

# 11 ARCHITECTS IN EUROPE



Architect: NOMA arkitekter AS  
Photo: Jean S Lorentzen  
Place: Norway, Vestfold Conty, island of Tjøme

# 1.1 THE NUMBER OF ARCHITECTS IN EUROPE

The estimated total number of architects in EUROPE-32 is approximately 600 000. A quarter of Europe's architects can be found in just one country; Italy, which has 157 000 architects. Germany accounts for another sizable proportion of Europe's architects (109 000).

Other countries with high numbers of architects are Spain (54 000), Turkey (50 000), the United Kingdom (37 000) and France (30 000). Analysed as a proportion of the population, the highest 'densities'

of architects - measured as the number of architects per 1 000 population - are in Italy (2.6 architects per 1 000 population), and Portugal (2.1 architects per 1 000 population). The overall density of architects across Europe is 1.0 architects per 1 000 population.

This year's survey figure of 600 000 architects in Europe is 4 per cent higher than in the previous survey two years ago; which itself was 5 per cent higher than two years earlier. The estimated number of architects continues to climb, at a steady rate. This increase is

explained by growing numbers of young architects entering the profession. The highest growth rates over the last two years (where data for both years is based on an identical source) is Turkey, where the number of architects is up by 12 per cent. The number in the UK has grown by 7 per cent over the two years 2014 to 2016.

CHART 1-1  
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ARCHITECTS 2016

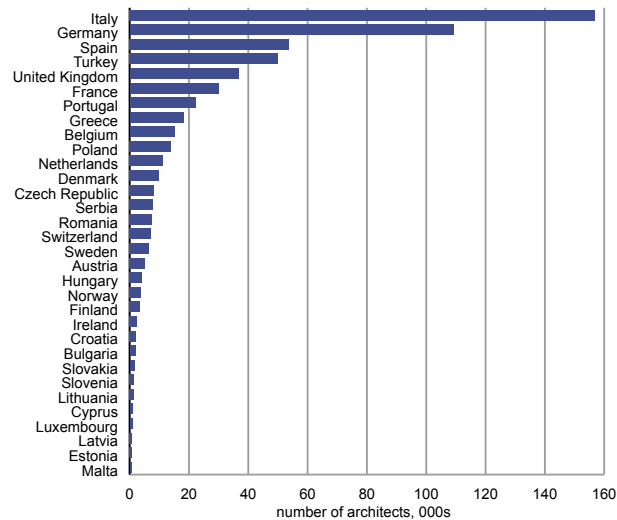
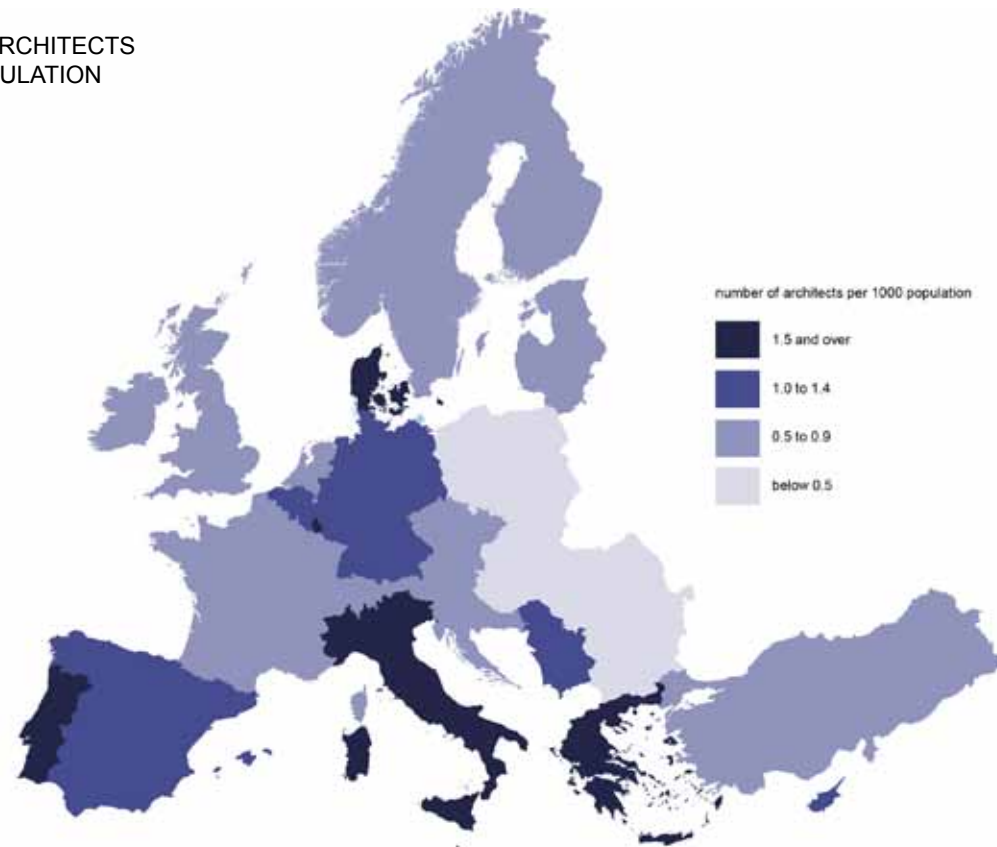


