



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

# **COVID-19: European overview - ACE Survey**

March - April 2020



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## **About the survey**

Over the past two weeks (27 March- 10 April 2020) the Architects' Council of Europe has been conducting a survey to understand how its members are dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, as well as the first impacts on the profession.

The survey, which closed on Friday 10 April, received responses from over 20 countries of Europe.

Read the results below.



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## Contributors and date of contribution.

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[www.innovationsforetagen.se](http://www.innovationsforetagen.se)
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[www.architect.be](http://www.architect.be)
- 9. Cyprus Architects Association CAA**  
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**11. Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, RIAI, Ireland**

Submitted 02/04/2020

[www.riai.ie](http://www.riai.ie)

**12. Conseil national de l'Ordre des Architectes, CNOA, France**

Submitted 02/04/2020

[www.architectes.org](http://www.architectes.org)

**13. Finnish Association of Architects**

Submitted 02/04/2020

[www.safa.fi](http://www.safa.fi)

**14. Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España (CSCAE)/Spain**

Submitted 03/04/2020

[www.cscae.com](http://www.cscae.com)

**15. Hungarian Chamber of Architects MEK, Hungaria**

Submitted 06/04/2020

[www.mek.hu](http://www.mek.hu)

**16. Bundeskammer ZT/Austria**

Submitted 06/04/2020

[www.arching.at](http://www.arching.at)

**17. Romanian Order of Architects OAR Romania**

Submitted 06/04/2020

[www.oar.org.ro](http://www.oar.org.ro)

**18. Architects Association of Lithuania**

Submitted 07/04/2020

[www.architektusajunga.lt](http://www.architektusajunga.lt)

**19. Architects Registration Board, UK**

Submitted 07/04/2020

[www.arb.org.uk](http://www.arb.org.uk)

**20. Ordem dos Arquitectos, OA, Portugal**

Submitted 07/04/2020

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**21. Ordre des architectes et Ingénieurs conseils, OAI,  
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[www.oai.lu](http://www.oai.lu)

**22. Croatian Chamber of Architects CCA, Croatia**

Submitted 08/04/2020

[www.arhitekti-hka.hr](http://www.arhitekti-hka.hr)

**23. Polish Chamber of Architects, IARP**

Submitted 10/04/2020

[www.izbaarchitektow.pl](http://www.izbaarchitektow.pl)

**24. CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE ARCHITETTI, PANIFICATORI,  
PAESAGGISTI, CONSERVATORI, Italy**

Submitted after deadline 14/04/2020

[www.cnappc.it](http://www.cnappc.it)

**25. Czech Chamber of Architects, Czech Republic**

Submitted after deadline 14/04/2020

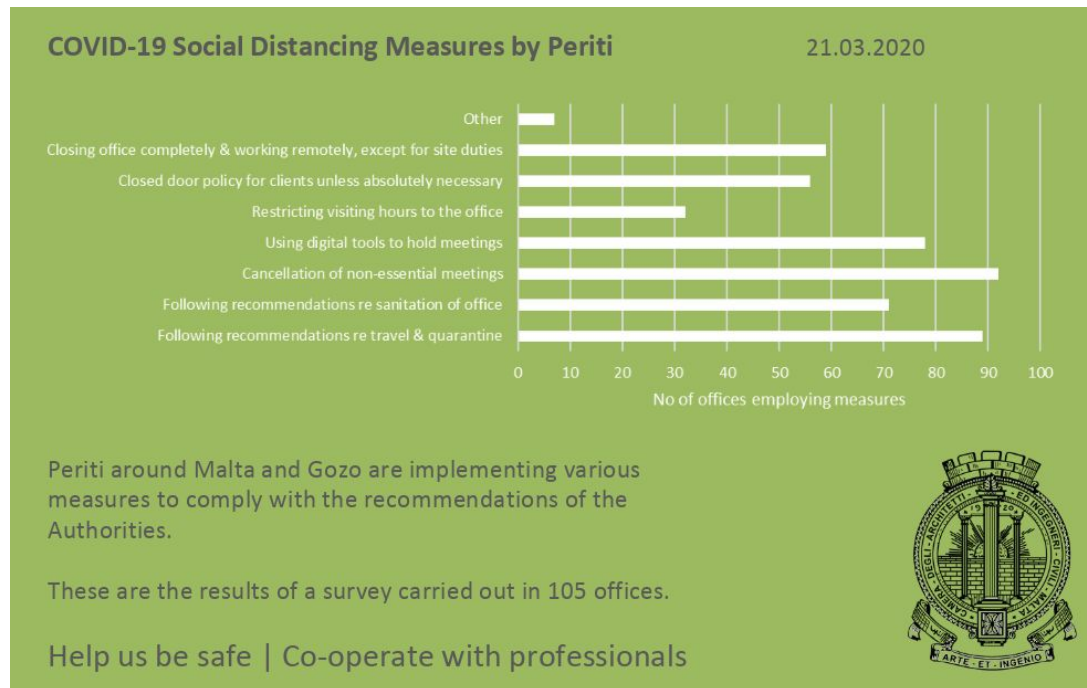
[www.cka.cz](http://www.cka.cz)



**ACE: How has your organisation adapted to the home -working. What were the main challenges?**

Nearly 60% of practices have adapted to home working - see attached presentation slide

**Malta**  
Kamra tal-Periti





<p><b>Sweden</b></p> <p>Architects Sweden</p>  <p>Sweden, F-SIC (Innovationsföretagen)</p>	<p>We are all working from home now. To keep track of workload and missions we have daily digital meetings in groups, we will also have weekly meetings with the whole office (35 persons). Whilst our legal staff has a lot to do some other groups as the competence team and the competition team have less to do. We are trying to find out means to have digital jury meetings.</p> <p>No answer.</p>
<p><b>Hungary</b></p> <p>Hungarian Chamber of Architects</p>	<p>Enable remote access to office infrastructure, operate office duty hours</p>
<p><b>Denmark</b></p>	<p>No big challenges. All employees had the possibility for years. Meetings are organized as video meetings in Microsoft Teams - sometimes Cisco Webex or Zoom</p>





<b>Slovenia</b>	All employees work from home. At ZAPS premises there only one person can be present at the time - to manage the post and other issues which can not be settled via the internet. The main challenge is communication among more participants in the matters regarding coordination - a lot of mailing and calls.
<b>Spain</b>	We stopped working on-site on 11 March. The staff and the governing body we all started home-working without any problems. The main challenge is to maintain personal contact, but we hold frequent meetings by video conference.
<b>Norway</b>	We have adopted very well. All functions work. Some nuances disappear in electronic communication, and some wifi and tool challenges, but overall fine.
<b>UK</b> <b>RIBA</b> <b>Architects Registration Board</b>	The RIBA has been able to move to 100% home working, but some activities are impacted.  Very well; we had many of the facilities to work from home in place already; however challenges included: mobilising the whole office to work from home at the same time at short notice; establishing a workable telephone system to ensure people could still contact us; making sure the office team had the ability to stay in regular contact with one another and developing information for key stakeholders such as registrants/schools of architecture.



