



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

# Activity Report 2010-2011



Photo: Pato Safko

## PRESENTATION

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) is the representative organization for the architectural profession at European level.

Founded in Treviso, Italy, in May 1990, ACE celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010.

ACE's goal is to influence EU legislation and policies that impact on architectural practice, as well as the overall quality and sustainability of the building environment. Its key objectives are

- to promote the importance of Architecture throughout the EU;
- to advance architectural quality in the built environment;
- to support the sustainable development of the built environment;
- to safeguard the highest standards of qualification for architects;
- to advocate quality in architectural practice;
- to foster cross-border co-operation and facilitate European practice;
- to act as the single voice for architects in Europe

ACE's membership comprises member organisations which are nationally representative regulatory and professional bodies in the EU Member States, the Accession Countries and other European countries that enjoy a special status. Through them, the ACE represents the interests of around 500,000 architects.

The working structure of ACE has been developed in such a way as to maintain a high level of effectiveness within the realm of European architectural and professional policy-making.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ACE acknowledges all those who have worked so hard during these last two years and contributing to the establishment of contacts, which allow the ACE to progress and realize its objectives. Those persons include the current President, Selma Harrington, the Members of the Executive Board for 2010-2011 who were Lionel Dunet, Wolfgang Haack, David Falla, Konstantinos Belibassakis, Pawel Kobylanski, Pierre-Henri Schmutz, Mauro Latini, Georg Pendl, Christos Savva and Vladimir Petrovic, as well as all Chairs ACE Work Group Ferenc Makovenyi, Toal O'Muiré, Sarah Lupton, Dalibor Borak, Michel Procès, Ian Pritchard, Thomas Maibaum, Philip Ridgway, John Graby, Antonio Borghi, Patrick Colombier.

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Photo: Pato Saiko

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Selma Harrington



When delivering my pre-election speech REVIEW, RESOURCE, RE-IMAGINE, in November 2009, I was hardly aware of its full significance. Yet developments on the day of the 2010-2011 Executive Board elections echoed the urgency of the slogan. They opened the process of looking into the internal management and coordination of the ACE, co-operation between the elected and permanent representation and led to a deeper understanding of expectations, frustrations and achievements, and above-all developed resilience.

My approach was always to build on strengths, to include and invite, to understand, connect, focus and to move forward. The complexity and multi-cultural nature of our membership base served not only as a resource, but also as a source of aspiration and potential.

At Executive Board level, while developing the team and providing leadership, we also sought direction, guidance and support from the Member Organisations. Such approaches take time, but are absolutely necessary and critical to the vitality and relevance of our organization. At times we were over-ambitious and oblivious to our limitations, but always open to improving our ways of working and acting as a team.

The Executive Board intensified communication and joint working with Staff members, and to their credit, the ACE Secretariat continued its function during a challenging transition after the departure of two senior staff members. The period behind us has been demanding, but also rewarding. After a lengthy process, we can now look forward to a new period with the new Secretary General in office from January 2012.

I am grateful to all Member Organisations and representatives for having given me the opportunity to lead ACE during the past two years. I approached the role with keen interest and engagement, and enjoyed every moment of my term of office. By putting myself forward for a second term I wished to express my dedication and determination to continue and successfully complete the process of Reviewing, Resourcing and Re-imagining.

### Membership & working structure

ACE enjoys the support and continuity of its membership, and a deserved reputation for being a true representative of the European architectural profession both within the Internal Market and internationally. The membership of ACE remains impressively high, with some 44 organisations from 33 countries in Europe. We also received a number of new membership enquires last year and requests for observer status. We can be proud of the fact that we symbolize the European citizenship voluntarily grouped around professional interests with active, friendly and co-operative communication amongst the membership. This heightens our awareness of other countries and allows us to act in unison, gaining credit externally and drawing strength from our union. Our unity is also expressed through the existence of the internal Solidarity fund facilitating the continuity of membership subscriptions. With our two official languages, French and English, we communicate successfully and keep striving for more active participation in the work groups, in particular from the smaller countries and newer members.

Together with members of the Executive Board I have reached out and responded to many invitations and met directly with our member organisations, attending assemblies and other events. This has been an invigorating and educational experience and a source of fresh thinking which can be applied to applicable to our daily work and the implementation of the ACE priority actions.

Economic uncertainty has dominated the past period and this remains a major concern, as it may limit availability to participate in our work. The organisation has been resourceful in relying on voluntary work and has developed effective methods of remote communication, eliminating or reducing the need to travel. There is an on-going review of voluntary Work Groups and their tasks and I appeal to all our members to take an active interest in this matter, as it is the 'raison d'être' of our network.

Our structured meetings, in particular the General Coordination meetings, have been lively, informative and instructive and have been a valuable sounding board for the work of the Executive Board between General Assemblies. Some of our members have expressed the desire for ACE to provide a platform for Presidents of national organisations to meet and exchange views. We need to find a way to facilitate that request perhaps in conjunction with a revival of the meetings of national correspondents. The effective use of structured meetings at different levels and adequate cross-communication will remain a challenge and needs to stay in clear focus for the new Executive Board and Secretary General. The success of ACE's mission is dependent on the response and input from its members as we continue to seek more effective ways of achieving political influence nationally and in the EU.