CHART 1-2  
NUMBER OF ARCHITECTS PER 1000 POPULATION



Base: all 32 European countries



**TABLE 1-1**  
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ARCHITECTS IN EACH COUNTRY AND NUMBER OF ARCHITECTS PER 1000 POPULATION

	number of architects	population	architects per 1000 population
Austria	5 200	8 700 471	0.6
Belgium	15 100	11 289 853	1.3
Bulgaria	2 000	7 153 784	0.3
Croatia	2 200	4 190 669	0.5
Cyprus	950	848 319	1.1
Czech Republic	8 300	10 553 843	0.8
Denmark	10 000	5 707 251	1.8
Estonia	800	1 315 944	0.6
Finland	3 500	5 487 308	0.6
France	30 000	66 661 621	0.5
Germany	109 200	82 162 000	1.3
Greece	18 200	10 793 526	1.7
Hungary	4 200	9 830 485	0.4
Ireland	2 500	4 658 530	0.5
Italy	157 000	60 665 551	2.6
Latvia	900	1 968 957	0.5
Lithuania	1 350	2 888 558	0.5
Luxembourg	950	576 249	1.6
Malta	650	434 403	1.5
Netherlands	11 200	16 979 120	0.7
Norway	3 740	5 213 985	0.7
Poland	14 000	37 967 209	0.4
Portugal	22 200	10 341 330	2.1
Romania	7 600	19 759 968	0.4
Serbia	8 000	7 076 372	1.1
Slovakia	1 650	5 426 252	0.3
Slovenia	1 350	2 064 188	0.7
Spain	53 800	46 438 422	1.2
Sweden	6 550	9 851 017	0.7
Switzerland	7 300	8 325 194	0.9
Turkey	50 000	78 741 053	0.6
United Kingdom	36 700	65 341 183	0.6
<b>EUROPE - 32 - 2016</b>	<b>597 100</b>	<b>609 412 615</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<i>EUROPE - 32 - 2014</i>	<i>578 800</i>	<i>565 981 316</i>	<i>1.0</i>
<i>EUROPE - 32 - 2012</i>	<i>550 530</i>	<i>601 451 878</i>	<i>0.9</i>
<i>EUROPE - 32 - 2010</i>	<i>525 700</i>	<i>595 082 893</i>	<i>0.9</i>
<i>EUROPE - 32 - 2008</i>	<i>485 480</i>	<i>586 877 058</i>	<i>0.8</i>

Base: all 32 European countries

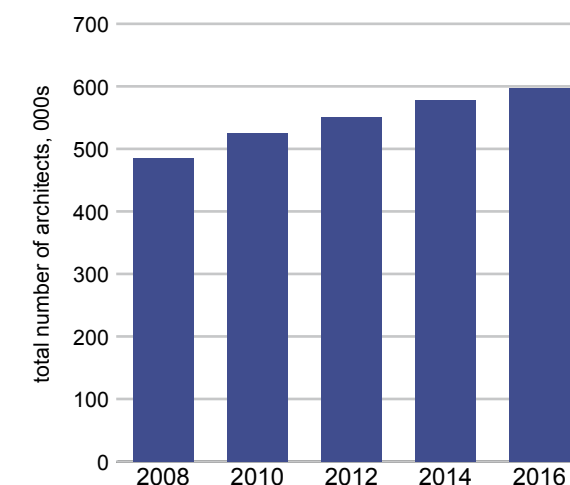
Population source: Eurostat, population as at 1 January 2016, copyright (c) Eurostat

Number of Architects source: Mirza & Nacey estimates. The starting point was data compiled for the 2008 Sector Study which itself was based on the research publication produced by COAC - Architectural Practice Around the World research by the Col·legi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya (COAC), based on information supplied by national institutes and associations of architects of the individual countries. For the 2008 ACE report this data from COAC was updated using a mixture of primary and secondary research.