<b>Belgium</b>	Organise video conferences
<b>Cyprus</b>	One of the challenges was the in-between coordination and sharing of the several assignments. Other challenges were the immediate need of hardware and software setups for online access of shared documents, emails etc.
<b>Germany</b>	Overall the team in Berlin and Brussels adapted well. There were challenges concerning IT equipment and functions. Especially for colleagues with children confined to home schooling it is not always easy to find a work timetable with the whole family at home.
<b>Ireland</b>	All Management and Administration staff are working remotely. The RIAI systems adapted to the remote working very well.
<b>France</b>	<p>The Conseils National and Regional have been teleworking and video conferencing since March 16. The premises are closed but the legal and general interest missions (keeping the register, answering the architects' questions by phone and emails) are fulfilled.</p> <p>The Order has also put in place measures to facilitate the obligations of architects towards their organization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Holding statutory meetings of the regional councils and the National Council by visio and agreement of the Ministry of Culture so that statutory decisions and the management of current affairs (registration on the roll of the Order, striking off in the event of resignation or death ...) are taken by videoconference during the period of confinement.</li><li>- Postponement of the date of payment of the 2020 ordinary membership fee by two months</li><li>- Postponement of the date of declaration of continuing education by two months and suspension of the training obligation for 2020 - Continuity of the work of the working groups with visio-conference</li><li>- Continuity of meetings and work with external partners with visio-conference.</li></ul>



<b>Finland</b>	No challenges as we have already some years ago started home -working. Some employees one to two days a week, some one to two days a month or not at all - depending the scope of work and own preferences
<b>Bundeskammer ZT/Austria</b>	OK. During the first days all efforts went into issuing the information below.
<b>Romanian Order of Architects/Romania</b>	<p>The president of the Romanian Chamber of Architects decided to suspend public contact at the HQ since March, 10th, for 6 days, preemptively. It has since been extended over the duration of the emergency state, established by presidential decree on March, 16th. The entire staff is working via home-office, only one member of the secretariat checks in once or twice a week to collect mail and water plants etc.</p> <p>There have been no major challenges, except the lack of togetherness of the staff, which slows some actions and inhibits further team-building (e.g. new staffer entered the workplace only 1 day before home-working started). Chapters have, by and by, adopted similar measures.</p>
<b>Architects Association of Lithuania</b>	As we are a small team we organize being in an office space: 1 person at a time. Others continue working at home.



<b>Portugal</b>	Not being with colleagues, having to take the decision all of the sudden, adapt all the IT for everyone being able to work from home.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Home-working was in use before the crisis.
<b>Croatian Chamber of Architects</b>	<p>Yes, the President of the Chamber Mrs Željka Jurković addressed the members with a statement on 30th of March giving information about actions taken by the Chamber.</p> <p>In the next few days CCA will send a letter to its members. All CCA measures on coronavirus situation and government economic measures are promptly published on your website and Facebook.</p>
<b>Poland</b>	The office operates remotely, contacts members online. The IARP Board also meets online.



<b>Italy</b>	All employed people are working in their homes, using their notebooks, smartphones or other devices. The meetings of the Council, Council-Provincial Orders, regional Delegation are organised by video-conference.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p>The Office of The Czech Chamber of Architects provides services for architects remotely without any problems. The employees of The Czech Chamber of Architects work from home and for meetings or videoconferences use ZOOM. Most architects limited (but did not cancel) work in architectural studios. The reason is the restriction of personal contacts in accordance with the Government Order of the Czech Republic. Someone stays in the architectural studios to keep running.</p> <p>Most architects have transferred their work to home-office mode, and we have no indication that this is a major problem at design level. Engineering is difficult because the government is not fully digitized and personal contact (now forbidden) is essential for processing.</p>



**ACE : Have you issued any information (guidance, statement, questionnaire, press release) to your members?**

<b>Malta</b>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Bulletins, presentations, surveys, website</p> <p>+surveys : read the results : <a href="https://kamratalperiti.org/covid-19-impact-on-periti-bulletin-01">https://kamratalperiti.org/covid-19-impact-on-periti-bulletin-01</a></p> <p>Read the introduction</p> <p>“As the worldwide coronavirus crisis continues to impact on various sectors of the global economy, its impacts are beginning to be felt in Malta too. Various sectors have already been made to grind to a halt, and the Government has announced various measures to deal with the fallout. The measures appear to be primarily immediate measures to deal with redundancies, the deferral of certain fiscal payments, the concept of burden sharing, and flexibility between employer and employees. This approach aligns with a comprehensive set of proposals put together by the <i>Kamra tal-Periti</i> together with the Chamber of Advocates, the <i>Kunsill Notarili ta' Malta</i>, the Dental Association of Malta and the Malta Institute of Accountants. These were submitted to the Prime Minister on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, and a meeting has been requested to elaborate further. These proposals are targeted at the whole of the private sector which employs around 162,000 people, of which the professions represented by these five organisations represent some 10,000 persons. In order to bolster our proposals, each organisation is reaching out to its members to keep tabs on the situation as it develops. The <i>Kamra tal-Periti</i> carried out a survey which attracted 147 responses (one response per office). Maltese periti are currently permitted to operate as Sole Practitioners (with or without employees) or as Partnerships. The responses received were predominantly from the first category, with a contribution also from <i>periti</i> employed in the public sector and from semi-retired <i>periti</i>.”</p>
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<p><b>Sweden</b> Architects Sweden</p> <p>Sweden, F-SIC (Innovationsföretagen)</p>	<p>Yes, indeed we have. That has been a priority for the last two weeks in order to support our members. We have also done surveys among our members and will continue to do so onwards.</p> <p>Yes. We have sent two questionnaires and produced two reports from them. We have also sent several information emails, posted on social media and webpage as well as sent press releases and met with members and politicians (online).</p>
<p><b>Hungary</b></p>	<p>Yes, questionnaire, statement, press release</p>
<p><b>Denmark</b></p>	<p>Yes, we send out a lot of newsletters. 3-5 times every week.</p> <p>Big video meetings with the company CEO's of all larger companies with 30-600 employees. But every member can participate. In the newsletters we inform about what to do with staff, contracts, insurance and many other things. We are direct or indirect in close cooperation with all other organisations in the building sector, relevant ministries, government and parliament members. A lot of new laws are already in force, compensation for loss of work, salary compensation, postponement of tax and VAT payments, removal of budget restrictions on building works where the client is municipality or the state. We are proposing a lot of initiatives to the government together with contractors, engineers and building material producers association, so together we have a strong voice.</p>
<p><b>Slovenia</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>