## **Working together, managing change**

In the past two years we have experienced the retirement of the Secretary General and the departure of the Director – two senior staff members in charge of managing the ACE Secretariat and developing policy work. This meant that Executive Board members and I had to step in to ensure continuity of work. Although this was demanding on our personal time, it presented an opportunity to reflect on the profiles of senior staff and adjust requirements. We look forward to working with our new Secretary General, Ian Pritchard, from January 2012.

As part of the intensified joint working of ACE staff and the Board, two facilitated workshops were held during the past term. They helped crystalize ACE priorities and align ACE policy and lobbying goals. It is our intention to continue with this method of working in the coming years. The Executive Board has also discussed ways of giving a platform to national delegates to share experiences and exchange views. We will formulate proposals for 2012.

Credit is due to our staff in the Secretariat, with Caroline Andre as Head of Administration and Dominique Depasse, Executive Secretary. They diligently carried out their duties, ensuring continuity of work after the departure of the former Secretary General and Director. The Secretariat has since been strengthened with two additional staff members: Eleni Goni, Project Officer, funded by external project work and Laurie Hastir – Junior Communication & Policy officer. Both are already making their mark and successfully contributing to the work of ACE.

The externally funded projects have come to fruition relatively recently as a result of earlier applications through different partnerships. The Executive Board is giving cautious support to these projects, mindful of the need to maintain the balance between the core work of the ACE Secretariat and the desire to develop other sources of income to promote the ACE mission.

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Ian Pritchard



For much of the period 2010-2011, the post of Secretary General was vacant, though the Director, Adrian Joyce, stood in until June 2011, not only responding to the cycle of statutory requirements but also developing new initiatives including the successful exhibition on Sustainable Architecture and other events associated with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

Going forward, I have been asked to focus on :

- Researching, analysing and documenting options to inform Board decisions;
- Consulting with President & Executive Board on all matters of professional policy;
- Developing close working relationships with Member Organisations and their representatives – national correspondents, work group chairmen and Heads of Delegation;
- Gathering/summarising information and providing executive summaries to assist the ACE working structure to formulate policy or action, respecting agreed timetables;
- Identifying other sources to assist our work where insufficient documentation is available;
- Leveraging networks: ensuring focused attendance at external events to help determine views and attitudes, and obtaining information. Publishing advance schedule of meetings and evaluating partner organisations;
- Reporting back regularly on activities/meetings to ensure there is a 'paper trail';
- Agreeing priorities/actions with EB six months in advance;
- Ensuring smooth administration of statutory meetings: devising a plan of action to sustain each administrative cycle: currently 3 Board meetings, 1 Co-ordination meeting and 1 General Assembly meeting, as well as priority work groups, in each 6 month period;
- Logging and responding to all correspondence in a timely manner, delegating to others as necessary;
- Providing monthly oversight of accounts, managing the budget and signing off payments & expenses in line with approved budget;
- Leading, motivating, managing & supervising the team of staff;
- Undertaking additional projects including
  - development of an Annual Report
  - development of an Annual Business Plan
  - review of Communications
  - publication of quarterly newsletter (ACE Info) and periodic Alerts
  - publication of twice-yearly Economic Trends survey
  - commission Sector Study every other year

The Single Market Act will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Single Market. At least four Directives directly affecting the architectural profession will undergo modernisation or quinquennial review in 2012 – Professional Qualifications, Public Procurement, Energy efficiency and Services in the Internal Market.

We are going to have our work cut out to keep pace! As always will rely on the expert contributions of our members - thank you in advance!

## ACCESS TO THE PROFESSION



**Thematic Area 1 Coordinator: Wolfgang Haack**

*As a matter of priority, the thematic area 1 - Access to the Profession concentrated on the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive (PQD). TA1 work groups also focused on compiling information on "How to become an architect?", researching how qualifications are accredited and validated in the Member States and taking steps to up-date an earlier questionnaire on CPD.*

### **Professional Qualifications Directive - Toal O'Muiré**

The principal activity in 2011 involved the development ACE's position in response to plans to modernize the Professional Qualifications Directive. The PQD is a cornerstone of regulation of the architectural profession in Europe and sets the conditions under which migrating professionals have their qualifications recognised in other EU Member State. Maintaining automatic recognition of qualifications and revising the minimum training requirements are ACE's key objectives in this area.

After the public consultation the European Commission launched a Green Paper on the modernisation of the Directive. ACE's response highlighted architects' priorities including advocating five years minimum duration of academic studies and the introduction of pre-registration supervised professional experience while expressing reservations about the proposed European Professional Card, Partial Access to a profession for less qualified persons and deletion of the five qualification levels from article 11 of the PQD general system.

On 19 December the European Commission published its legislative proposal to modernise the PQD, the aim being to simplify rules for the mobility of professionals and clarify the framework for consumers. While the proposal contains several positive developments e.g. the extension of minimum training requirements from 4 to 6 years (to include academic

and compulsory practical training), the retention of the five levels of qualifications of article 11, the adoption of e-certificates instead of professional cards and the inclusion of graduate mobility, the architectural profession raised concerns regarding partial access (which should not apply to the sectoral professions). Moreover, ACE believes that the wide range of areas defined with regard to "delegated powers and implementing acts" should be curtailed. All stakeholders should be consulted before implementing new measures on diploma notifications, common training tests, etc. Finally ACE believes that the proposed deadline/timetable for recognition of applications is too short. In the early months of 2012, ACE will draft its final response to the legislative proposal for submission to the European Commission and Parliament, and to assist Member Organisations in their national advocacy programmes.

