



Pecha Kucha – ACE General Assembly

20/04/2018, Brussels

To be returned to the ACE Secretariat by 15 March 2018

COUNTRY	MALTA
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1. Highlight one or more recent industry developments in your country

- I. The Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers (KTP) has expressed concern at the current weakness of spatial planning structures, which are proving ineffective in dealing with increased traffic congestion and a declining quality of urban space and architectural design, in the face of the current extraordinary vigour and scale of the local construction industry.
- II. The Maltese government has recently given increased impetus to the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Malta is meant to reach zero-energy performance levels for new buildings by 2020. However, serious doubts remain whether this will be achieved through an increased dependence on renewable energy sources or by improved construction standards, considering that Malta still does not have a robust and contemporary suite of Building Regulations.

2. Describe one or more recent professional developments in your country

- I. The KTP has been working with its government for a number of years, to draft new legislation which regulates access to the profession in accordance with the relevant Directives. It is also proposing to strengthen self-regulating procedures for professional conduct and to reduce the period of liability for the structural integrity of buildings from fifteen years down to eight to ten years, in line with the norm in the EU. It is hoped that the proposed law will be presented in Parliament before the end of the current legislature.
- II. The removal of a long-standing and statutory tariff of fees in 2010 has caused a drop in revenues, which has impacted on the level of service offered to consumers and to the quality of architectural design. Consumers are not getting the services that they need at a cheaper rate; they are simply being offered reduced services. It is feared that the profession is heading towards an unsustainable future, particularly when the construction industry inevitably starts to cool down.

3. State what you expect from the European Institutions (and/or ACE) in the coming years.

The KTP hopes that the ACE will continue to explain that the European Institutions recognise that only 4% of the architects in Europe work in practices which comprise more than 5 staff. These small practices do not have the resources to offer their services outside their country. While larger practices benefit from practicing freely throughout Europe, the EC should study the impact of an increased domination of the market for architectural services by these large practices over the smaller practices. The playing field is not level.

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