<p><b>Spain</b></p> <p><b>CSCAE</b></p>	<p>The governing body and the Presidents of all the Orders of Architects and Autonomous Councils meet by video conference every Thursday morning to discuss the situation and to put in place different actions. We have also created a cloud source repository for documents and for communication purposes.</p> <p>We have also created a specific site for any COVID-19 related issues: <a href="http://www.cscae.com/index.php/informacion-recursos-y-medidas-sobre-covid-19">http://www.cscae.com/index.php/informacion-recursos-y-medidas-sobre-covid-19</a></p> <p>We had already issued a statement asking for the interruption of works before the mandatory measure pronounced by the Government. We had also issued another statement asking for financial aid for architects, in particular for those self-employed.</p>
<p><b>Norway</b></p>	<p>We issue questionnaires to our members weekly to monitor the situation. The results are published in a special Corona area on our website. This area also contains many articles on different subjects related to the virus and how it affects our members' business.</p>
<p><b>UK</b></p> <p><b>RIBA</b></p>	<p>Yes, our guidance can be found on our COVID-19 hub: <a href="https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/knowledge-landing-page/coronavirus-covid-19-advice">https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/knowledge-landing-page/coronavirus-covid-19-advice</a></p>





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<b>Architects Registration Board/UK</b>	<p>Yes - we have established a dedicated website page which includes guidance for registrants; schools of architecture etc. (<a href="http://www.arb.org.uk/coronavirus/">http://www.arb.org.uk/coronavirus/</a>)</p> <p>We will also be using our regular E-bulletin to provide further information to those on the Register.</p>
<b>Belgium</b>	<p>Press releases, information through website, mailings, social media.</p>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p>Through our website we have made several announcements, asking our members to communicate only via telephone and digital means, advises on how to deal with the situation, as well as announcements concerning their rights and obligations according to the relevant Orders of the government that affect us as citizens and especially as professionals. Furthermore, several clarifications and guidance concerning the Biennale 2020 procedures were sent.</p> <p>These announcements have also been sent as Newsletters to our subscribed members.</p>



<b>Germany</b>	The BAK provides information on the website in relation to legal, economic and teleworking aspects. <a href="http://www.bak.de/architekten/coronavirus/">www.bak.de/architekten/coronavirus/</a>
<b>Ireland</b>	Information has been issued on : - RIAI working procedures and contact information for staff. - Government financial support, site closures and insurances . Further information is being issued on implications for contracts and consultants appointments, wage supports, and Online CPD.
<b>France</b>	The CNOA has created a special "Coronavirus" section on its website, which can be found at <a href="https://www.architectes.org/dossier-coronavirus-et-confinement-toutes-les-informations">https://www.architectes.org/dossier-coronavirus-et-confinement-toutes-les-informations</a> .  This special web page contains the following sections :  - The Order at your service - National Council Releases and Official Statements- Legislative and regulatory measures to deal with the coronavirus outbreak - Advice for architects - Social and corporate reorganisation - Government aid to businesses - Containment requires air exchange - International management of the coronavirus crisis



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	<p>We also published a newsletter "special Coronavirus", several press releases which led to numerous interviews with the President in the media. The regional councils have all set up crisis units to help and inform architects and communicate with their partners, local authorities and decentralised State services.</p>
<b>Finland</b>	<p>Yes. based on the recommendations of the Finnish Government and other authorities.</p>
<b>Austria</b>	<p>Yes, all of these * *(guidance, statement, questionnaire, press release)</p>
<b>Romanian Order of Architects/Romania</b>	<p>Yes, there is a series of news releases via newsletter, a set of statements addressed to the government level or Ministry of Development, as well as interpretations and other information regarding governmental measures and their use for the profession and our members. We have redistributed some of ACE's and UIA's communiques, as well as some of our partner specialists (financial consultants, psychologists and finance analysts). The statements addressed to the government level were published and subject to press release.</p>
<b>Architects Association of Lithuania</b>	<p>No.</p>
<b>Ordem dos Arquitectos // Portugal</b>	<p>Yes, see the links <a href="https://www.arquitectos.pt/?no=2020497210.157">https://www.arquitectos.pt/?no=2020497210.157</a> <a href="https://www.arquitectos.pt/?no=2020497211.157">https://www.arquitectos.pt/?no=2020497211.157</a> <a href="https://www.arquitectos.pt/?no=2020497212.154">https://www.arquitectos.pt/?no=2020497212.154</a></p>



<b>Luxembourg</b>	Yes, updates and information <b>oai covid-19</b> : day by day cf. <a href="http://www.oai.lu">www.oai.lu</a>
<b>Croatian Chamber of Architects</b>	Yes we have informed our members about: Chamber had to postpone the Architects Day 4.0 Conference planned for 12 – 14 March with than 700 participants that applied to participate, that immediately after the outbreak of the epidemic, at the initiative of CCA, all chambers in the construction industry requested Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning to extend the possibility of using electronic personal ID card instead of the above mentioned ID cards. The MGIPU accepted the initiative and made such a decision. CCA also informed its members about epidemic security protocols at the building sites and web site link for the access to the layout of the travel pass for an employee. Also, the proposal for emergency measures for the construction sector was submitted to the Government of the Republic of Croatia on March 24, 2020. <a href="https://www.arhitekti-hka.hr/files/file/vijesti/2020/Prijedlog_hitnih_mjera_za_graditeljstvo.pdf">https://www.arhitekti-hka.hr/files/file/vijesti/2020/Prijedlog_hitnih_mjera_za_graditeljstvo.pdf</a>
<b>Poland</b>	The COVID-19 tab was created on the website with information for members.
<b>Italy</b>	In the Web Site of CNAPPC we created a special section with all new Government Directive or Circular. We sent to each Provincial Order specific Circular for each new procedure.
<b>Czech republic</b>	We regularly and up-to-date information on the official website of Czech Chamber of Architects and about news in the regulations of the Czech government.