To update the figures in 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016, we used a mixture of primary and secondary sources including Member Organisations' websites and email contact with Member Organisations. Final figures are Mirza & Nacey best estimates based on these several different sources. All figures are 'latest available'.

Note: some 2008 figures were substantially revised in 2010, which accounts for some of the increase between those two years.

**CHART 1-3**  
CHANGE IN ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ARCHITECTS IN EUROPE-32, 2008-16



Base: all 32 European countries

## 1.2 PROFILE OF ARCHITECTS

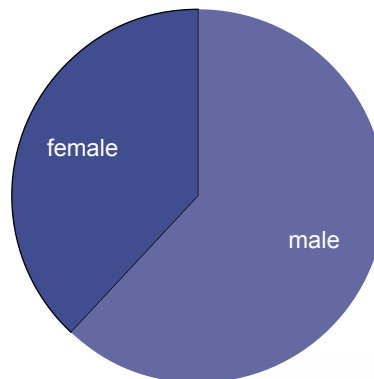
TABLE 1-2  
GENDER OF ARCHITECTS ANALYSED BY COUNTRY

per cent	gender of architects	
	male	female
Austria	80	20
Belgium	72	28
Bulgaria	46	54
Croatia	41	59
Cyprus *	54	46
Czech Republic *	64	36
Denmark	54	46
Estonia *	73	27
Finland	47	53
France	64	36
Germany ***	66	34
Hungary	72	28
Ireland	68	32
Italy	59	41
Lithuania	50	50
Luxembourg	74	26
Malta *	64	36
Netherlands	80	20
Poland	54	46
Portugal	55	45
Romania *	77	23
Slovakia	77	23
Slovenia	48	52
Spain	72	28
Sweden	54	46
Turkey	54	46
United Kingdom	67	33
2016 EUROPE-27**	62	38
2014 EUROPE-26**	61	39
2012 EUR-25 **	64	36
2010 EUR- 23 **	69	31
2008 EUR-17**	63	37

\* caution - small sample.      \*\*\* Germany figures provided by BAK, sourced from BAK surveys 2015 and 2016

\*\* weighted to reflect the total architectural population in all participating countries; weighting process described in Appendix

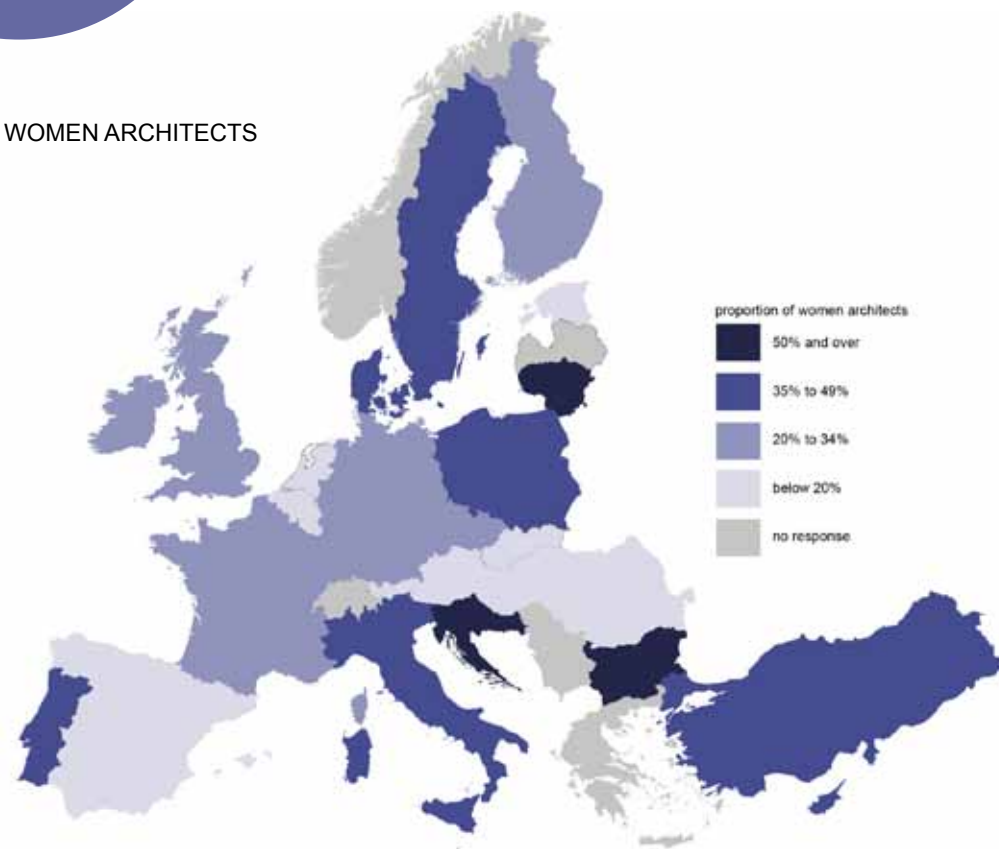
CHART 1-4  
MALE / FEMALE SPLIT, ALL RESPONDING ARCHITECTS