The legislative proposal gave rise to a need to resume work on defining professional practice experience ("+ 2") and it was decided, at the end of 2011, to revive an ACE work group in this area. Similarly, given references to Continuing Professional Development in the proposed new Directive, ACE re-establish a CPD work group to develop best practice. Finally, to advance its positions, ACE will engage with EAAE, the JWP and other 'sectoral' professions.

## EAAE – Joint Working Party

At the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Heads of Schools Meeting in Chania in 2010, a "Charter on Research" was adopted, and at the 2011 event, schools presented a paper on "How to shrink education?" explaining the need to maintain the highest standards of education with reduced budgets.

### "How to become an Architect" - Michel Procès

During 2010-11, ACE gathered information on programmes for the acquisition of competences in a document How to become an Architect in the EU? It gives an overview of the variety of education systems present in the European Union and it shows that over 95% of all courses in architecture that lead to a recognised qualification are of five years duration. This important information is being used to support ACE's political position regarding the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive (PQD).

### Accreditation & Validation - Sara Lupton

Following the transposition of Directive 2005/36/EC on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications, Member States had to notify the European Commission of all qualifications in the field of architecture to be listed in Annex V.7 of the Directive; including all requirements for 'access to the market' by holders of the listed qualifications. Therefore, Member States must have in place a process to decide whether a qualification should be notified to the Commission and this will often involve some form of an Accreditation / Validation. As it is likely that systems vary considerably from country to country, ACE set up a work group to survey and describe the range of systems in place in the Member States. The group is also assessing whether ACE can make 'best practice' recommendations in this field.

In May 2011, the ACE launched a survey of the different types of Accreditation / Validation in place across the EU. To date, responses have been received from around half of the Member States and work is ongoing to complete the survey.

### Continuing Professional Development - Michel Procès

Late last year ACE re-activated its work group on Continuous Professional Development (CPD), in the belief that this will become a major issue in the future, but also because CPD had been mentioned, for the first time, in the legislative proposal for the modernization of the Professional Qualifications Directive. The need was acknowledged to establish a network to exchange information about CPD, to up-date the CPD survey it carried out a few years ago and to work more closely with the UIA.



Photo: Adam Mork

## PRACTICE OF THE PROFESSION



**Thematic Area 2 Coordinator: Pawel Kobylanski**

*The main activity was the development of ACE's response to the Commission's green paper on Public Procurement. We also worked on the voluntary convergence agenda of the SIM Directive, analysed the conclusions of the ELIOS report, concluded work on Cost Information Systems, published a master document on Architectural Design Competitions and maintained mutual recognition negotiations with Canada.*

### **Services in the Internal Market (SIM) - Pierre-Henri Schmutz**

The SIM Directive regulates the manner in which services may be provided on an occasional or temporary basis across borders and regulates administrative requirements for providers that wish to establish in another EU Member State.

ACE is monitoring the impact of the implementation of the Directive at EU and national level, particularly where this has led to de-regulatory pressures. The European Commission is preparing an analysis of the SIM Directive, based on national examples, to be completed by the end of 2012. This approach is designed to raise issues relating to transposition and ACE fears its political position will be compromised. As a result it is asking Member Organisations to provide information in order to strengthen the ACE position.

Since the implementation of SIM at the end of 2009, ACE has continued proactively to develop a number of related elements that flow from the voluntary convergence agenda including work on alternative dispute resolution (Tillman Prinz) and insurance (Pawel Kobylanski).

### **Insurance - Pawel Kobylanski**

In Europe there is a wide variety of national insurance systems. However, there is also a growing need for security and guarantees in the construction sector. The Insurance work group analysed the conclusions of the ELIOS report (supported by the European Parliament). It points out that builders are subject to specific provisions concerning liability in nearly all the European systems, i.e. in 25 out of 27 Member States. Rules are generally required by law or (more rarely) stipulated in standard contracts to facilitate and regulate the conditions in which architects, building contractors and other parties can be held liable. Such rules provide greater protection for the buyer.

However national systems have developed independently and without much coherence between them, as there is no European model serving as a reference. The gradual enlargement of the European Union has consequently led to a real mosaic of 27 different national systems. Nonetheless there are some similarities. In Europe, two main choices seem possible among the current systems:

- Transfer of risks to different actors in the process: Joint and several liabilities. But the problem is, a single actor can be held liable for all. This principle is applied in many European countries (*"in solidum"*);

- Secure and potentially share the risks with insurance coverage: there are different models and six national legislations (Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden) have adopted this system for the housing sector (if a building has a latent defect, it must be noted within 10 years from the completion of the works).

To make things even more complex, in some countries, access to structured insurance products by architects is defective, while in others, architects must continue to pay (even when they have retired) to remain insured. Finally, if problems occur, insurance companies have many exclusion clauses, which enable them to evade their own liability. And there are many more problems to resolve in relation to cross-border practitioner. How can architects and clients be protected? Architects generally have a limited access to insurance products for cross-border work. A system needs to be developed to cover our profession across the entire territory of the European Union and even worldwide. Such a product would have to exclude joint and several liabilities. All stakeholders must be insured in accordance with possible loss. Today, there are many consultants who play an important role and bear no liability. But insurance should also protect the client.