**Have you issued any tools for your members (FAQs, checklist,...)?**

<b>Malta</b>	Yes. See documents attached. Bulletins and updates - see <a href="https://kamratalperiti.org">https://kamratalperiti.org</a>
<b>Sweden</b>  Architects Sweden  Sweden, F-SIC (Innovationsföretagen)	Yes we have. Especially on how to deal with the support programmes the government has issued.  Yes. We have sent two questionnaires and produced two reports from them. We have also sent several information emails, posted on social media and webpage as well as sent press releases and met with members and politicians (online).
<b>Hungary</b>	Not yet.
<b>Denmark</b>	Yes, see above.
<b>Slovenia</b>	No



<p><b>Spain</b></p> <p><b>CSCAE</b></p>	<p>We have created a specific FAQs area which is daily updated and has 37 answers up to now.</p> <p>We have prepared different questionnaires, agreed with other professional and business organisations, concerning practice guidelines for construction works and certificates for the interruption of construction works.</p> <p>Guidelines coming from other entities are also published.</p> <p>“Canal formación” has also been strengthened to provide online training to all registered architects.</p> <p>We are promoting cultural actions we started in the past. We think it is time now to make them widely known.</p>
<p><b>Norway</b></p>	<p>We have published a FAQ and different templates for different uses.</p>
<p><b>UK</b></p> <p><b>RIBA</b></p> <p><b>Architects Registration Board/UK</b></p>	<p>Yes, we have issued various pieces of guidance and our COVID-19 checklist for architects and students: <a href="http://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/knowledge-landing-page/riba-covid-19-checklist-for-architects">www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/knowledge-landing-page/riba-covid-19-checklist-for-architects</a></p> <p>As above. We will be adding to this over the coming days and weeks.</p>



<b>Belgium</b>	Not as such. We referred to government websites.
<b>Cyprus</b>	We have suggested a teleconference via internet tools (such as ZOOM), for the needs of a jury. We have also launched a page where our members can pose their questions concerning the new restrictions in architecture practice etc. These questions are gathered and answered immediately or officially forwarded to the relevant ministries.
<b>Germany</b>	The information contains summaries of the above mentioned aspects, advice and links to further help or information of measures by the Federal Government or other organisations as well as FAQs.
<b>Ireland</b>	Information has been issued on  RIAI working procedures and contact information for staff.  Government financial support, site closures and insurance. Further information is being issued on implications for contracts and consultants appointments, wage supports, and Online CPD .



<b>France</b>	<p>Several Regional organisations have set up <b>FAQs for architects</b> to answer the most frequently asked questions, and the open file on the site provides advice to architects.</p> <p>The Mutuelle des Architectes Français (mutual insurance company for architects) also publishes recommendations to help architects in the current situation, as do the trade unions. At the initiative of the regional council of the Ordre de Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, <b>an interactive map</b> has been created to help architects identify open urban planning services.</p>
<b>Finland</b>	No
<b>Austria</b>	Yes, mainly FAQs for the different relevant topics
<b>Romanian Order of Architects/Romania</b>	Aside from government lobby, the Romanian Chamber of Architects has issued a set of short, card-like instructions to safeguard businesses and employment, developed by our accounting expert partners, rapid assessments of the social protection and financial measures issued by the government, a formal request to the authorities to approve of a general application of electronic signature in administration business (building permits, construction etc.).





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	<p>We have run a couple of questionnaires in our members' community, in order to assess in real-time the actual impact and the perceived main problems of this time. This will enable us to feed the most needed content and formulate aid as properly calibrated as possible.</p>
<b>Architects Association of Lithuania</b>	<p>Yes, spreading information about the incentives and financial help that are applied by the State to the Art Creators (this is a status given of a State to a natural person who is an artist.</p> <p>Our association is joining members that have that status)</p>
<b>Ordem dos Arquitectos // Portugal</b>	<p>Yes see the links <a href="https://www.arquitectos.pt/?no=2020497210.157">https://www.arquitectos.pt/?no=2020497210.157</a> <a href="https://www.arquitectos.pt/?no=2020497211.157">https://www.arquitectos.pt/?no=2020497211.157</a> <a href="https://www.arquitectos.pt/?no=2020497212.154">https://www.arquitectos.pt/?no=2020497212.154</a></p>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p>Yes</p>
<b>Croatian Chamber of Architects</b>	<p>Yes we have informed our members about: Chamber had to postpone the Architects Day 4.0 Conference planned for 12 – 14 March with than 700 participants that applied to participate, that immediately after the outbreak of the epidemic, at the initiative of CCA, all chambers in the construction industry requested Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning to extend the possibility of using electronic personal ID card instead of the above mentioned ID cards. The MGIPU</p>



	<p>accepted the initiative and made such a decision. CCA also informed its members about epidemic security protocols at the building sites and web site link for the access to the layout of the travel pass for an employee.</p> <p>Also, the proposal for emergency measures for the construction sector was submitted to the Government of the Republic of Croatia on March 24, 2020. <a href="https://www.arhitekti-hka.hr/files/file/vijesti/2020/Prijedlog_hitnih_mjera_za_graditeljstvo.pdf">https://www.arhitekti-hka.hr/files/file/vijesti/2020/Prijedlog_hitnih_mjera_za_graditeljstvo.pdf</a></p>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>Work is underway to develop information for members.</p>
<b>Italy</b>	<p>CNAPPC open a section for FAQs in its Websites</p> <p>Moreover CNAPPC led a partnership with some Electronic Program Company to give a lot of license to its Members (ex: We gave 3500 licenses of Gotomeeting to Orders for their meeting, commissions, Conference et cetera, 300 License of Gotowebinar for CPD, BIM Open sources program</p>