A majority of the profession, 62 per cent, is male. Countries with the highest proportion of male architects are Austria, Slovakia and Romania. In four countries, Croatia, Bulgaria, Finland and Slovenia, there are more female architects than males.

The Europe-27 figure is very similar to that in the 2014 survey, but both recent survey years record more female architects than in the period 2008 to 2012.

CHART 1-5  
PROPORTION OF WOMEN ARCHITECTS



## 1.3 EMPLOYMENT STATUS

TABLE 1-3  
EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF ARCHITECTS ANALYSED BY COUNTRY

per cent	working full-time	working part-time	not working	retired
Austria	88	11	1	1
Belgium	93	6	0	1
Bulgaria	77	14	7	2
Croatia	92	6	0	1
Cyprus *	75	11	12	2
Czech Republic *	59	24	0	17
Denmark	81	10	5	4
Estonia *	80	6	0	15
Finland	89	8	2	0
France	89	7	2	2
Germany ***	82	17	1	0
Hungary	66	14	3	18
Ireland	86	10	3	1
Italy	69	20	8	3
Lithuania	87	9	1	2
Luxembourg	91	9	0	0
Malta *	82	16	2	0
Netherlands	71	22	3	4
Poland	82	12	6	0
Portugal	80	9	9	1
Romania *	92	3	0	5
Slovakia	85	9	2	3
Slovenia	86	3	5	6
Spain	70	22	7	0
Sweden	83	13	2	2
Turkey	85	6	6	3
United Kingdom	81	14	2	3
2016 EUROPE-27 ***	77	15	6	3
2014 EUROPE-26 ***	78	15	5	2
2012 EUROPE-25	76	15	6	2
2010 EUROPE-23 **	84	11	4	1
2008 EUROPE-17**	87	9	3	2

\* caution - small sample

\*\*\* Germany figures are for Partners/Directors/Sole Principals only

\*\* The basis of calculating historical figures (2010 and 2008) has changed. Data is presented as reported and is no longer 'adjusted'. This is discussed in the Appendix.

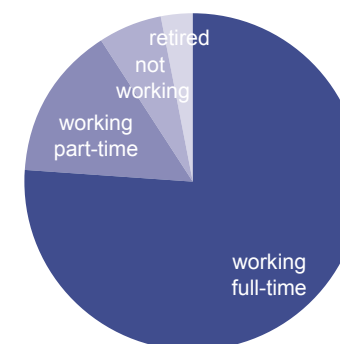
\*\*\* weighted to reflect the total architectural population in all participating countries. The weighting process is explained in the Appendix.

Just over three quarters of the profession is working full-time. This is very similar to the figure recorded in the 2014 and 2012 surveys, but lower than in 2010 or 2008.

In most countries, the proportion of architects working full-time is over 80 per cent - and over 90 per cent in Belgium, Croatia and Luxembourg. The overall full-time average is lowered by Italy (69 per cent full-time) and Spain (70 per cent).

These two countries, along with the Netherlands, have the highest proportions of architects working part-time (20 per cent or more). The highest proportions of architects not working are in Cyprus, Spain and Portugal; each with a reported unemployment rate of 7 per cent or more.

CHART 1-6  
EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF ARCHITECTS



# 1.4 FIELD OF EMPLOYMENT

The largest single field of employment is Sole Principals. Just over a quarter, 26 per cent, of architects describe themselves as a Sole Principal. The highest proportion of architects who are Sole Principals is in Austria. Fifteen per cent of architects are 'freelance', with the highest proportions being in France, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Ten per cent are agency architects, including 58 per cent of architects in the Netherlands and 41 per cent in Spain.

