ENGINEERS EUROPE

# Position paper on Code of Conduct: Ethics and Conduct of Professional Engineers

Prepared by the Certification Committee – June 2026
*approved by the ENGINEERS EUROPE General Assembly on 16.10.2026*

## Codes of Conduct

The pan-European statement on engineering ethics and conduct presented below is best implemented through the codes issued by national engineering associations. These codes can, and in general already do, incorporate the listed objectives in a form which reflects national circumstances and allow additional objectives to be added as required by national practice.

This code of conduct includes ethical principles for general engineering practices and has been enhanced to include emerging ethical challenges for engineers as they relate to data-driven and intelligence systems.

## Ethical Principles for General Engineering Practice

The decisions and actions of engineers have a significant impact on the environment and the wellbeing of society, a responsibility that continues to grow in the twenty-first century. The engineering profession therefore has an obligation to act in the public interest, with particular regard for equality, diversity, health, safety, and sustainability.

Engineers are required to maintain and promote high ethical standards and to challenge unethical behaviour.

Four fundamental principles guide ethical behaviour and decision-making: honesty and integrity, respect for life, law, the environment, and the public good, accuracy and rigour, and leadership and communication.

## Ethical Principles for Data-Driven and Intelligent Systems

In the context of increasingly advanced data-driven and intelligent systems, engineers carry enhanced responsibilities due to the scale, complexity, and societal impact of these technologies. These responsibilities extend beyond the application considerations to how systems are designed, evaluated, and deployed.

## Framework Statement

National associations of engineers, together with ENGINEERS EUROPE in relation to EUR ING registrants, maintain Codes of Conduct that share many common principles and are intended to give effect to the ethical standards outlined above. As a result of this alignment, the European engineering profession as a whole can make a universal statement regarding the conduct of professional engineers.

ENGINEERS EUROPE

## This universal statement is detailed as follows:

Individual engineers have a personal obligation to act with integrity, in the public interest, and to exercise all reasonable skills and care in carrying out their work.

In so doing engineers:

- *Shall maintain their relevant competencies at the necessary level and only undertake tasks for which they are competent.*
- *Shall not misrepresent their educational qualifications or professional titles.*
- *Shall provide impartial analysis and judgement to employer or clients, avoid conflicts of interest, and observe proper duties of confidentiality.*
- *Shall carry out their tasks to prevent avoidable danger to health and safety, and prevent avoidable adverse impact on the environment.*
- *Shall accept appropriate responsibility for their work and that carried out under their supervision.*
- *Shall respect the personal rights of people with whom they work and the legal and cultural values of the societies in which they carry out assignments.*
- *Shall be prepared to contribute to the public debate on matters of technical understanding in fields in which they are competent to comment.*
- *Shall challenge unethical behavior when observed or experienced and enforce best ethical practices in their work assignments.*

Additionally, and in the context of data-driven and intelligent systems, engineers should:

- *Acknowledge that outputs from automated or intelligent systems may be uncertain, probabilistic, or context-dependent, and should not be assumed to be inherently correct.*
- *Ensure appropriate validation, monitoring, and human oversight, particularly where outcomes affect safety, fundamental rights, or critical decisions.*
- *Avoid undue reliance on automated outputs in high-stakes contexts without appropriate verification and accountability.*
- *Maintain rigorous evaluation practices to identify bias, failure modes, and unintended consequences.*