**Czech Republic**

We have done a simple on-line research on how the performance of the architect's profession was hit during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The key answer is the topics of the upcoming economic problems (reducing the number of orders)

**ACE: In your country, are construction sites completely at a standstill, only interrupted or open?**

**If interrupted or open, what specific safety measures were taken by the public authorities?**



<b>Malta</b>	Sites are still open; no specific measures adopted by public authorities; however KTP has issued directives in this regard.
<b>Sweden</b>  Architects Sweden  Sweden, F-SIC (Innovationsföretagen)	We are not at a complete standstill yet, but we expect the situation to be worse the coming weeks. There are support programmes from the state allowing and supporting reductions in work time, postponing VAT and tax payments etc.  We have information on our webpage. Both instructions, information, guidelines and checklists and FAQ's
<b>Hungary</b>	Mostly at standstill.
<b>Denmark</b>	Building sites are in general still active, a lot of safety information to the workers are sent out from the government. But we start seeing clients wanting to postpone new startups.



<b>Slovenia</b>	Construction sites are interrupted, workers can work in small groups with sanitary precautions.
<b>Spain</b>	Construction works have been almost interrupted since 30 March.  No specific safety measures have been taken by public authorities.
<b>Norway</b>	Some are open, many have been interrupted in various degrees, only a few have shut down.  Distancing, hygiene and clothing are amongst the measures taken.
<b>UK</b> <b>RIBA</b>	Construction sites are interrupted but remain open. UK Govt guidance is that construction sites should remain open provided that effective social distancing and health and safety can be maintained based on new Site Operating Procedures developed by the Construction Leadership Council. This policy is controversial and many non-essential construction sites have closed, especially in London. The RIBA has issued a note on this issue: <a href="https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/knowledge-landing-page/anticipating-non-essential-site-closures-time-to-prepare">https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/knowledge-landing-page/anticipating-non-essential-site-closures-time-to-prepare</a>



<b>Architects Registration Board/UK</b>	<p>Our understanding is that construction sites remain open, but that the UK Government has issued a set of expectations in terms of how they should be operating, e.g. adopting social distancing measures etc.</p>
<b>Belgium</b>	<p>7/10 sites are closing down.</p> <p>No extra safety measures besides those that already are implemented by the government</p>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p>Work is suspended on construction sites with more than 3 persons concurrently from March 31st 2020 until April 13th 2020. Exceptions to the operation of the construction sites for more than three persons, will only be granted to public utility projects and to applications relating to emergency and safety related work.by appointment. It will be possible that other Courts could decide to take more restrictive measures based on the Decree Law no. 18/2020</p>



<b>Germany</b>	<p>Construction sites are open. Travel to work is considered a necessary activity and will still be possible. It is important that all enterprises, particularly those open to the public, adhere to the hygiene regulations and implement effective protective measures for staff and visitors. The Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community has issued a decree on March 23, 2020, stating that all construction sites of the Bund shall continue to operate under the provisions of health protection. Regulations of the Bundesländer are to be considered.</p>
<b>Ireland</b>	<p>Sites are closed.</p>
<b>France</b>	<p>The subject of the recovery of building sites is currently under discussion and has created a controversy between the government and building organisations (companies).</p> <p>An agreement has been reached between the government and the companies' organisations, but the CNOA has made it known that it is opposed to a "risky" takeover of the building sites, as the conditions are not met. More information / Press releases <a href="https://www.architectes.org/communiqués-du-conseil-national-et-prises-de-position-officielles">https://www.architectes.org/communiqués-du-conseil-national-et-prises-de-position-officielles</a></p> <p>At present, 80% of the shipyards have been halted.</p>



**ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE**  
**CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE**

<b>Finland</b>	Construction continues following the safety recommendations, no reason/ need to close the sites at the moment.
<b>Austria</b>	Not completely, there are legal exceptions - in such cases special safety rules have to be applied
<b>Romanian Order of Architects/Romania</b>	Some construction sites are closed by their own decision, some are expecting to close due to refusal of workers to come to the site. Although the state of emergency imposes restrictions on private circulation, professional mobility is still permitted under burden of proof. There are no specific safety measures taken by the public authorities aside from recommendations for the sterilization when entering and leaving the site, work in small groups or individually etc. Furthermore, the Romanian Chamber of Architects has addressed the issue by requesting the relevant ministry and authorities to impose a site-closure preparation program, so, when inevitably the sites will be closed, this is properly prepared and can be done asap without risk, in order to allow for a swift and smooth re-opening when permitted.
<b>Architects Association of Lithuania</b>	It differs. There are construction sites that continue working. So far we don't observe major halt in construction.
<b>Ordem dos Arquitectos // Portugal</b>	The construction sites can work as long as they respect the health security guides, but most of them are closed or with very few workers.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Standstill with exceptions





**Croatian Chamber of  
Architects**

With the serious situation of a virus coronary epidemic on Sunday, March 22, 2020, a devastating earthquake hit Zagreb and did extensive damage to buildings and other structures, with the latest figures ranging from 17,000 to 21,000 buildings.

The historically valuable center of the city, but also wider parts of the city and settlements in the surrounding area, have been damaged to such an extent that part of the building will no longer be usable because they are life-threatening and many buildings will need rehabilitation. According to information received from colleagues, unfortunately, the business premises of many urban and architectural offices, as well as apartments and houses where our colleagues live, have been damaged. Immediately after the earthquake, on the same day, the Croatian Chamber of Architects made itself available to the Civil Protection Headquarters and made itself available in all activities for the immediate and imminent repair of damage caused by the devastating earthquake.

