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CHALLENGES FOR THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

## The Civil Engineering Olympiad: A program to open student vocations

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### ABSTRACT

Five years ago the US Bureau of Labor Statistics predicted a much higher than average growth in jobs over the next decade in Civil Engineering (CE) areas, approximately 19%. This supposes a clearly need for qualified civil engineers to fill these jobs, however during the last decades the number of students interested on CE university degrees has decreased. In Spain, the economic crisis has aggravated the problem, in consequence the Professional Association of Civil Engineers (Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos) and four Superior Technical Schools of the universities of Granada, Sevilla, Alicante and Polytecnic of Valencia have joined together to develop a program to open secondary students vocations. The program has been named **The Olympiad in Civil Engineering**; it is a competition between teams of five students to overcome, in the shortest time possible, six tests related to different areas of CE: Hydraulic Engineering, Mechanical and Structural Engineering, Environmental Engineering and Construction Engineering. Winner team of each university will compete in a national final. In May 2018 the participant universities will develop a pilot

experience to check the tests and solve possible organization problems to celebrate the First Edition of the Olympiad of Civil Engineering in 2019 with a higher number of Universities. This is one way to increase the pool of gifted students who could study Civil Engineering degrees in future, as similar competitions and programs successfully developed during year, for example Mathematical, Biological or Chemical Engineering Olympiads, among others.

## REFERENCES

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