldwide, this tool plays a crucial role in curbing embodied carbon in construction practices. Users can employ it to compare the embodied carbon of different slab systems, pinpointing the most environmentally sustainable design, which can then be assessed against diverse criteria. Notably, its applicability extends beyond new constructions to encompass the renovation of existing buildings. Expanding on this accomplishment, Diego currently directs his efforts towards developing an application to automate the design process for residential homes.

The jury congratulates the winners of our excellence categories:

### **Excellence Category: Quality of Submission Project**

**Robert Corbally** (Ireland), 35, is a Civil/Structural Engineer at Roughan & O'Donovand. Robert delivered an exceptional presentation on his project, the eMOS (Enhancing Motorway Operation Services) Programme, showcasing the seamless integration of research into his consulting efforts. By implementing various speed limits, establishing a state-of-the-art control room, and deploying a network intelligence and management software system, real-time monitoring capabilities were significantly improved, fostering safer driving environments. Robert's presentation left a strong impression on the jury due to its articulate nature and comprehensive description of the project.

### **Excellence Category: Digital & New Technologies**

**Matias Hirvikoski** (Finland), 29, a structural engineer and technology manager of software development at AINS Group, has developed Vibmapper, a computational design tool tailored for railway-induced vibration analysis. This innovative tool enables the accurate and efficient analysis of large railway tracks. Vibmapper represents a compelling example of automating engineering processes through the integration of digital tools, particularly leveraging big data. The projects highlighted in this context underscore the significant efficiency gains facilitated by big data analysis. By shortening the analysis process and yielding more cohesive results, these initiatives contribute to the advancement of railway infrastructure, benefiting societies on multiple levels.

### **Excellence Category: Impact on Climate & Biodiversity**

**Jesper Stuhr Andersen** (Denmark), 31, leads Ramboll's technical Carbon Capture Competence Team. He served as the project manager for Statkraft's Carbon Capture and Storage initiative, aimed at achieving complete decarbonisation of the Heimdal Varmesentral Energy-from-Waste plant in Trondheim by capturing 220,000 tonnes of CO2 annually. Jesper's transition from assistant Project Manager to Project Manager in this highly intricate and cross-disciplinary carbon capture project is remarkable. This pioneering project not only addresses a pressing environmental challenge but also establishes a blueprint for future endeavours in this emerging field of technology.

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