At the same time, the Chamber invited its members to participate in the provision of emergency professional assistance in the rehabilitation of Zagreb and its surroundings, to which more than 100 members responded in just two days, and the members continue to respond either by reporting to the Chamber or by going directly to the Management Office emergency situations of the City of Zagreb. In the first phase - FAST REVIEW OF THE BUILDINGS - our fellow civil engineers were mostly involved, since it was a quick inspection of the structure or the building, whether it could be used or not. We, architects, are also getting more involved in this phase as instructed (e.g. teams of 2 engineers: 1 civil engineer + 1 architect). This phase is currently underway, it is important to finish it as soon as possible. After this first



	<p>phase, the second phase follows - A DETAILED REVIEW OF BUILDINGS AND DAMAGE ASSESSMENT - at this stage we expect a more significant involvement of the architectural profession.</p> <p>Apart from that specific situation in Zagreb other construction sites were only interrupted and are open. Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers issued recommendation for construction sites: <a href="https://www.arhitekti-hka.hr/hr/novosti/prijedlog-postupanja-na-gradilistima-tijekom-krize-corona-virusa.3847.html">https://www.arhitekti-hka.hr/hr/novosti/prijedlog-postupanja-na-gradilistima-tijekom-krize-corona-virusa.3847.html</a></p>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>Construction sites are active and work continues without disturbance.</p>
<b>Italy</b>	<p>Between March 9 and April 13, All the construction sites were interrupted with the exception of the Strategic Works (street recovering, Bridges, Tunnels, building urgent refurbishment). Today also little private works are possible and after May 05 probably all working sites will be open if possible to use security and health conditions described in each security plan of each site (In Italy in each work site there is a security manager or coordinator with responsibility for the health of workers and the surrounding area.</p>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p>Work on construction sites was not interrupted. Construction workers must follow the instructions from the Government Order of the Czech Republic. The most frequent limitations are the number of workers, enclosed spaces, division into working shifts, etc.</p>



**ACE: Have construction companies or architects non-paiement problems ?**

<p><b>Malta</b></p>	<p>Yes - see results of surveys carried out <a href="https://kamratalperiti.org/covid-19-impact-on-periti-bulletin-01/">https://kamratalperiti.org/covid-19-impact-on-periti-bulletin-01/</a></p> <p>“The signs of an economic downturn in the sector are clearly evident. The situation will only worsen as construction sites begin to shut down due to lack of workforce, materials and cash injections by clients. The uncertainty in terms of how long the current downturn is expected to last is also a factor which is making employers highly cautious in taking decisions.”</p>
<p><b>Sweden</b></p> <p>Architects Sweden</p> <p>Sweden, F-SIC (Innovationsföretagen)</p>	<p>It might be too early to say. Projects are being postponed. Especially interior projects are cancelled.</p> <p>No. There is no legislation that has stopped them. Many private projects have been halted but not all, and many large public projects are ongoing. There may be some changes now as it was just imposed that no gatherings of more than 50 people were allowed. Until today (27/3) it was up to 500.</p>



<b>Hungary</b>	Yes, indeed they have payment issues.
<b>Denmark</b>	Not in big figures now. Because the government helps a lot, both financial support and starting up work also in the municipalities. The government support makes it possible to get 70 % refund of salaries up to about 3000 Euro pr. month if you send your employees home instead of firing.
<b>Slovenia</b>	Currently we have no information about that, but we expect considerable delays in the implementation of investments and projects.
<b>Spain</b>	Yes, they have. There are some payment delays.
<b>Norway</b>	15 % of our members report serious difficulties in liquidity due to the situation.



<b>UK RIBA</b>	<p>It is early to be definitive, but we anticipate intense cash flow pressures on construction companies and architects. There is much confusion and discussion about the potential application of "force majeure" clauses in construction contracts and professional services contracts. The application of such provisions is somewhat different in a common law rather than civil code based jurisdiction and is likely to have to be resolved on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<b>UK/ Architects Registration Board</b>	<p>We are not currently aware of this problem, but it may be that as time goes on construction companies and architects do experience this kind of issue.</p>
<b>Belgium</b>	<p>Not for the moment. Prospect of economic crises. Prospect of liquidity problems for SMEs.</p>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<p>Yes, both the companies as well as the (self- employed mostly) architects face non- paiement problems.</p>



<b>Germany</b>	<p>We do not have any information yet. In our opinion, this will be probably the case, especially regarding private construction contracts. We hope as regards public contracts that they will be paid in a punctual and complete manner. We will start a survey among architects to find out more about this kind of problem.</p>
<b>Ireland</b>	<p>There is some reporting of delays in getting private sector payments but no figures yet.</p>
<b>France</b>	<p>Architects are concerned about this, they ask that in order not to aggravate the coming economic crisis, the contracting authorities proceed within the agreed contractual deadlines, and in any case without delay, to the payment of fees and invoices corresponding to services or work carried out.</p> <p>They call on the government to adapt the support measures to the specific nature of the profession and of project management, so as not to further weaken the architectural agencies, which are mostly small SMEs.</p> <p>They also ask that applications for urban planning permission be submitted to the City Hall/Municipality by electronic means, and instructed within the normal deadlines, so as not to delay operations and to allow for the continuity of studies.</p>



<b>Finland</b>	No information on financing problems so far.
<b>Romanian Order of Architects/Romania</b>	Yes, to a certain extent, clients tend to delay payments or postpone them indefinitely, also contracts are stalled or cancelled. We recommended to attempt balanced positions and negotiate partial payments with clients and with providers alike - one should try to keep the economy afloat, in order to mitigate the fallout and allow for a quicker recovery.
<b>Architects Association of Lithuania</b>	Not yet.  But there are problems with delivery of materials.
<b>Ordem dos Arquitectos // Portugal</b>	Yes, as all the companies have problems.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Yes.



