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ACE NEWS

ACE Energy Day - Presenting Materials and Technologies from LEEMA, iNSPIre and A2PBEER



As part of the [EU Sustainable Energy Week](#) (EUSEW), on 16 June in Brussels the Architects' Council of Europe presented results and progress of three FP7 projects in which it is involved: LEEMA, iNSPIre and A2PBEER. The conference displayed various innovative materials and technologies in thematic sessions on Lighting, Façades and Insulation. The event was an opportunity to find out more about cutting-edge research towards more energy efficient buildings and how to apply it in practice, and gave networking opportunities between the three projects, ACE members and other energy and climate stakeholders.

International Section on ACE Website



The 2015 ACE Sector Study reveals that less than 3% of European architects' revenue come from work undertaken outside Europe. European construction markets are expected to grow at a slower rate than the emerging markets and it is estimated that 90% of construction growth over the next 10 years will come from the emerging markets so there is an increasing need for the European architectural profession to develop and maintain a stronger global perspective in order to access international markets. For these reasons, the ACE has developed an International Section on its Website, which aims to provide European architects with a wide range of information to help them access international markets. Through the menu on the right of the homepage, you may access information on market access, business support, research programmes, international legislation and agreements, as well as a bibliography on the internationalisation of SMEs and architectural services. The section will be regularly updated in order to provide the most precise information. [Click here to visit the International Section](#)

New ACE Logo



Following the creation of a new Website in 2014, the ACE continues the update of its graphic identity by launching a new logo. ACE President Luciano Lazzari said: "After 25 years of service, the incoming Board of 2015 thought it was time to redesign the ACE logo. The decision to renew rather than recreate a logo was felt important for continuity, recognition and respect for tradition, all sentiments that are valued within the organisation." Please contact the Secretariat to request the JPG of the new logo.

ACE Website Satisfaction Survey



The ACE modernised its website in 2014 in order to improve its communications with the ACE Member Organisations, the architectural community, EU decision-makers and the other construction industry stakeholders. In order to evaluate the overall satisfaction of users of our website and identify where improvements are possible, we invite you to complete this short online questionnaire (3 minutes). Your answers will be treated anonymously. [Complete the survey](#)

ACE 2014 Annual report and 2015 Outlook



The ACE has published its 2014 Annual Report & 2015 Outlook. The document, issued in English and French, contains information about activities carried out in 2014 and priorities for 2015, as well as the financial out-turn and governance structure. Main priorities for 2015 comprise: follow-up of the implementation of the new Public Procurement and Professional Qualifications Directives, help for EU Architects to become more globally competitive, working with DG TRADE and DG GROW; review of the Energy Efficiency and Energy Performance of Buildings Directives. [Read the Annual Report](#)

ACE Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA)



On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the [Commonwealth Association of Architects](#) (CAA), celebrated on 15 June in London, ACE President Luciano Lazzari and CAA President Rukshan Widyalandara signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which strengthens the mutual collaboration between the two representation bodies. The MoU aims to rationalise the resources of the Parties and reinforce the capacity of action, to explore collaboration possibilities for joint positions and lobbying activities, and to promote high educational standards and CPD. [Read](#)

EU NEWS

Energy waste in buildings: low commitment on behalf of National Governments



A new analysis by the [Coalition for Energy Savings](#) of national reports on the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) reveals that central governments have not shown leadership in ending the waste of energy in their own buildings. The report analyses the plans and inventories that Member States notified to the EU Commission in order to comply with Article 5 of the EED, which requires them to annually renovate 3% of the floor area of central government buildings or put in place alternative measures to reach at least the same energy savings. Out of the 28 EU Member States, 11 chose to implement Article 5 by adopting the default approach by renovating 3% of the total floor area for the buildings listed in their published inventory, and 17 by adopting the alternative approach. [Read the full study](#)

EUROSTAT: Production in construction down by 0.3% in EU28



In April 2015 compared with March 2015, seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector rose by 0.3% in the euro area (EA19) and fell by 0.3% in the EU28, according to first estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU. In March 2015, production in construction grew by 0.6% and 1.4% respectively. In April 2015 compared with April 2014, production in construction remained stable in the euro area and grew by 1.3% in the EU28. [Read the Press Release](#)