Nearly one quarter of architects are employed in private practice, either as Associates (6 per cent) or private practice salaried staff (16 per cent). The proportions are highest in the UK and Turkey. Just 8 per cent of architects are Partners or Directors, but this proportion

varies markedly between countries. More than 20 per cent of architects in several countries are Partners or Directors - Austria, Ireland, Croatia, Luxembourg and Romania.

About 7 per cent of architects in Europe are employed by central or local government, the highest levels being recorded in Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

The analysis by field of employment is generally very similar to previous years, although the 2016 survey has more architects working as agency or freelance staff than in previous surveys.

CHART 1-7  
FIELD OF EMPLOYMENT

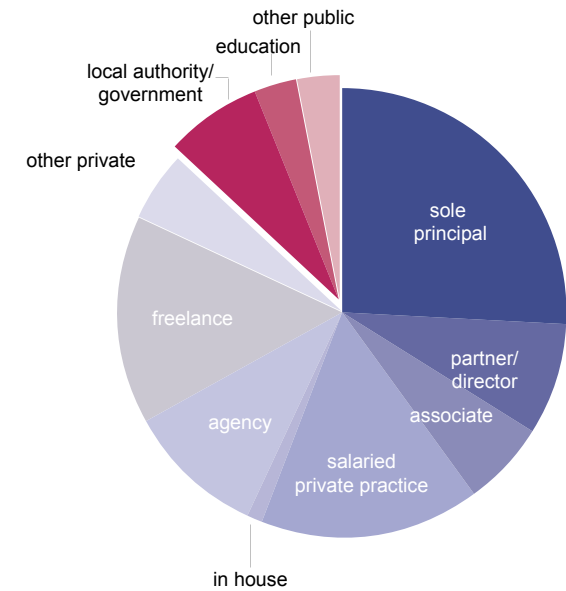


CHART 1-8  
MAIN EMPLOYMENT FIELDS BY COUNTRY

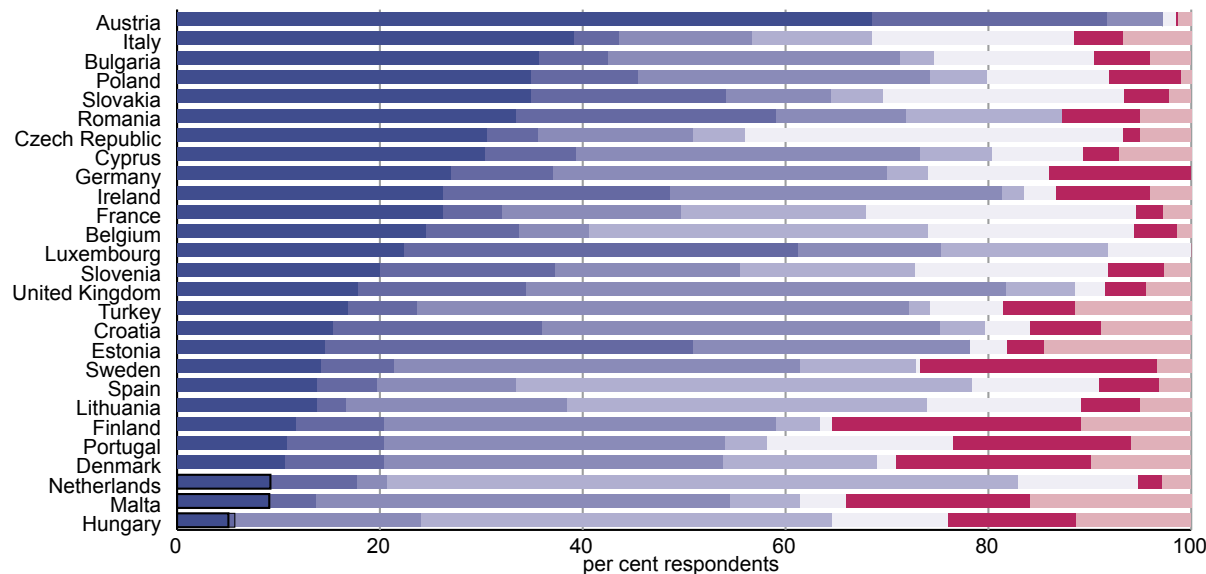




TABLE 1-4  
ARCHITECTS' FIELD OF EMPLOYMENT BY COUNTRY

per cent	sole principal	partner director	associate	private practice salaried	in-house	agency	freelance	other private	local authority	central govt	education	other public
Austria	68	23	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Belgium	25	9	5	1	0	32	20	1	3	1	0	1
Bulgaria	36	7	10	19	0	1	16	2	5	0	3	1
Croatia	15	21	5	34	2	1	4	2	7	0	4	5
Cyprus *	30	9	4	30	2	2	9	4	2	2	2	5
Czech Republic *	31	5	5	10	0	0	37	5	2	0	5	0
Denmark	11	10	2	31	1	4	2	10	17	2	6	4
Estonia *	15	36	20	7	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	15
Finland	12	9	3	35	0	1	1	3	24	1	3	8
France	26	6	11	6	0	17	27	1	3	0	0	2