<b>Croatian Chamber of Architects</b>	Yes, since the beginning of the coronavirus crisis there has been delay with contract payments. The other problem is the cancellation of the contracts for the design of new buildings of all purposes (residential purposes; business purposes; tourism purposes).
<b>Poland</b>	Yes, there was a cash flow problem. Real problems arise for architects in a few months
<b>Italy</b>	Yes of course. In the last 2 month, all the construction chain is interrupted with big economic consequences for all people involved
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Yes. This topic is becoming very important.  We have information about problems from both architects and construction companies. However, it is not yet possible to seriously identify the proportion of outstanding claims directly dependent on Covid 19 measures, and what proportion is attributable to normal business risks.
<b>ACE: In your country, have any financial measures been put in place to support SMEs?</b>	
<b>Sweden</b>	





Architects Sweden  Sweden, F-SIC (Innovationsföretagen)	Yes, measures to postpone tax and VAT payments.  Mainly: Short term leave for personnel, where the state covers half the salary costs. Sick days are compensated from the state from day 1. Loans and credits are offered on taxes and VAT. In effect, taxes and VAT paid can be returned to the companies. Also, cuts in social costs on salaries are being introduced.
<b>Hungary</b>	Yes. The government issued tax easements, further treatment packages to be expected this Tuesday 7 April.
<b>Cyprus</b>	Yes. The Small Business Support Plan provides for a subsidy of 70% of employee salaries, if the business has had a turnover of 25% or more.
<b>Denmark</b>	Yes. the government helps a lot, both financial support and starting up work also in the municipalities. The government support makes it possible to get 70 % refund of salaries up to about 3000 Euro pr. month if you send your employees home instead of firing.
<b>Slovenia</b>	Yes.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Measures to improve the social situation of people (status of workers not working due to force majeure, unemployment compensation from the first day of unemployment onwards, no payment for non-performing public services, solidarity allowance for pensioners) ;</li><li>- Measures for exceptional assistance to the self-employed (extraordinary assistance, monthly basic income of 70% of the net minimum wage, cancellation of contributions while maintaining entitlements, deferment of payment of personal income tax advance) ;</li><li>- Measures to preserve the functioning of enterprises (all contributions to the pension scheme of employees of enterprises employed are paid by the state).</li></ul>
<b>Spain</b>	Yes Some measures to provide credit facilities to professionals and enterprises.
<b>Norway</b>	Yes.  Different taxes have been temporarily suspended.  The government will take a large part of the losses through various measures.



<p><b>Uk</b> <b>RIBA</b></p> <p><b>UK/ Architects</b> <b>Registration Board</b></p>	<p>Yes. Statutory sick pay available during periods of self-isolation, changes to universal credit arrangements; Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (allows for temporary furloughing of employees and Govt grants to cover 80% of associated salary costs); Self-employed compensation scheme; PAYE and VAT deferral schemes. Details of all schemes are scant and lacking in clarity at present.</p> <p>Yes, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has put a significant level of support in place - the details of which are on their website - <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses</a></p>
<p><b>Belgium</b></p>	<p>Replace income / Temporarily unemployment /Reduction or deferral of provisional social security contributions</p>
<p><b>Germany</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Financial measures have been put in place by the Federal Government and the Bundesländer.</p> <p>The BAK has gathered information for businesses on the website: <a href="https://www.bak.de/architekten/coronavirus/betriebswirtschaftliche-hinweise/">https://www.bak.de/architekten/coronavirus/betriebswirtschaftliche-hinweise/</a>On the federal level financial support</p>



	<p>(non-repayable subsidy) for freelancers and SME companies of up to 9.000 EUR (companies &lt;5 employees) or 15.000 EUR (companies &lt;10 employees) have been put in place.</p> <p>Additionally, on the level of the Länder financial support of 5.000 – 30.000 EUR (non-repayable subsidy) is available depending on the Land and the size of the company. These subsidies are for covering ongoing expenses. Additionally tax deferrals, short time work and reduced contributions to occupational pension schemes are possible.</p>
<b>Ireland</b>	<p>Yes, wage subsidies for any business whose further turnover is reduced by 25% or more.</p> <p>Support for owners of SMEs and increased sick pay benefit</p>
<b>France</b>	<p>Yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Establishment of a State-guaranteed loan</li><li>- Establishment of a solidarity fund for SMEs and the self-employed of 1 billion euros - Introduction of measures to adapt public procurement</li><li>- Postponement or staggering of payment of invoices for business premises</li><li>- Partial activity facilitated</li><li>- Postponement of payment deadlines for social and tax payments</li><li>- The government invites principals and companies not to seek contractual liability of companies, their subcontractors or suppliers who, when the conditions of performance no longer made it possible to guarantee the health and safety of their employees, had to suspend their activity.</li></ul>



<b>Finland</b>	Yes, for service branches, which are mostly affected (performing arts, restaurants etc.)
<b>Austria</b>	Yes, employees can be registered for "short-term" work meaning that the state pays most part of the wages, a financial funds to substitute losses and a financial funds for bridging loans etc...
<b>Romanian Order of Architects/Romania</b>	Yes, by means of EU emergency funds, the government has put both financial measures in place to aid SMEs to keep the business afloat (bank credits with 100% subsidized interest and 80-90% subsidized securities, suspension of fines for delay in taxation and other fiscal obligations etc.) and social measures for coverage of the employees of businesses that discontinue totally or partially their work (capped at 75% of the average national salary). After a preliminary version that left some groups uncovered (including ca. 20% of architects), to which we swiftly responded with public calls, concentrating all professional organizations in the construction design field, we were able to announce the correction, as requested by a set of organized groups, us included.
<b>Architects Association of Lithuania</b>	A program that promotes alternative financing sources (starts in the mid of April). Another program that compensates interest. A program with incentives that gives loans to SMEs (starts in the mid of April). There are also some programs that finance the absence of income to the natural persons that work under the certificate of an individual activity (freelancers).
<b>Ordem dos Arquitectos // Portugal</b>	Yes. More information: <a href="https://www.aiccopn.pt/archive/doc/COVI19_Medidas_Excepcionais_27032020.pdf">https://www.aiccopn.pt/archive/doc/COVI19_Medidas_Excepcionais_27032020.pdf</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Credit lines for specific sectors</li><li>- General Credit Lines</li><li>- Delivery of VAT and withholding taxes on IRS and IRC</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Deferral of payment of social contributions</li><li>- Payment of deferred contributions</li><li>- Postponement and extension of the period for complying with tax obligations (declarative and payment) relating to IRC, MORATORY OF BANK CREDITS, SIMPLIFIED LAY-OFF, RENTAL</li></ul>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Yes. Check <a href="http://www.oai.lu">www.oai.lu</a> info covid
<b>Croatian Chamber of Architects</b>	<p>Yes, the measures the Government has issued can be seen at <a href="https://www.koronavirus.hr/vladine-mjere/101">https://www.koronavirus.hr/vladine-mjere/101</a></p> <p>The first of these measures involves financing 100% of the cost of the net minimum wage over the next three months, with the possibility of an extension, which would cover around 400,000 jobs. The measure could not be used by employers who use other measures of the Croatian Employment Service and other providers to justify the cost and cost of pay, and employers who use this measure introduce restrictions on imports of labor or employment. As the CES will focus its activities on preserving jobs in sectors and sectors that are most at risk, it is proposed to suspend self-employment and employment support. The payment of the minimum wage for persons with disabilities will be ensured due to retention in employment and the delay in payment of financial compensation for all employers of the quota for employment of persons with disabilities, from 30% to 20% of the minimum wage.</p> <p><u>April 7, 2020</u> The Ministry of the Economy, Entrepreneurship and Craft announced that it is introducing two new financial instruments from this week - the "COVID-19 loan" and the "Micro loan for rural development", with the aim of securing additional liquidity for entrepreneurs, craftsmen and farmers.</p>