### Cost information systems and Scope of Services - Philip Ridgway

Determining a common scope of liability requires us to first define a common core scope of services. Following successful work on describing the various Cost Information Systems that exist in Europe, Philip Ridgway's group began work in 2011, which will continue into 2012, on Scope of Services. From a review of examples of work across Europe, the group is seeking to extract common elements, identify national characteristics and trends. The first objective of this Work Group is to see clearly the core services that are provided by architects across the European Union and the second is to assist the general public in understanding the extensive role that architects are qualified to play and what can be expected of them.

In 2010 the Work Group launched an extensive survey of Architects' services in Europe, which has produced some interesting results, identifying many similarities between Architects' roles in different countries (revisiting earlier work undertaken in 1993). The survey has also pointed out some significant differences in professional roles, across Europe, and it has emerged from discussions that there are further differences which are not obvious from the survey questionnaires, because of the subtleties and complexities of local practices. Even in one country, variations in methods of practice can exist.

Based on these observations it has been decided to prepare a series of studies to expose differences in national systems and to clarify similarities, as an aid to better understanding of the professional processes. A series of national studies is envisaged, to explain the role of the architect (and that of the engineer) in a construction project in different parts of Europe. For the sake of consistency, the framework will follow the headings of the draft European Standard on "Engineering Services – (CEN/TC 395). It is intended to explore the core area of work for Architects throughout Europe, by explaining how a typical project would be dealt with in different countries. Reference will be made to three different types of project, to highlight variations: a family house, apartments and school building, in an urban location.



Photo: Schellen Architecten

## Public Procurement - Thomas Maibaum

The European Commission published its legislative proposal to modernise the EU Public Procurement Directive on the 20 December 2011. This reform is one of the twelve priority actions set out in the Single Market Act adopted in April 2011. The Commission's goal is to introduce simple, flexible instruments to allow public authorities to conclude transparent and competitive contracts as easily as possible and at the best value for money.

Throughout the legislative process, the architectural profession has stressed the importance of avoiding measures that can exclude 90% of the architects from getting public contracts. In fact, the ACE Sector Study prepared in 2010 confirmed that architectural offices are mainly small offices, which cannot meet the high financial requirements associated with submitting a tender. Therefore, ACE has been working to raise the awareness of public authorities regarding this major concern. Up to this point, the ACE advocacy work seems to have received a positive answer as the Commission plans to amend the Directive on the proportionality principle. The Commission's proposal is now being sent to the European Parliament and Council of Ministers for adoption under the co-decision procedure.

In April 2011 the ACE Procurement group responded to the European Commission's Green Paper. ACE's three key asks were (1) greater accessibility to public contracts for SMEs and young architects; (2) sharper use of the proportionality principle to address the mis-use of selection criteria (lowest cost is detrimental while 'life-cycle' costing is rarely considered); (3) greater use of design competitions for awarding architectural service contracts.

ACE will prepare its response to the December 2011 legislative proposal in the first quarter of 2012.

## Architectural Design Competitions -

Georg Pendl

At the end of 2010 ACE agreed that the use of Architectural Design Contests should be promoted as the best way of ensuring high quality of architecture in Public Procurement. It also agreed that architectural design contests should be promoted among private developers with the same objective of achieving high architectural quality in the built environment.



To encourage architectural design contests, the ACE prepared a master document according to the European legal framework (procurement directive) and the relevant recommendations made by the ACE concerning architectural design competitions (10 rules). This document provides a template based on best practise experience and recommendations. A competition using this template provides the client with the best projects and safeguards the interests of both the client and the architects.

As many countries, members of the ACE, have noted a significant reduction in the number of open architectural design contests. It is hoped that the issuing of this document will encourage a greater use of Architectural Design Contests both Public Procurement procedures and in private procurement. The document is the fruit of long and careful work by a dedicated Work Group who have been meeting regularly to ensure that this document is of significant value and highly applicable in all legal regimes in the EU.

## Trade in Services - Ian Pritchard

During the period the Executive Board resolved to pursue no new Trade in Services activity and so no new mutual recognition discussions were undertaken unless and until the Canadian negotiations are successfully concluded. There has been encouraging progress in 2011 both at political level, in the Canada-Europe Trade Agreement (CETA) talks, and between ACE and the Canadian Architectural Licensing Authority (CALA). It is expected that the CETA will be approved by the end of 2012, with ACE-CALA mutual recognition talks proceeding in parallel. The initiative has provided a good opportunity for ACE to work closely with DG Trade and DG Markt in this area.



Photo: Peter Moloney

## ARCHITECTURE & QUALITY OF LIFE

### Thematic Area 3 Coordinator: Lionel Dunet

*One of the main activity of TA3 was the organisation of the Exhibition on Sustainable Architecture across Europe, which marked ACE's 20th Anniversary. However we also provided a Glossary on sustainable construction (Common language) and responded to the EU Energy Performance in Buildings Directive and the Energy Efficiency Plan.*



### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events and Exhibition

2010 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the ACE and to celebrate this occasion the ACE organised a series of events in Brussels.

On 30 November 2010, the ACE organised an opening ceremony in the European Parliament for the ACE Exhibition *Sustainable Architecture across Europe*, which showcases some of the best practice examples of sustainable architecture from all over Europe. Frida Brepoels, Belgian MEP and architect by training sponsored the exhibition. The exhibition was mounted by the ACE in collaboration with the Faculty of architecture, architectural engineering and urbanism (LOCI) of the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve. It presents 33 projects from 25 countries in Europe and its thematic approach demonstrates how the architectural profession is meeting the target of producing beautiful sustainable and affordable architecture; an architecture of the future. One of the key criteria for entry to this exhibition was that each project must be completed and occupied thus demonstrating that what many believe to be high technological and risky approaches to building is already with us in all corners of Europe. ACE hopes that those who visit the exhibition and read the catalogue of the exhibition will learn a little about how best to design buildings of all types.

