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Newsletter 2/2026

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The Australia and New Zealand region welcomed one new institution to the CDIO Initiative following the CDIO conference in Liverpool. The **University of New South Wales** was formally approved for membership by the CDIO council.

The University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney) is one of Australia's leading research-intensive universities and a member of the prestigious Group of Eight. Established in 1949, UNSW is recognised globally for excellence in education, research, and innovation across disciplines including engineering, business, science, medicine, law, and the humanities.

The CDIO community warmly welcomes them to the CDIO initiative! We look forward to their active participation and contributions to our global network.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Manchester Metropolitan University joined CDIO early 2026. Dr. Aris Alexoulis provides some initial thoughts on their feelings and ideas at this point:

Manchester Metropolitan University is pleased to join the CDIO Initiative and become part of a global network dedicated to advancing engineering education through innovation, collaboration, and real-world learning.

As the School of Engineering and Environment, we are committed to developing graduates who are not only technically capable but also equipped

with the professional, creative, and interdisciplinary skills needed to address complex engineering challenges. Joining CDIO aligns closely with our focus on experiential learning, industry engagement, and continuous curriculum enhancement.

Looking ahead, we plan to further embed CDIO principles across our programmes, strengthen project-based and challenge-led learning, expand opportunities for industry collaboration, and enhance international partnerships. We see CDIO as a valuable framework for sharing best practice, fostering innovation in teaching and learning, and ensuring our graduates are prepared to thrive in a rapidly evolving engineering landscape.

Some of our team, were able to attend the recent International CDIO Conference in Liverpool and had a great time meeting and developing upon existing relationships with the CDIO partners. We look forward to learning from the CDIO community, contributing our own experiences, and working together to shape the future of engineering education.

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CDIO COUNCIL AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP UPDATES

The CDIO Initiative is governed by the CDIO Council, which comprises the Regional Leaders (one voting representative per region), 6 Members-at-Large and 2 Co-directors. Individuals may serve on the CDIO Council for a maximum of three consecutive three-year terms, with staggered appointments to ensure continuity. Co-directors may serve for a maximum of three consecutive two-year terms and must represent different geographic regions.

At the Liverpool conference, four CDIO Council positions and two European Regional Co-leader positions were contested in the elections. The Council expressed its sincere appreciation to **Matt Murphy, Joanne Tanner, Vairavel Gurusamy** and **Suzanne Brink** for their dedicated service and valuable contributions to the CDIO Council. We thank them for their commitment to the CDIO Initiative and look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future.

At the annual CDIO Conference in Liverpool, four new members were elected to the CDIO Council:

- **Juha Kontio** will continue as CDIO Co-director for the 2026-2028 term, commencing his third and final term in this role
- **Reidar Lyng** and **Elizabeth Keller** (see below for more information) were elected as Members-at-Large for the 2026-2029 term
- **Sin Moh Cheah** was elected as a Members-at-large for the 2026-2027 term.

Elizabeth Keller KTH Royal Institute of Technology Member-at-large 	Hello CDIO community! I'm Elizabeth from KTH Royal Institute of Technology, where I work at the Dept of Learning in Engineering Sciences, supporting faculty in their pedagogical development. Since first engaging with CDIO in Turku in 2016, I have welcomed the openness and collaborative approach and the joy of the community. My involvement in the Curriculum Agility initiative has highlighted the importance of understanding the diverse challenges and opportunities faced by institutions around the world. As a member of the CDIO Council, I look forward to building further collaborations, supporting the community, and contributing to the continued development of the CDIO values.
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The European region has welcomed two new Co-leaders, who will work alongside Carl Johan Carlsson. The new Co-leaders are Janne Roslöf (LAB University of Applied Science, Finland) and Lisa Gommer (University of Twente, The Netherlands). Pictured below (from left to right) are Janne, Carl Johan and Lisa.

Janne Roslöf European region Co-leader Liza Gommer European region Co-leader 	Janne Roslöf serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Technology at LAB University of Applied Sciences (https://lab.fi/en), Finland. Janne has been involved in the CDIO Initiative since the 3rd International conference held at MIT 2007 and, thereafter, he has participated, for example, in the Program Committees of several annual conferences. His own special interests cover first-year student experience, development of active learning environments in engineering education, and topics connected to quality assurance. Lisa Gommer is programme director of the bachelor and master programme Mechanical Engineering and the master programme Sustainable Energy Technology at the faculty of Engineering Technology, University of Twente (The Netherlands). She has a background in Educational Science & Technology and has experience as educational developer and adviser, teacher trainer and academic skills teacher. Her research interests include project education, internationalisation, student engagement and study success. Lisa has been active within the CDIO network since 2016.
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The current composition of the CDIO Council is shown in the table below, with newly elected members highlighted in orange:

Co-directors		Juha Kontio, Turku University of Applied Sciences, Finland (22-24, 24-26, 26-28) Nicoleta Maynard, Monash University, Australia (25-27)
Regional Leaders	Africa	Lamjed Bettaieb, ESPRIT, Tunisia
	Asia	Sin Moh Cheah, Singapore Polytechnic, Singapore Aileen Amora-Sieras, University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines, Philippines Anh-Quang Dao, Duy Tan University, Vietnam
	Australia & New Zealand	Nicoleta Maynard, Monash University, Australia
	Europe	Lisa Gommer, University of Twente, The Netherlands Janne Roslöf, LAB University of Applied Sciences, Finland Carl-Johan Karlsson, Chalmers University, Sweden
	Latin America	Patricio Cea Echeverría, Universidad Católica de la Santísima Concepción, Chile Messias Borges Silva, Universidad Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho-UNESP, Brazil
	North America	Sami Ammar, Polytechnique Montreal, Canada Ron Hugo, University of Calgary, Canada
	UK & Ireland	Thomas Baker, Hertfordshire University, UK Tony Topping, University of Liverpool, UK
Members-at-Large		Jens Bennedsen, Aarhus University, Denmark (24-27)
		Sin Moh Cheah, Singapore Polytechnic, Singapore (26-27)
		Mark Nivan Singh, Singapore Polytechnic, Singapore (25-28)
		Cesar Ortega-Sanchez, Curtin University, Australia (25-28)
		Reidar Lyng, NTNU, Norway (26-29)
		Elizabeth Keller, KTH, Sweden (2026-2029)

CDIO OFFICE UPDATE

Logotypes for the CDIO Initiative have been made available on the CDIO.org website and can be found on the CDIO Leaders Restricted Access page <https://cdio.org/content/cdio-leaders-restricted-access> (login to your CDIO.org account required). CDIO Leaders are welcome to use the CDIO logos for CDIO-related events that your organization may be hosting. In your usage of CDIO logos, you should strive to not alter the logo in any way to maintain recognizability of the logotype. If you are a CDIO Leader but cannot access the page despite being logged in, send an email to info@cdio.org.

The proceedings and individual papers from the 22nd International CDIO Conference in Liverpool (2026) have been published on the CDIO.org website. The direct link to the proceedings is: <https://cdio.org/content/proceedings-22nd-international-cdio-conference-hosted-university-liverpool-uk-june-22-26>

The conference proceedings and papers have been submitted to Scopus for indexing and are expected to be available within the next few weeks.

CDIO COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Initially, we used our existing LinkedIn Group, **CDIO Initiative** (currently with 484 members). However, we identified several limitations with the group format. As a closed group, its content is only visible to members, and the group itself cannot be tagged in LinkedIn posts. Since one of our goals is to increase the visibility of CDIO and engage a broader audience, we have shifted our communication strategy to an **official CDIO Initiative LinkedIn Page**. Unlike a group, the page is publicly

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visible, can be tagged in posts, and provides a more effective platform for promoting CDIO activities and achievements.

The LinkedIn Group will remain, but it will be renamed "**CDIO Member Discussion**" and serve as a forum for discussions among members. We will encourage everyone to follow the official CDIO LinkedIn Page for news, updates, and broader communication.

In addition, we have updated the **CDIO Communication and Content Plan for 2026–2027**. The revised plan provides a clearer overview of upcoming communication activities, content responsibilities, and the publishing schedule. We have also introduced a **Content Owner** column to clarify responsibility for each communication item, as well as a **Flexible Content** section for news and updates that will be published as they arise throughout the year. The updated plan will be shared with the Council for feedback and further input.

Follow the new CDIO Initiative LinkedIn Page

To strengthen communication and collaboration across our global community, the CDIO Initiative is increasing its presence on LinkedIn. We invite you to follow the **new official CDIO Initiative LinkedIn Page** to stay updated on the latest news, conference highlights, educational initiatives, and activities from across the international CDIO community.

Our LinkedIn presence aims to showcase inspiring examples of engineering education, promote collaboration between member institutions, and increase the visibility of the CDIO Initiative worldwide.

The CDIO Member Discussion group will continue to provide a space for discussions and exchange of ideas among members, while the LinkedIn Page will serve as our primary channel for news and communication.