Germany ***	27	10	<	33	>	12	0	4	0	<	14	>
Hungary	5	1	11	8	1	35	11	4	11	2	1	11
Ireland	26	22	9	23	0	0	3	2	7	2	2	2
Italy	39	4	8	5	2	0	20	10	5	0	2	4
Lithuania	14	3	2	20	0	36	15	0	6	0	4	1
Luxembourg	22	39	13	1	1	15	8	0	0	0	0	0
Malta *	9	5	2	39	0	2	5	5	2	16	9	7
Netherlands	9	9	1	2	2	58	12	3	1	1	1	2
Poland	35	11	3	26	0	1	12	5	7	0	1	1
Portugal	11	10	3	30	1	0	18	3	16	1	3	3
Romania *	33	26	5	8	0	15	0	0	8	0	0	5
Slovakia	35	19	3	7	1	1	24	3	4	1	1	1
Slovenia	20	17	5	14	4	11	19	3	3	3	1	2
Spain	14	6	4	10	0	41	13	3	4	2	2	1
Sweden	14	7	7	33	0	10	0	1	19	5	3	0
Turkey	17	7	1	47	0	0	7	2	6	1	7	5
United Kingdom	18	17	13	34	2	1	3	4	3	1	2	3
2016 EUROPE-27 **	26	8	6	16	1	10	15	5	6	1	3	3
2014 EUROPE-26 **	29	9	7	20	2	7	8	4	7	1	2	3
2012 EUROPE-25 **	32	11	7	16	2	8	10	5	5	1	1	3
2010 EUROPE-23 **	39	12	6	16	1	4	11	4	3	1	2	2
2008 EUROPE-17**	24	16	5	22	3	6	9	4	6	1	2	3

\* caution - small sample

\*\* weighted to reflect the total architectural population in all participating countries.

\*\*\* Germany figures provided by BAK, sourced from BAK surveys 2015 and 2016. Some staff categories do not match precisely. Germany figures are not included in the EUROPE-27 total.

## 1.5 YEARS QUALIFIED AS AN ARCHITECT

A little more than a quarter of architects have been qualified for 25 years or more; another quarter have been qualified for between 15 and 24 years. At the other end of the profession, half of Europe's architects have been qualified for fewer than 15 years.

Highest levels of the least experienced architects are recorded in Turkey, Malta, Poland and Cyprus. The highest proportion of the most experienced architects are found in Hungary, Estonia and Lithuania.