On 3 December 2010, the ACE held two distinct events – first, its General Assembly was held at the European Parliament. It was structured as a conference to address the most important EU policy and legislative issues af-

fecting the quality of the built environment at the present time. Main topics of this high level conference were: the mobility of architects in Europe (the Professional Qualifications Directive) and the Services in the Internal Market Directive) and the business environment for architects in Europe (the Public Procurement Directive, the Recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive). The Assembly was followed by a ceremony and celebratory dinner at the Palais des Beaux Arts, to formally mark ACE's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The ACE Exhibition has since travelled in many different places around the world: it was presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Pan-Hellenic Architectural Conference in Athens (Greece) in March. Then, the Chamber of Turkish Architects translated and presented the exhibition in several Turkish cities from June to October 2011. In September the exhibition was displayed in Gdansk during the conference organised by the Polish Chamber of Architects in the context of the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) and a slideshow was presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> UIA Congress in Tokyo, Japan. In October, the physical exhibition was mounted in the Slovenian Parliament to promote sustainable architecture at national level and there are plans for the exhibition to be shown in the Brussels-Wallonia Federation in Belgium in 2012.



EU Parliament - ACE 20th Anniversary Conference, 2010

## Glossary: Common language for Sustainable Construction

In response to the need for more sustainable construction, new concepts, phrases, terms and expressions are being used in the construction industry across Europe. These concepts are aimed at improving the environmental, social and economic impact of the industry and its outputs. From “air source heat pumps” to “net zero carbon buildings”, from “whole life costing” to “photovoltaic electricity”, from “recycled resources” to “passive house”, it is important that the industry reaches a common understanding of these terms to speak a common language for sustainable construction and to provide a base for harmonized development in the future.

ACE, worked with the European Concrete Platform and the European Economic and Social Committee, to establish a working glossary of the concepts currently in use. The glossary can be used to disseminate information about sustainable construction more widely across the industry and it will ensure a common understanding of the terminology used within the framework of sustainable construction. The original English wiki version was launched during the 2010 EU Sustainable Energy Week and is now used by the construction sector, policy makers at national and European levels and for communication, educational and training purposes within the sectors directly concerned. The multilingual glossary *Let's speak sustainable construction* is available in a printed version for English, French, German and Spanish. Other European languages are available online.

## Sustainable Development - Energy Performance in Buildings Directive

The recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) requires the European Commission to develop a voluntary common EU Certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings. The EPBD requires Member States to establish an energy performance certificate (EPCs) for buildings, however the legislation does not specify a common approach. Consequently, the scheme has not been harmonized across the EU and the subsidiarity principle has led to a variety of approaches.

In an earlier exchange of views with Member States, there was a broad consensus that any scheme should add value to existing national schemes and a majority of MS agreed with the idea of developing a EU Brand Label for best-performing non-residential buildings, which would use MS' calculation methods. Consultants of the Commission also proposed a definition for a performance scale, a methodology for calculating the energy performance of new and existing non-residential buildings and the content of the certificate. In 2012 ACE will follow the proposed Energy Efficiency Directive closely and its WG Architecture and Sustainable Development will provide input to the discussions at the EU Commission.

## Energy Efficiency Plan

Following the publication of the Energy Efficiency Plan 2011 in March 2011, the European Commission published a proposal for a Directive on Energy Efficiency. This Directive proposes the repeal of two existing Directives – the Energy Services Directive and the Cogeneration Directive – into one consolidated Directive. Crucially, the proposal proposes to introduce a binding requirement on public bodies to increase their rate of deep energy renovations of public buildings to 3% of the owned floor area per year. This idea was announced in the Energy Efficiency Plan 2011, but has been watered down in the proposal by allowing public bodies to exempt buildings of less than 250m<sup>2</sup> in area. It will be necessary to closely follow the adoption of this proposal as it goes through the co-decision procedures in the European Parliament and Council. The requirement to increase the renovation rate could lead to a high number of new projects that will assist the architectural profession to exit from the economic crisis that has seen its workload diminish significantly over the last two years.

## Urban Issues

The Urban Issues work group has been seeking to strengthen the architectural dimension of urban space for the development and regeneration of cities, towns and villages, and to identify and promote appropriate measures and/or indicators for measuring the quality of urban space. The WG looking to prepare concrete recommendations based on information collected from Member Organisations (best practice examples), while following the work of the Commission, of the pertinent Committees of the European Parliament and also the work of the Urban Inter-Group. Other objectives include: participate in the testing phase of the Reference Framework for Sustainable European Cities (RFSC) and its follow up in the implementation phase ; monitor the development of the Territorial Agenda of the EU and provide relevant inputs to highlight the crucial role of architecture; monitor the development of the Urban Agenda of the EU and actively participate in its drafting process; track the developments of the EU territorial and urban monitoring tools: Eurobarometer, Espon, Urban Audit etc to ensure that architecture is taken into account and track the work of the EP Urban Intergroup (UIG), making pro-active inputs to its work.