Follow the new CDIO Initiative LinkedIn Page here: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cdio-initiative/about/>

Please note: The existing CDIO Initiative LinkedIn Group has been renamed "CDIO Member Discussion" and will continue as a forum for discussions among CDIO members.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CDIO CONFERENCE IN LIVERPOOL

The 22nd International CDIO Conference was hosted by the School of Engineering at the University of Liverpool, UK and took place from 22nd to 25th June 2026. This year's conference drew participants from 63 educational institutes across 27 countries, spanning 6 continents, with 150 registered participants. Once again, the CDIO Academy ran parallel to the main conference. This year saw 19 students from 7 universities compete in a design-build-test competition to create an aerobatic aircraft to compete in a digital 'Red Bull Air Race' around the city of Liverpool.

Under the main theme "*Enhancing Student Professional Development: Innovation in Assessment and Feedback*" this year's conference aimed to explore innovative assessment approaches that focus on the development of professional engineering competencies, skills and attitudes. There were 67 full papers presented: 13 in the Advances in CDIO track, 32 in CDIO Implementation, and 22 in Engineering Education Research. Additionally, 4 CDIO Project in Progress contributions were presented, alongside 31 collaborative sessions across 17 Workshops, 12 Roundtable Discussions, and 2 Working Groups.

Keynote Speakers:

- Dr Pluen Hermesen, an education professional at TU who started her career as a trauma surgeon. Her keynote was 'Engineering Authentic Reflection'
- Dr Rhys Morgan and Emeritus Professor Peter Goodhew explored the work the Royal Academy of Engineering has been doing to rethink professional and technical skills in their keynote 'CDIO: Time for a rethink?'

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- The final keynote of the conference was presented by the CDIO Academy students, detailing a special project tasked to them by Professor Matt Murphy in which they identified the most common issues that impact student learning and wellbeing.

Social Event Highlights:

Participants enjoyed a **Welcome Reception** in the Lutyens Crypt at the Metropolitan Cathedral.



The **conference dinner** at St George's Hall featured a Mersey Morris performance and audience participation.



Participants celebrating International Women in Engineering Day

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Participants had the opportunity to join the CDIO Disco Bike Ride, a led ride around the city's green spaces accompanied by a DJ on a bike.



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WORKING GROUP REPORTS

SHARING GOOD EXAMPLES OF CURRICULUM AGILITY

The work on Curriculum Agility continued at this year's international CDIO conference in Liverpool with a full day working group with participants from Australia, Mongolia, India, the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK and Canada.

The focus for the working group was to share and collect examples of Curriculum Agility practices from different universities and at different organisational levels. The examples were discussed in the light of the four Domains of Curriculum Agility and its ten Principles. The resulting overview showed not only a variety of good examples, but also a nice spread across the Domains and the Principles.

The next step in the ongoing work with Curriculum Agility is a guidebook that is planned to be published later this year/early next year. The outcomes of the working group will serve as illustrative examples of curricular innovation and systemic adaptations.

STRENGTHENING CDIO PRACTICE WORLDWIDE: EXPLORING CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE CDIO ECOSYSTEM

What is the Working Group Exploring?

The CDIO Working Group on Faculty Development was established to explore how the CDIO community can continue to support and strengthen the capabilities of those responsible for implementing CDIO in practice.

Traditionally, discussions around professional development within CDIO have focused primarily on faculty competence and teaching competence, reflected in Standards 9 and 10. However, as CDIO implementation has matured globally, an important question has emerged:

How do we support capability development across the entire CDIO implementation ecosystem?

Successful CDIO implementation depends not only on instructors, but also on programme managers, educational leaders, technicians, support staff, and others who contribute to curriculum design, implementation, assessment, and continuous improvement.

The working group is therefore exploring a broader, role-based approach to capability development that recognises the different contributions and development needs of different practitioner groups.

Why Does This Matter for CDIO?

The CDIO Standards provide a shared framework for high-quality implementation. They define what effective CDIO programmes should include in areas such as curriculum, learning experiences, assessment, workspaces, and continuous improvement.

However, successful implementation ultimately depends on the people who bring these standards to life.

As engineering education continues to evolve in response to emerging technologies, interdisciplinary practice, sustainability challenges, and generative AI, there is growing value in helping CDIO practitioners understand not only what the Standards require, but also the capabilities needed to implement them effectively within their own contexts.

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A stronger understanding of practitioner capabilities has the potential to strengthen implementation consistency, support institutional adoption, and accelerate the sharing of expertise across the CDIO community.

What Was Discussed in Liverpool?