CHART 1-9  
NUMBER OF YEARS ARCHITECTS  
HAVE BEEN QUALIFIED

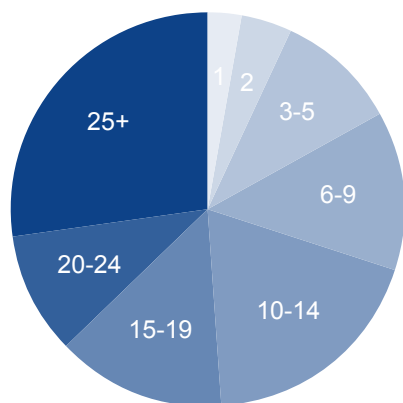


TABLE 1-5  
NUMBER OF YEARS QUALIFIED AS AN ARCHITECT, ANALYSED BY COUNTRY

per cent	number of years qualified as an architect							
	1	2	3 to 5	6 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 +
Austria	3	4	9	10	16	20	14	24
Belgium	1	0	10	12	13	11	11	42
Bulgaria	4	6	11	12	16	7	8	35
Croatia	0	0	12	13	19	11	13	32
Cyprus *	10	7	24	10	8	7	15	19
Czech Republic *	0	0	7	25	22	8	5	32
Denmark	6	5	8	11	10	13	12	36
Estonia *	9	0	0	4	27	2	4	55
Finland	2	1	8	11	13	16	11	38
France	4	3	8	15	15	13	9	33
Germany ***	0	0	6	13	16	17	15	32
Hungary	1	0	4	5	10	13	11	55
Ireland	1	1	4	8	14	19	16	37
Italy	2	3	9	13	19	16	13	26
Lithuania	0	2	0	7	31	4	9	47
Luxembourg	0	0	5	6	18	26	13	33
Malta *	4	4	20	4	16	18	7	27
Netherlands	4	5	10	14	15	11	11	31
Poland	10	12	15	17	14	8	8	19
Portugal	5	5	14	14	18	17	10	17
Romania *	0	0	5	8	31	13	3	41
Slovakia	1	0	4	9	22	18	13	33
Slovenia	0	0	5	16	12	16	20	31
Spain	3	8	13	13	26	14	5	18
Sweden	1	2	10	11	13	14	9	42
Turkey	12	12	17	13	10	8	7	22
United Kingdom	4	6	10	12	10	9	10	38
2016 EUR-27 **	3	4	10	13	19	14	10	27
2014 EUR-26 **	3	3	9	15	19	14	12	27
2012 EUR-25 **	3	4	12	16	19	11	11	24
2010 EUR-23 **	3	5	16	14	12	9	12	28
2008 EUR-17**	4	3	11	17	17	12	13	23

\* caution - small sample

\*\*\* Germany figures provided by BAK, sourced from BAK surveys 2015 and 2016

\*\* weighted to reflect the total architectural population in all participating countries.



## 1.6 AGE PROFILE OF ARCHITECTS

Thirty six per cent of Europe's architects are aged under 40, and half are aged under 45. The age profile rises steeply through the younger ages, peaking at age 35 to 44. The distribution then drops off, more gradually. Countries with high proportions of younger architects include Turkey, Poland, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal and Spain. This year's age profile is very similar to that in previous surveys.

The age profile for women is younger than it is for men; female architects' age peaks at age 40 to 44; male architects ten years later, at 50 to 54.