## ACE PARTICIPATION IN EU FUNDED PROJECTS



**Project Officer: Eleni Goni**

*The involvement of the ACE in EU funded research projects allows it to further its policies and to engage with a wide range of stakeholders in the European Union. It is considered that a limited involvement in such projects where the subject matter is carefully chosen and fully in line with ACE policy is a valuable pursuit. Necessary actions are taken so that the ACE mobilises and involves its' network in order to identify professionals contacts, which are active on relevant issues and are willing to participate and share their knowledge and experience. Brief description follows of the current status of the projects in which the ACE is involved, as well as the responsibilities and tasks the ACE has undertaken:*

### Open House FP7 Project

There are 20 partners in the Open House project team which is working to create an open-source, web-based sustainability assessment tool for all buildings. This ambitious project is hoped to be of great influence in moving building design towards true sustainability. A key objective is to go beyond the existing tools such as the environmental rating schemes like LEED and BREEAM that do not ensure certified buildings are truly as sustainable as possible.

Following the analysis and evaluation of existing methodologies related to the sustainability of buildings and participation in the important task of defining new indicators and sustainability performance levels which will be part of the final assessment tool, ACE successfully led the task of identifying buildings throughout Europe which will be used for the testing of the Open House methodology, allowing the further improvement of the developed baseline. Through the process of selecting buildings in order to test the developed methodology, ACE has succeeded in mobilising its network involving many architects across Europe in the project.

Following the interim Review Meeting with the Project Officer of the EC, which took place in mid-October, certain gaps were identified which need to be overcome. The OPEN HOUSE Consortium has proposed a 6-month extension of the contract in order to overcome the delay in the deployment of the first tasks of the project.

By the end of August 2012, ACE has to execute the "full sustainability assessment" of two office buildings in Belgium, contributing to the refinement of the OPEN HOUSE methodology. ACE is also responsible of supervising the sustainability assessment of two buildings in the Netherlands. These assessments are currently underway by external sustainability experts.



Open House Training Course, London, December 2011

### Shelter IEE Project

Shelter has 10 partners and it aims to map the structure of project teams that are employed by Social Housing Organisations in the energy upgrading of existing housing schemes.

The intention is to identify the optimum team structure in the expectation that using the optimum team will lead to significant improvements in the final energy performance of the projects to which it is applied. This is akin to investigating models of integrated project delivery. In the first year of this 36-month project a complete analysis of the current energy renovation process in participating Social Housing Organisations (SHOs) from Italy, Belgium, UK, Bulgaria and France was conducted and is now published. A range of precise alternatives inspired by the integrated project delivery approach has been disseminated to the SHOs. These alternatives are already being implemented in real pilot case studies.

The main role of ACE in the Shelter project is to provide support and advice to the SHOs in the coordination of energy renovations of the social housing building stock. The ACE, along with two other European Federations and the Research Centre involved, has the task of supervising the operational application of the co-operational models by the SHOs, providing assistance as a mentor. In the context of this task, ACE is expected to identify and mobilise architects with experience in energy retrofitting of social housing, who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise. Furthermore, ACE is the partner responsible for communication activities. These activities are of two types: a) Dissemination of project results through specific media (projects' website, newsletters, build-up community) b) Participation in European and national events where the project will be presented to professionals and the projects' outcomes will be discussed in side- events in the form of workshops. The ACE is co-organising along with the European Builders' Confederation and CECODHAS Housing Europe an event in the context of the 2012 EU Sustainable Energy Week with the title "Innovate to Renovate".



Shelter Consortium Meeting, Delft, Netherlands, June 2011

## TrainRebuild IEE Project

Train Rebuild has 10 partners and is targeting owners of residential buildings in the private or public sector who are reluctant to undertake energy upgrading of their buildings because of the phenomenon known as the "split-incentive". The project will produce training materials that national organisations of building owners will use to address this obstacle to the upgrading of buildings. Following the contribution in the planning and execution of a survey on the best practices relevant to the project to be sought, the ACE participated in one laboratory for building professionals, obtaining the views of building professionals on best practices for energy efficiency and renewable measures in EU Member States, as well as prioritising for property owners which measures to adopt. The ACE also contributed to the development of a training package and a training toolkit to support it, as well as at the setting up of a "train the trainers" meeting.

The ACE is expected to participate in four European Forum Meetings on training issues related to the retrofitting of buildings. The long-term strategic output of these Forums will be to facilitate the implementation at the regional and national levels of the EU 2020 objectives with regards to buildings. By the completion of the project in December 2012, practical deployment of training for experts from Property Owners Associations and staff from Local Authorities will be underway.

## STRATEGIC ALLIANCES AND NETWORKS

Over the 20 years or so of its existence, the ACE has developed a unique profile and reputation in the heart of EU officialdom in Brussels, notwithstanding the reality of limitations due to its scale, structure and funding. The ACE has developed a number of relationships with other EU-based or international networks, acting as a leader or as a supporting partner, strengthening the voice of the architectural profession in the EU. Mindful of the growing number of initiatives, a vast number of contacts and communication lines are currently being re-assessed at the Executive Board level with a view to the potential re-alignment in keeping with the key political priorities. This important on-going work needs to be within the firm focus of the new Secretary General's work in 2012, while we continue to communicate with ECCREDI, ESF, EFCA and others.

Further development of contacts within the EU Commission and relevant Directorates-General, as well as with MEPs, is anticipated in future. If we are to fulfill the ambitions to raise the profile and stature of the profession, it will be essential for the member organisations to take a stronger, more active role in specific campaigning. The recent campaign in connection with the modernization of the Professional Qualifications Directive clearly illustrated the complexity of making a real impact at the EU level and the need for persistently synchronized actions at national levels.