EU Commission requests AUSTRIA and the UNITED KINGDOM to comply with Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD)

On 18 June, the EU Commission requested Austria to fully transpose the Energy Efficiency in Buildings Directive into national law. Separately, the Commission received a complaint regarding a potential lack of compliance by the UK for the issuing and display of Energy Performance Certificates in public buildings. As no Member State had fully transposed this Directive by the deadline, the Commission opened infringement procedures against all 28 Member States. In 2014, the Commission decided to refer 4 Member States to the EU Court of Justice. Since then most Member States have now complied with their transposition obligations and the only infringements still open are against Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Poland. [Read the Press Release](#).

Towards the EU Urban Agenda



On 2 June, the EU Commission presented during the 2nd CITIES Forum the [results of the public consultation on the key features of an EU Urban Agenda](#). The document summarises views from stakeholders across Europe on why we need an EU urban agenda, what it should contain, how it should operate and what the roles of different actors from local to EU level should be. A week after, Ministers responsible for Territorial and Urban Development agreed on the [Riga Declaration "Towards the EU Urban Agenda"](#), prepared by the Latvian Presidency. The

Declaration identifies the key elements and principles that should be taken into account in future work on development of the EU Urban Agenda during the upcoming Presidencies, namely: recognition of the diversity of urban areas, focus on opportunities offered by urban areas, improvement of the urban dimension of EU policies and cooperation between urban areas. The Urban Agenda will be one the priority of the Dutch Presidency of the EU Council in first semester 2016.

Single-member private limited liability companies: Council agrees on general approach



On 28 May 2015, the Council agreed a compromise text for a draft directive aimed at creating a new status for single-member private limited liability companies. The draft directive aims to facilitate the cross-border activities of businesses, particularly SMEs, and the establishment of single-member companies as subsidiaries in other member states, by reducing the costs and administrative burdens involved in setting up these companies. The agreement constitutes the Council's general approach, which will serve as the basis for forthcoming negotiations with the European Parliament. [Read the Press Release](#)

A new website for the European Housing Forum



The European Housing Forum (EHF) has launched its new [website](#). The Forum is an informal platform gathering representative organisations of the entire housing sector. Its members, which include the ACE, are all major international or European organisations representing consumers, providers, professionals and researchers. The EHF is a partner of the [European Parliament URBAN Intergroup](#).

EU PROJECTS

At the moment the ACE is involved in five EU funded research projects. All projects relate to the building sector and address issues related to sustainability, energy efficiency, renovation, innovative materials and technologies. Through these ACE seeks to promote the architects' role in building sustainably and energy retrofitting.



[LEEMA](#) project (January 2012 - December 2015) aims to develop novel, inorganic insulation materials and building-insulation masonry components that will be suitable for applications both in new and retrofitted buildings. The developed materials will have significantly lower embodied energy (70-90%) and a lower unit cost (25-30%) compared to the cost of commonly used insulation materials.

The project is in its final year. The core development of the project is a loose filling material, which can be used to develop other applications, such as cavity wall insulation, fesco boards, fibre cement boards or filled insulation bricks. The product is very versatile and can be fine-tuned according to its application. On 27 June 2015, MFPA Weimar, one of the LEEMA partners, used their premises to present the LEEMA project to architects and the wider public during the [Architecture Day Thüringen](#) 2015. The next project meeting will take place in Athens on 1 + 2 July.



[iNSPIRe](#) (October 2012 - September 2016) aims to tackle the problem of high-energy consumption by producing systemic renovation packages that can be applied to residential and office buildings. The renovation packages to be developed by iNSPIRe aim to reduce the primary energy consumption of a retrofitted building to lower than 50kWh/m²/year. The packages are going to be suitable to a variety of climates while ensuring optimum comfort for the building users.

Project officer Veronika Schröpfer participated in the fifth project meeting in Madrid, Spain on the 14 and 15 April. The iNSPIRe project develops systemic renovation packages that can be applied to residential and office buildings. ACE organised a workshop with ACE Thematic Area 3 members on non-technical barriers and the architects' perception of the renovation packages in Brussels on the Wednesday 17 June 2015.