During the CDIO International Conference in Liverpool, the working group facilitated discussions with members of the international CDIO community to explore possible directions for future capability development efforts.

The discussions examined several possible outcomes, including:

- competency frameworks for CDIO practitioners;
- professional development pathways and progression models;
- practical implementation guides and exemplars;
- just-in-time resources and mentoring support;
- AI-enabled support tools and knowledge resources; and
- the future role of Standards 9 and 10 in supporting faculty development.

One important theme emerged consistently throughout the discussions: **different roles within the CDIO ecosystem require different capabilities and different forms of support.**

Emerging Directions from Liverpool

One of the most significant outcomes from Liverpool was the recognition that capability development within CDIO may extend beyond traditional faculty development towards supporting the wider ecosystem of practitioners involved in successful implementation.

Rather than developing a single competency framework for all practitioners, the working group is now exploring whether a role-based capability development approach may be more useful for the community.

Such an approach could potentially include:

- role-specific competencies and capability expectations;
- developmental rubrics and progression pathways;
- curated resources, exemplars, and implementation guides;
- peer mentoring and communities of practice; and
- AI-enabled support tools to provide just-in-time guidance and assistance.

The working group will continue refining these ideas through further discussion at the international working meeting in Barcelona and consultation with the CDIO community as the work progresses.

Ultimately, this work is about strengthening the people who strengthen CDIO.

CDIO COUNCIL MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS

The CDIO Council met twice during the 2026 Conference in Liverpool. The key outcomes of these meetings are summarised below:

Selection of the 2028 CDIO Conference host

One of the Council's major decisions was the selection of the host for the 2028 CDIO International Conference. Four outstanding proposals were received from **Queen's University Belfast** (Northern Ireland), **Universidad Fidélitas** (Costa

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Rica), **Singapore Polytechnic** (Singapore) and **SRM Institute of Science and Technology** (India). Following two rounds of voting, the Council selected Singapore Polytechnic as the host for the 2028 conference. The CDIO Council congratulates Singapore Polytechnic on its successful bid and extends its sincere appreciation to Queens's University Belfast, Universidad Fidélitas and SRM Institute of Science and Technology for the high quality of their proposals and their commitment to the CDIO Initiative.

Progress against the 2026 Activity Plan

The Council also reviewed progress against the 2026 CDIO Activity Plan, which outlines the key initiatives and priorities that the Council is committed to advancing. The review demonstrated strong progress across several activities, including:

- Future of CDIO work
- New CDIO introductory workshops
- Faculty Development
- Assessment
- Curriculum Agility.

The Council also commenced planning for its 2027 activities and discussed the development of a long-term strategic plan for the CDIO Initiative. The International Working Meeting in Barcelona will play an important role in finalising the 2027 Activity Plan and initiating the long-term strategic planning process.

The Council reviewed the CDIO Communication strategy, including regional leaders' meetings, newsletters, events and social media, with a focus on strengthening engagement and communication across the global CDIO community.

Membership was also reviewed. The CDIO Initiative currently comprises 233 member institutions worldwide. The Council discussed strategies to increase member engagement and encourage greater participation in CDIO meetings, events and collaboration activities. Regional Leaders were recognised as playing a key role in supporting member engagement and regularly reviewing the status of institutions within their regions.

Finally, the Council discussed the upcoming **International Working Meeting in Barcelona** and developed the first draft of the meeting program. Further information about the Barcelona meeting is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

The 23rd International CDIO Conference will be held by D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University during the 21st to the 24th of June, 2027. The Council confirmed the appointment of Reidar Lyng, Jens Bennedsen and Cesar Ortega as members of the Conference Organising Committee.

CDIO ASIA REGIONAL MEETING 2026 - KAZAKHSTAN

Dates: 23–26 September 2026

Location: D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University, Kazakhstan

D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University (EKTU) warmly welcomes all CDIO members from around the world to attend the 2026 CDIO Asian Regional Meeting (ARM), which will be held on September 23-26, 2026, at the EKTU campus in Oskemen, Kazakhstan. This will be the first time the ARM is held in Central Asia, and it promises to offer a distinctive and memorable experience.

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The CDIO community has come together to offer a diverse range of activities featuring speakers from Asia, including Singapore Polytechnic (Singapore), Batangas State University - The National Engineering University (Philippines), Universiti Teknologi MARA (Malaysia), SRM Institute of Science and Technology (India), Hokkaido Information University (Japan), Duy Tan University (Vietnam), and the University of Indonesia (Indonesia), as well as CDIO members from other parts of the world, including Turku University of Applied Sciences (Finland), Umeå University (Sweden), whose CDIO Europe Co-Leader will deliver the keynote address, and ESPRIT (Tunisia). Selected sessions will be broadcast live, allowing participants to join the ARM remotely from their home countries.