The ACE Executive Board is aware of the value of strategic alliances based on three key pillars: architectural education, architectural practice and sustainable architecture, and has continued to engage with partner networks from these areas, seeking to refine the effectiveness of our involvement.

**EAAE** - co-operation with the network representing architectural education, the EAAE, takes form through the Joint Working Party and partnership in the ENHSA project. This has been manifested through two workshops focusing on evidence gathering of practical experience leading to licensing, and through gathering support for ACE's "5 + 2" position, which has been set out in my presentation at

the conference in Chania, Crete, in September last year.

**ENACA** - the ACE also benefits from the work of ACE delegates in the European Network of Architects Competent Authorities and we look forward to continued good relations with the new chair Olga Mihalikova.

**EFAP** - the ACE Executive Board continues to cultivate its relationship with European Forum for Architecture Policies, through active presence at biannual conferences co-organised by each EU Presidency country and through the direct representation of ACE Vice-President Lionel Dunet, as a member of the EFAP Board. We see this co-operation as a vehicle to support the formulation and adoption of national architectural policies, as well as being a valuable source of Continuing Professional Development and networking for our profession.

**UIA** - the ACE has cordial relations with the International Union of Architects, which recently elected new representatives to its Board and Council. The ACE "Sustainable Architecture across Europe" exhibition was shown in digital form at the UIA Congress in Tokyo in September last year, adding to the national exhibitions from our Member Organisations. Mindful of the wishes of our members, we continue to seek ways of rationalizing the work of ACE and UIA Regions I and II. We also fully support the recommendations of the UIA Vision & Strategy for developing a model of regional co-operation through international architectural organisations like AR-CASIA, AUA, FPAA, MASA and others.

ACE has developed contacts in recent years with registration bodies in the USA, Canada, South Korea and the Caribbean islands, responding to invitations to develop dialogue leading towards mutual recognition agreements to facilitate mobility of architects in the context of international trade agreements.

## GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2012-2013



ACE General Assembly, November 2011

### Integrity of architectural education & qualification

The “5 + 2” campaign intensified in 2011, through public consultations and our response to the EU Commission’s Green Paper on modernization of the Professional Qualifications Directive. The ACE Work Group mounted an impressive campaign, led by Chairman Toal O’Muire, energizing a number of our member organisations and reaching the attention of MEPs and officials. This work is all the more significant given the absence of senior policy professionals in the Secretariat and demonstrated the complexity of ambition to advocate and promote the unified position of architects at every level. We are following the 2012 legislative programme in earnest.

### Public Procurement and access to work

The continued economic uncertainty and the decline in construction activity throughout the EU have further decreased demand for architectural services and have dramatically changed the landscape and access to work. It is likely that this will further affect the size and income of architectural practices, resulting in large-scale unemployment or under-employment of architects across Europe. This makes the findings of the 2010 ACE Sector Study seem like a distant past now and calls for an up-dating of the questionnaire in time for the 2012 study. The key challenges for the profession are likely to remain related to small and medium size practices, access to publicly funded work and the need to remove obstacles to the use of quality based selection criteria. While the internal work of ACE work groups is looking to gather evidence on the typical project work and process in order to refine the scope of professional services. It is also necessary to respond to the European Commission’s legislative proposal on modernizing the Public Procurement Directive. For the voice of architects to be heard effectively in this regard, it will be necessary to mobilise member organisations to carry out joint campaigns at national as well as EU level.

## The role of the architect in shaping society and the environment

While the profession assumes its role in society and the economy to be a vital one, it seems that it has not yet found adequate channels to effectively demonstrate this. It is sometimes disheartening to realize how little the general public and officials in various governmental departments really understand and appreciate the complexity, length and nature of the building process. While dozens of publications, exhibitions and seminars are proliferated, it would be easy to become cynical towards such activity, in particular when the 'real construction' remains scarce on the ground.

There is a gap between aspirations and reality or perhaps between different realities. There are no ready-made answers, and we need time to understand the changing world and our changing role in it. We believe that the work area Architecture & Quality of Life, is of a strategic and long-term nature and it potentially can fulfill the need for an intellectual discourse beyond the mechanics of legal and administrative language. But we also know that the mission of this organization is to engage with legislation coming from the EU in order to represent and safeguard the profession. How and where to move further in this regard?

## Externally-funded projects

These provide opportunities for broader participation by Member Organisations for direct involvement, continuing professional development and advancing the role of architects in the process. A number of dedicated experts have successfully represented the ACE at high profile events in the past, but we also need our work groups to be re-energised, and need to articulate ways to adequately engage with the legislative agenda. We need to make connections with aspects of procurement, place-making, the cultural and historic context and the quality of the built environment for which architects are responsible, so that we can take an active role in making legislation work better for all.



Photo: Miguel de Guzman

## STRUCTURE OF ACE

The Architects' Council of Europe is an international, not-for-profit association composed of representative organisations of European architects.

ACE consists of a General Assembly, an Executive Board, a Finance Committee, work groups configured in three thematic areas and a permanent Secretariat established in Brussels. The General Assembly is composed of Delegates from all Member Organisations and is the sovereign body. It meets twice a year and its function is to consider, formulate and adopt the policy of the ACE as well as its budget.