[A2PBEER](#) project (October 2013 - September 2017) aims to develop a systemic energy efficient buildings' retrofitting methodology for public buildings and will take advantage of synergies derived from interventions at district level. A2PBEER methodology will include already available building solutions and more innovative ones developed by the project, such as "high performance envelope retrofitting", with super-insulated façade panels and smart windows, "smart lighting systems" combining LED and natural

light, and the "Smart Dual Thermal Substation", a new approach to district heating. Together with LITT the ACE project officer has published another article on A2PBEER in the April edition of the [Design and Build Review online magazine](#). The next project meeting will take place in Bilbao, Spain on 16-18 September.



Erasmus+

Erasmus+ (September 2014 - August 2017). This project with the title 'Confronting Wicked Problems: Adapting Architectural Education to the New Situation in Europe' is organised in three Think Tanks for Profession, Heritage and Sustainability. The second round of transnational meetings and Learning/Teaching/Training Activities took place in Delft, Genoa and Barcelona in

April/ May. The sustainability workshops held in Delft hosted 10 students from Delft and 5 students from Bucharest and Milan respectively. The workshop's point of departure was the acknowledgement that architecture as an education, a discipline and a profession has to redefine and release its potential for problem-solving and innovation within a new economic, societal and ecological context. The results are presented in a [booklet](#).

The **PROF-TRAC** (March 2015 - February 2018) project started at the beginning of March and aims at developing and maintaining an Open Education Platform for Continuing Professional Development. This platform addresses technical experts, architects and managers. The developed European qualification scheme will be part of a life-long-life learning process for continuing development and up-skilling of professionals. ACE Member Organisations (MOs) in Italy and Slovenia are also part of the consortium. The Danish and Greek MOs will take part in the second round of the project. There will be a meeting in Prague on 2 + 3 July to discuss the mapping of skills and qualifications in the EU.

NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Spanish Architecture Award 2015

The rehabilitation of the former Military Hospital to host the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Granada (Granada High School of Architecture), by architect Víctor López Cotelo, has been awarded the Spanish Architecture Award 2015. Jury members, met in Madrid on the 10 June, decided to highlight the restructure of a historical building that has integrated the heterogeneity of the ensemble under a global concept in which diversity is respected and brought together with an unusual sense of balance, stylistic containment and great professionalism. [More information](#) (only in Spanish)

New President for the Syndicat de l'Architecture



Johann Froeliger is the new President of the French [Syndicat de l'Architecture](#) (SA), an organisation representing 800 adherents. Recently elected, the Alsatian architect had been elected for the next 3 years, having as main priorities the defense of Public Procurement and defining the role of the architect in BIM.

New President for the Technical Chamber of Greece



Giorgos N. Stasinou has been elected as President of the [Technical Chamber of Greece](#) (TEE-TCG). The new TCG President is a Civil Engineer who graduated from the Technical University of Patras. He has been a Member of the TCG Assembly from 2006 and is already a Member of the TCG Executive Committee since 2014 and President of the Engineering Party of the Hellenic Party ND of the European People's Party since 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

[ACE 2014 Annual Report & 2015 Outlook](#)

[Erasmus+ project: Confronting Wicked Problems; Adapting Architectural Education to the New Situation in Europe](#)

[Coalition for Energy Savings - Implementing the EU Energy Efficiency Directive: Analysis of Member States plans to implement Article 5](#)

EVENTS

[DO! 2015 - International Alvar Aalto -Symposium 7-9 August in Jyväskylä, Finland](#)

[All inclusive - 18 September, Stockholm, Sweden](#)

[12th International Forum of Young Architects - Flers, France 7/18 December](#)

8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns, 27-29 April 2016, Bilbao, Spain

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public consultation on Circular Economy

The EU Commission is running a [public consultation on circular economy](#) in order to prepare a new strategy to transform Europe into a more competitive resource-efficient economy, addressing a range of economic sectors, including waste. The strategy will comprise a revised legislative proposal on waste and a Communication setting out an action plan on the circular economy. Deadline: 20 August 2015.



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