In addition to presentations and sharing sessions, participants will have the opportunity to visit EKTU's Luban Workshop, a prominent vocational education project established in collaboration with China's Tianjin Vocational Institute. Named after Lu Ban, the ancient Chinese patron of builders and craftsmen, the program serves as a flagship international educational platform designed to support the development of the local automotive and transport engineering sectors, including the application of smart technologies and artificial intelligence.

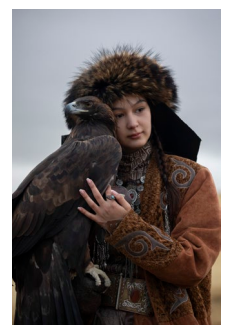


One of the highlights of the ARM, which is supported by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, will be the National Cultural Festival "Shygys Salburyny." This international event showcases traditional falconry and the nomadic heritage of Kazakhstan in the Ulan district. The final day of the ARM will take place at the festival venue, giving participants a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in Kazakhstan's rich cultural traditions.

Whether you are a CDIO member from Asia or from another region of the world, you are most welcome to join us.

For updates, program information, and registration details, please visit the official event website:

<https://cdio.ektu.kz>



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INTERNATIONAL WORKING MEETING - BARCELONA

Dates: 21–23 October 2026

Location: Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Barcelona, Spain

The **International CDIO Working Meeting 2026** will take place on **21–23 October 2026** in **Barcelona**, hosted by **Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)** at the **UPC North Campus, Telecom Engineering School**.

Practical arrangements, including the registration fee, recommended hotels, and transport information, are currently under preparation. The registration will start at the beginning of September.



While the programme is still being developed, the outline below provides a preview of what participants can expect:

Wednesday, 21 st October	14:00 – 18:00	Welcome & meeting goals Strategic discussion on CDIO Future of CDIO – new standard framework
Thursday, 22 nd October	9:00 – 16:30	UPC presentation Parallel sessions on: Future of CDIO Parallel sessions on: CDIO introductory workshop, Faculty Development, Assessment, Peer-to-Peer tool
	16:30 – 20:00	Visit Modernist (Art Nouveau) Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau https://santpaubarcelona.org/en/ Visit Sagrada Família Cathedral https://sagradafamilia.org/en/home Dinner
Friday, 23 rd October	9:00 – 14:00	Parallel sessions on: CDIO organization's roles and election procedures, CDIO communication plan, CDIO event handbook CDIO activity plan + reports on activities (AI and Syllabus for example) Next IWM 2027 host

Welcome to join colleagues from across the CDIO community in Barcelona for three days of focused collaboration, shared learning, and strategic discussion on the future of CDIO.

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EUROPEAN, UK AND IRELAND REGIONAL MEETING 2027

Dates: 18–19 January 2027

Location: University of Zagreb, Ul. Radoslava Cimermana 88 10000 Zagreb Croatia

We are pleased to announce the 2027 CDIO European, UK and Ireland Regional Meeting will be hosted by University of Zagreb, Croatia. The event will take place from 18–19 January 2027 in Zagreb.

The initial emphasis is to place a stronger emphasis on the connection between higher education and industry. The plan is to involve several industrial partners. Part of the programme would take place at one of their campuses, where participants would have the opportunity to visit laboratories and production facilities, while the remainder of the meeting would be hosted at the University of Zagreb.

The very first working title for the meeting is: *Engineering Education for Innovation: Strengthening Technology Transfer, Industry Collaboration and Entrepreneurship*. The program will contain among others invited keynotes, CDIO introductory workshops, examples and case study presentations.

The website for the event will be opened in September, but please mark the dates in your calendar already!

Welcome to Zagreb!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Following are all the future CDIO meetings that have been agreed. List of future meetings is available at the CDIO Website as well. A welcome message of the next three meetings follows in the later sections of this newsletter.

Meeting	Place	Date
Asian regional meeting	Kazakhstan	September 23 – 26, 2026
2026 CDIO International Working Meeting	Barcelona, Spain	October 21 – 23, 2026
2027 European, UK & Ireland regional meeting	Zagreb, Croatia	January 18 – 19, 2027
The 23 rd International CDIO conference	Online, hosted by D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University (EKTU)	June 21 – 24, 2027
The 24 th International CDIO conference	Onsite, hosted by Singapore Polytechnic	June, 2028