



University Studies of Agricultural Engineering in Europe; a *Thematic Network*

Dear Sirs,

New programmes of studies within Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering which provide unique quantitative knowledge about biological systems and processes as well as strong engineering background would be important for a number of new research and commercial areas. Biosystems Engineers with such background could be key players in issues concerning human health and welfare, biomedical engineering, regenerative medicine, innovative materials and biomaterials, bio-mechanics, bio-fuels and alternative energy sources, functional food (e.g. nutraceuticals) and other.

This is the vision of the Thematic Network entitled University Studies of Agricultural Engineering in Europe (USAEE – TN), composed of 31 partner Universities from 27 European countries and funded by DG Education and Culture, which has been working over the last four years towards the restructuring of the University Studies of Agricultural/ Biosystems Engineering in Europe through the development of a basic core curriculum in Agricultural Engineering that could be:

- **Recognized by FEANI** (European Federation of National Engineering Associations) as fulfilling the minima criteria of an Engineering program of studies and
- **Supported by EurAgEng** (European Society of Agricultural Engineers) as meeting the basic-fundamental knowledge of Agricultural/Biological sciences of the corresponding subjects

The major output of this joint European effort is the **well established need to switch from the traditional Agricultural Engineering with a weak Engineering background to restructured Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering programs of studies with strong Engineering background.**

The present academic year 2005-2006 is a dissemination year for the Thematic Network. Therefore we would like to invite and encourage you to join our effort in **promoting** the aforementioned output.

Based on the experience gained during the USAEE-TN activities this transition is expected to lead to:

- Deep re-structuring of courses leading eventually to new course contents and different pedagogical organization (we encourage you to review the USAEE core curriculum in relation to your present curriculum; please refer to the USAEE web-site)

More information can be found on: <http://www.eurageng.net/usaee-tn.htm>

- ❑ Increase in students enrolment
- ❑ New challenging professional outcomes
- ❑ Development of new policies and decision making tools at the University level but also at the professional societies and labour market levels so as to manage and exploit this new development

Hence we encourage your active involvement and kindly request your support so as to promote and manage efficiently this transition through a broad dissemination of the material produced during the three years of the USAEE Thematic Network to academics, students and professional societies. The concise dissemination material (leaflets) will be sent to you electronically through the corresponding partner University of your country.

Thank you very much for your kind support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Briassoulis', with a large, elegant flourish at the end.

*Prof. D. Briassoulis,
USAEE – TN Coordinator*