The function of the Executive Board is to execute the policy of the ACE as formulated by the General Assembly. It is also charged with securing, maintaining and monitoring the proper and efficient administration of the ACE. The Executive Board is composed of 11 Members, 6 of whom are elected by the General Assembly (including the President) for a two year term, with the balance consisting of 5 persons from the Member Organisations (nominated in accordance with an established rotation) also serving for a two-year term of office that alternates with the elections to ensure continuity from one Board to the next.

The function of the Finance Committee is to advise the General Assembly and the Executive Board on all matters relating to the financial management of the ACE. The Committee is composed of one Delegation from each Member State of the EU and only one member of each Delegation attends any meeting of the Committee. Where countries have multiple Member Organisations, it is for those organisations to co-ordinate and decide, at national level, which member from that State will attend the meetings of the Committee.

As for the Secretariat, its main function, under the direction of the Executive Board, is to be the permanent interlocutor of the EU institutions and to undertake the advocacy work directed at them, on behalf of ACE and its members. It is responsible for procuring relevant information on the work of the EU institutions for dissemination to the Member Organi-

sations, maintaining accounts and managing the affairs of the ACE. The Secretariat is also charge with the proper and efficient routine administration of ACE – which includes assisting in the organization and management of meetings of the various ACE work groups held in Brussels.



The Work groups are established by decision of the Executive Board, ratified by the General Assembly and their function is to undertake the technical work involved in the execution of tasks assigned to them by the Executive Board, often related to the development of specific policy positions. For many representatives of Member Organisations, participation in a work group is the main exposure they have to ACE. Work Groups should be composed of expert nominees from the Member Organisations, whose work represents the lifeblood of ACE and informs and supports its policy positions and advocacy work.

The work of ACE is organized into three thematic areas which included the following groups during the period 2010-2011:

- Access to the Profession (education, PQD, accreditation & validation, professional practice experience, CPD and regulatory issues).
- Practice of the Profession & Trade in Services (SIM, Insurance, Public Procurement, Scope of Services, Trade in Services)
- Architecture & Quality of Life (Sustainability, Urban Issues, Housing)

## LIST OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

### Austria

Bundeskammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten - BAIK

### Belgium

Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes - CNOA  
Fédération Royale des Sociétés d'Architectes de Belgique - FAB

### Bulgaria

Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria - CAB  
Union of Architects in Bulgaria - UAB

### Croatia

Croatian Chamber of Architects - CCA

### Cyprus

Cyprus Architects Association - CAA

### Czech Republic

Czech Chamber of Architects - CCA

### Denmark

Akademisk Arkitektforening - AA  
Danish Association of Architectural Firms - DA

### Estonia

The Union of Estonian Architects - UEA

### Finland

Finnish Association of Architects - SAFA

### France

Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes - CNOA  
Syndicat d'Architecture - SA  
Union Nationale des Syndicats Français d'Architectes - UNSFA

### Germany

Architects' Delegation Germany - Bundesarchitektenkammer - BAK  
Bund Deutscher Architekten - BDA  
Bund Deutscher Baumeister Architekten und Ingenieure - BDB  
Vereinigung Freischaffender Architekten - VFA

### Greece

Association des Architectes Diplômés - SADAS-PEA  
Chambre Technique de Grèce - CTG

### Hungary

Chamber of Hungarian Architects - MEK

### Ireland

Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland - RIAI

### Italy

Consiglio Nazionale degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori - CNAPPC

### Latvia

The Latvia Association of Architects - LAA

### Lithuania

Architects Association of Lithuania - AAL

### Luxembourg

Ordre des Architectes et Ingénieurs Conseils de Luxembourg - OAI

### Malta

Kamra tal-Periti - KTP

### Netherlands

Bond van Nederlandse Architecten - BNA  
Stichting Bureau Architectenregister - SBA

### Norway

Association of Consulting Architects in Norway - ACA  
Norske Arkitekters Landforbund - NAL

### Poland

Association of Polish Architects - SARP  
National Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland - IARP

### Portugal

Ordem Dos Arquitectos - OA

### Romania

Architects' Chamber of Romania - OAR

### Slovakia

Slovak Chamber of Architects - SKA

### Slovenia

Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia - ZAPS

### Spain

Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España - CSCAE

### Sweden

Sveriges Arkitekter - SA

### Switzerland

Conférence Suisse des Architectes - CSA

### Turkey

Chamber of Architects of Turkey - CAT

### United Kingdom

Architect's Registration Board - ARB  
Royal Institute of British Architects - RIBA

## OBSERVERS MEMBER OF THE ACE

### FYROM

The Association of Architects from FYROM - AAM

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

Association of Architects in Bosnie and Herzegovina

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LU88 Office Building

Slovakia, Bratislava

Peter Benuska, Peter Topinka

Photo: Pato Safko

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Germany, Hamburg

Behnisch Architekten

Photo: Adam Mork

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Bayer Headquarter

Belgium, Diegem

Schellen Architecten

Photo: Schellen Architecten

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Nature and Environment Educational

Visitor Center

Belgium, Gent

EVR-Architecten

Photo: EVR-Architecten

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Nurse Education Building WIT

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European Commission

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"Sustainable Architecture across Europe"

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ACE 20th Anniversary Walking Dinner

Photo: F. Debatty

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The Netherlands, Terschelling

De Zwarte Hond

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Text: Architects' Council of Europe

Graphic design: Architects' Council of Europe

Images: ACE Secretariat unless noted otherwise (see below)

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