CHART 1-10  
AGE PROFILE OF ARCHITECTS

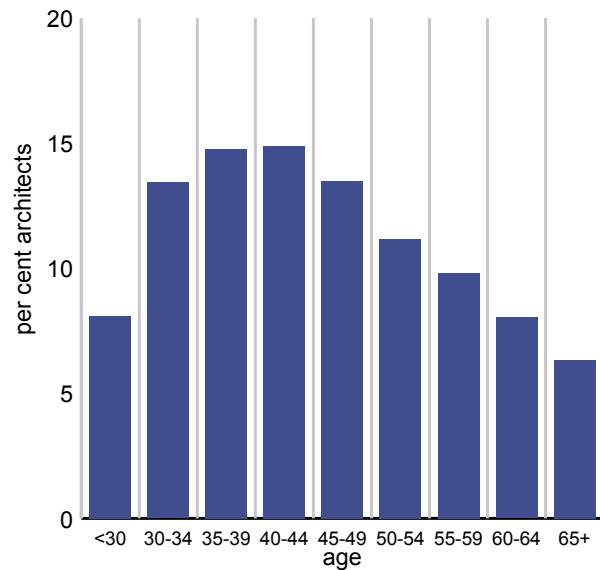


CHART 1-11  
PROPORTION OF ARCHITECTS AGED UNDER 40

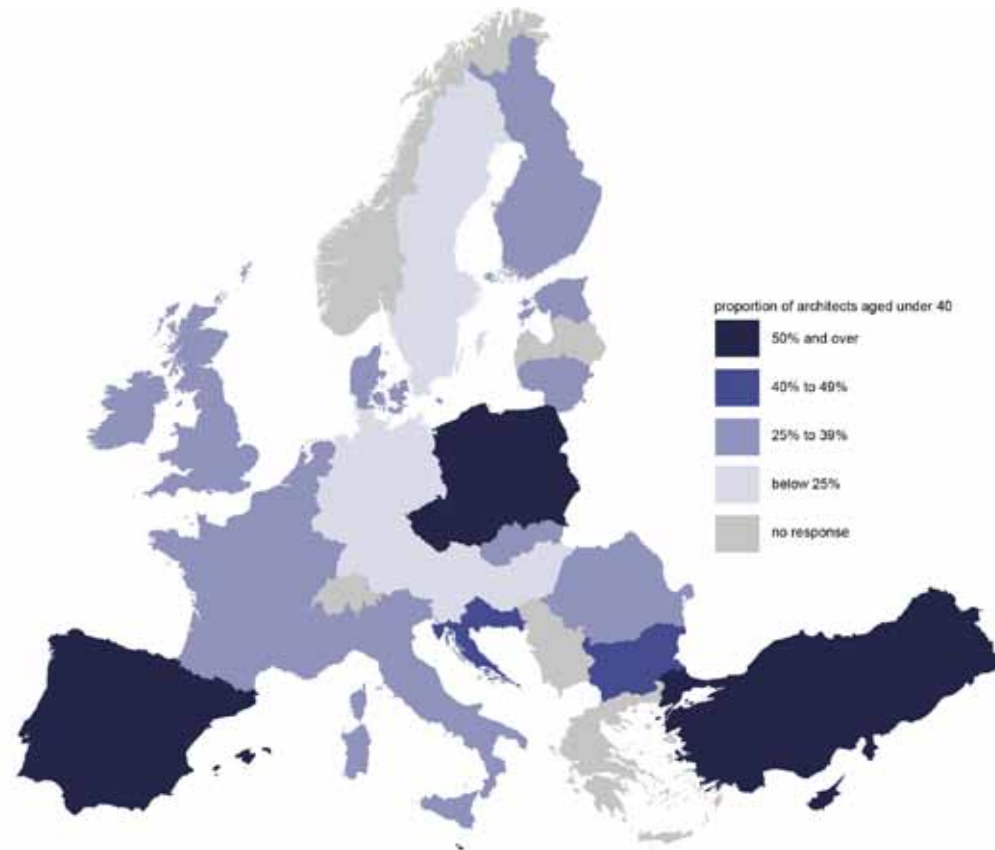


TABLE 1-6  
AGE OF ARCHITECTS ANALYSED BY COUNTRY

per cent	age of architects								
	<30	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+
Austria	2	2	10	19	17	18	12	11	9
Belgium	9	15	12	12	12	12	13	10	6
Bulgaria	12	22	11	5	9	12	10	12	8
Croatia	7	14	19	11	9	17	12	7	5
Cyprus *	31	19	8	7	7	14	5	7	3
Czech Republic *	0	32	20	10	5	5	7	3	17
Denmark	7	11	10	13	12	11	13	12	11
Estonia *	2	15	15	2	4	4	22	4	35
Finland	5	11	9	11	14	16	13	19	3
France	6	14	14	12	11	12	11	12	8
Germany ***	1	9	13	15	16	18	14	9	5
Hungary	4	6	15	7	11	10	13	17	17
Ireland	2	8	16	19	12	13	10	12	7
Italy	5	11	12	16	17	13	11	8	6
Lithuania	3	23	12	8	7	13	24	6	4
Luxembourg	0	6	8	31	15	8	20	7	5
Malta *	24	16	18	9	4	9	11	4	4
Netherlands	10	11	18	13	10	9	7	13	9
Poland	34	18	14	6	7	7	5	5	6
Portugal	15	17	21	16	11	8	7	3	2
Romania *	0	5	28	18	8	5	3	18	15
Slovakia	3	13	17	18	12	5	13	13	7
Slovenia	3	9	12	19	19	18	8	5	8
Spain	13	17	20	19	12	7	8	3	3
Sweden	3	9	13	11	10	13	13	16	11
Turkey	42	15	9	9	7	5	7	4	4
United Kingdom	7	17	13	9	10	11	10	9	14
2016 EUR-27 **	8	13	15	15	13	11	10	8	6
2014 EUR-26 **	7	12	15	16	13	13	11	7	6
2012 EUR-25 **	9	15	16	14	13	12	10	6	4
2010 EUR-23 **	10	15	15	10	12	12	12	8	4
2008 EUR-17**	9	14	19	13	13	14	10	5	2

\* caution - small sample      \*\*\* Germany figures provided by BAK, sourced from BAK surveys 2015 and 2016.  
\*\* weighted to reflect the total architectural population in all participating countries.

CHART 1-12  
POPULATION PYRAMID - ANALYSIS OF ARCHITECTS  
BY AGE AND GENDER

