

## Laudatio SEFI Leonardo da Vinci Medal Winner Ruth Graham

24 September 2020



The Leonardo da Vinci Medal is the highest distinction SEFI can bestow. The Medal is awarded by the SEFI Board of Directors to living persons who have made an outstanding contribution to engineering education, which has had an international significance.

Ruth Graham, you are officially living outside the academic 'bubble', however, everyone in engineering education seems to know you. You are part of our engineering education community, and you have delivered substantial contributions in improving university teaching and learning in the UK and in a wide variety of countries. Your engineering education trend study commissioned by MIT is supporting all of us to set out the future of our engineering education. Your international contacts inspired you to form an international coalition, which has led to the design and validation of a teaching career framework that is now adopted in many places around the world, well beyond the engineering domain. In today's keynote we have heard what came next, both at individual universities but also in national settings across all universities. At the kick-off of the Dutch national initiative you were a guest of honor having inspired so many of us.

A teaching cultures survey has provided baseline data and will measure follow-up progress. The open source nature of your approach allows all academic institutes to use key findings and roadmaps for implementation. If we try to identify what the successful ingredients are, we not only find the well-grounded academic features of your work, we also find the subtle composition of the international coalition both at the institutional and the personal level, but in the end it turns out that you are an important ingredient foremost. An engineering background, good consultancy skills, perseverance, vision and a sense of urgency are all combined in how you work and who you are. The Leonardo da Vinci medal is based on past performance, but we urge you, Ruth Graham, to continue the good work in our field! I now hand over to our SEFI President Yolande Berbers to present to you the SEFI Leonardo da Vinci medal.

**Jan van der Veen on behalf of the SEFI Board of Directors.**