



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

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## Glimmers of hope despite an adverse economic climate

**Whereas the results of a survey undertaken by the Architects' Council of Europe show that waves of uncertainty continue to hit the architectural profession, some slight improvements leave hope for the future.**

According to the tenth ACE economic trends survey carried out in January 2013, more than six in ten European architects responding consider that the economic climate in which they are currently working, is not favourable to their activities. Optimism remains low in the profession: fewer than 10% of respondents to the study declare themselves optimistic about the current situation for architectural practice in Europe.

However, despite the current adverse economic climate, a large majority of respondents (62,5%) is not expecting a change in staff numbers in the short term (compared with 20,8% expecting a decrease and 12,6% expecting an increase). This might be explained by the fact that 41% of European architects expect their workload to be stable over the coming three months and 22% even expect a slight increase.

Besides analysing the current economic situation, the ACE study also looks at architects' expected workloads over the coming three months. For the second consecutive year, the number of respondents expecting a decrease in workload for private housing and public buildings is rising (respectively 43% and 46,5% in January 2013). On the other hand, even if the number of architects expecting an increase of workload for public housing (16,8%) and commercial buildings (13,3%) still remains low, these expectations have grown by more 6 percentage points and 3 percentage points respectively compared with 2012.

As a result, the January 2013 survey illustrates that a cloud of pessimism and uncertainty is still hanging over the architectural profession, and no sector of activity is spared. It seems that the profession expects the situation to remain difficult in the coming months. However some positive signs leave hope that this negative trend might be reversed.

The tenth ACE economic trends survey was carried out in January 2013 and received around 3000 responses. These surveys are carried out every six months and allow the ACE to get a picture of the nature and extent of the economic crisis in the field of architecture.

For the full survey results, visit the ACE website at the following address:  
[http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/index/category\\_id/220/language/en](http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/index/category_id/220/language/en)

*The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) is the representative organisation for the architectural profession at European level: it aspires to speak with a single voice on its behalf in order to achieve its aims. Its growing membership currently consists of 46 Member Organisations, which are the regulatory and professional representative bodies in all European Union (EU) Member States, Accession Countries, Switzerland and Norway. Through them, the ACE represents the interests of over 526,000 architects from 33 countries in Europe.*

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