	<p><u>April 4, 2020</u> Ministry of Justice: No enforcement during the crisis.</p> <p><u>March 17, 2020</u> At a session on Tuesday, March 17, the Government adopted a total of 66 measures to assist the economy in the wake of the coronavirus epidemic. The measures concern a total of 8 ministries, many of which relate to the preservation of the liquidity and jobs of businessmen within the Ministry of Finance.</p>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The government program introduces help in the economic package</p>
<b>Italy</b>	<p>Yes, The Pension Fund (Private Institute but with mandatory inscription for all architects and engineers not employed in Companies) anticipate 600 Euro per month to each professional asking for (if his fee in 2018 was less than 35.000 Euros)</p>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p>Yes, financial measures have been put in place to help SMEs. And in very wide possibilities. However, it is administratively very difficult to get financial help. Further, conditions change operatively.</p> <p>Easy state support, although wide, is hardly available for common design and construction practice.</p>



**Additional information**

**Malta**

On the website and additional documents.

**Norway**

27 % report business as usual.

43 % report current projects normal, but no new projects coming in.

18 % say several projects have stopped. 6 % report almost all projects have stopped.

25,5 % have already had to lay people off, or they have started the process. 8,5 will do the same within easter. 26 % report they will have to do so by summer unless the times change.

**UK  
RIBA**

The RIBA is particularly keen to understand whether non-essential construction sites remain in operation in other countries, and the extent to which the architectural profession has been able to move to home-based working.

**Architects Registration  
Board/UK**

We'd welcome sight of the outcomes of the survey in due course. It may be very difficult to track/monitor, but also any information that could be gathered and shared about the impact of pandemic would be valuable later on.





<b>Sweden</b>	<p>Sweden has chosen the least impose or restrictive approach to the spread of the virus of most countries in Europe. The government listens to the health care experts. The general idea is to cause the least amount of damages as possible and not impose ineffective regulations onto the people. It is just unnecessary.</p> <p>The authorities rely on trust and common sense from the population. Old and sick people are to be protected. The rest should be careful and self isolate as much as possible. Some spread is viewed as inevitable.</p>
<b>Belgium</b>	<p><a href="https://www.architect.be/nl/infoportaal/nieuwsberichten/coronavirus-covid-19-steunmaatregelen-voor-zelfstandigen-en-ondernemers-die-schade-lijden-door-de-coronacrisis/626/">https://www.architect.be/nl/infoportaal/nieuwsberichten/coronavirus-covid-19-steunmaatregelen-voor-zelfstandigen-en-ondernemers-die-schade-lijden-door-de-coronacrisis/626/</a></p>
<b>Germany</b>	<p>Survey results will be shared at a later stage.</p>
<b>Finland</b>	<p>There is no major problem as long as the financing is guaranteed for the investors and construction companies.</p> <p>Municipalities will have problems after some time but this far it has no effect on the ongoing construction projects. Some real estate development projects have currently come to a standstill. Architectural offices had extra effort, costs and liabilities due to the adaptation to the home -working.</p>



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<b>Spain</b>	<p>We have launched different surveys on the situation architects are going through, but their results are still pending.</p> <p>We have started a campaign under the name “<b>Architecture at home</b>” for the population, now housebound, to see and understand the value of the “quality of its built environment” and the impact on its quality of life.</p>
<b>Hungary</b>	<p>The biggest challenge is the uncertainty when the restrictions will end</p>
<b>Austria</b>	<p>Results of the survey can be shared later.</p>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p>We put on <b>Think Tank</b> oai post covid-19 check oai.lu</p>
<b>Croatia</b>	<p>CCA is preparing certain measures and activities to make business for its members as easy as possible in the next period.</p> <p>So far, together with the other four Chambers of Engineering, we have drafted ten urgent measures for the construction sector. The measures are aimed at helping the construction sector to reduce the damage caused by the epidemic itself, that is, by measures taken to combat the epidemic. The proposal for emergency measures for the construction sector was submitted to the Government of the Republic of Croatia on March 24, 2020.</p> <p><a href="https://www.arhitekti-hka.hr/hr/novosti/pet-inzenjerskih-komora-predlazu-thirty-hitnih-mjera-za-sector-graditeljstva.3859.html">https://www.arhitekti-hka.hr/hr/novosti/pet-inzenjerskih-komora-predlazu-thirty-hitnih-mjera-za-sector-graditeljstva.3859.html</a></p>



	<p>As for the earthquake in Zagreb, five institutions and associations of architects have launched an initiative to establish a Coordinating Body for the Restoration of Zagreb, with the aim of carrying out the reconstruction of the built space of Zagreb in the best possible way.</p> <p>The initiative was sent to the City of Zagreb and the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The initiative to establish a Coordination Body starts from the view that only professional and systematic solutions, with the involvement of all professions and institutions, can contribute to rapid, high quality and professional renewal.</p> <p><a href="http://www.arhitekti-hka.hr/hr/novosti/inicijativa-arhitekata-za-uspostavom-koordinacijskog-tijela-za-obnovu-zagreba.3860.html">www.arhitekti-hka.hr/hr/novosti/inicijativa-arhitekata-za-uspostavom-koordinacijskog-tijela-za-obnovu-zagreba.3860.html</a></p>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>There was a serious problem with conducting administrative proceedings in public offices (building permits, arrangements). Delays exclude timely implementation of projects carried out under public procurement.</p>
<b>Italy</b>	<p>It's very interesting to share the different solutions to contrast the crisis and to propose the best practices in all the Countries</p>