

## INTRODUCTION



The winter and approaching festive season coincides with an end of a dynamic period of activity in ACE, including the recent election of a new, incoming President and partly refreshed Executive Board at the General Assembly in Biel/Bienne in Switzerland. Ending my four-year Presidency, I hand over a strong and stable organization, which enjoys respect, relevance and

prestige as an important voice of the architectural profession in Europe and internationally. We have built an organization with a lively interaction of delegates from member organizations and a synergy with partner networks with whom we can work on common objectives.

Our profession remains exposed to the de-regulatory trends whether through the Peer Review of the implementation of the Services Directive by the European Commission or its Communication on Access to the Professions. With the continuing slow recovery of the construction sector, the permanent focus remains on the Jobs and Growth agenda and on an advancement of the role of architect as a leading partner in the value chain of constructing a sustainable built environment. Our on-going involvement in the Construction 2020 consultative process is a major exercise set to continue into 2014.

The publication of the Single Market Act II marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Single Market – saw the introduction of new Directives as well as the up-dating of old ones. We can be satisfied with successful advocacy in a number of areas although we have not always accomplished all our aspirations with regard to the Professional Qualifications Directive, the Public Procurement Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Services in the Internal Market Directive.

This challenging but rewarding period, with the intensive lobbying, has served to underline the importance of developing and pursuing advocacy campaigns in tandem with our Member Organizations and it is vital that they continue to play their part at national level during the implementation process of these directives.

With gratitude for your support and attention during my mandate, I send you warm seasons' greetings and wish you a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Selma Harrington  
ACE President  
December 2013

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## REVIEW OF THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE

### The ACE welcomes final agreement on the modernised Professional Qualifications Directive and confirms commitment to its implementation



Following the adoption of the modernised Professional Qualifications Directive (PQD) by the European Parliament on 9 October, the PQD was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the EU on 15 November 2013. This vote at first reading concluded the modernising process that started with the Commission's proposal in December 2011.

The 2005 Directive set a minimum training standard for architects of four years full time study at University level (or equivalent). This never reflected the reality of training requirements across Europe or the standards required in practice. Raising the minimum standard to a realistic level has been a long-term goal of the ACE and significant progress has been made. According to the modernised Directive architectural training should now comprise either five years of university level training ("5+0") or not less than four years of study supplemented by a supervised professional traineeship of a minimum of two years ("4+2"). While the ACE continues to advocate a minimum of five-years academic training complemented by 2 years of traineeship ("5+2") in order to gain automatic recognition between Member States, the modernised Directive is a significant improvement on the old 4+0 minimum.

Regarding the main innovation of the Commission's proposal, the ACE supported the amendment of the European Professional Card proposal to provide for an e-certificate format. However ACE remains unconvinced that the professional card would prove beneficial to the process for recognising architects who are subject to automatic recognition provisions.

In addition, ACE has secured the exclusion of the architectural profession from partial access measures, and has supported flexibility to permit recognition of different approaches to traineeship under the amended Directive.

The new Directive will become law twenty days after it is published in the Official Journal of the EU, and Member States will have two years to transpose it into national law. ACE remains committed to making the voice of European architects heard during this implementation phase and to working towards further revisions, by 2017, that will align the EU position more closely with prevailing national and international standards.

- Read a provisional version of the text in all EU languages on the [European Parliament website](#) and a Memo published by the [European Commission](#).

## Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises

### Conference on "Innovation in Construction"



On 21 October 2013, ACE President Selma Harrington and ACE Secretary General Ian Pritchard attended a conference under the theme "Innovation in Construction", organised in the framework of the Construction 2020 Strategy. Following a plenary session focused on the meaning of *innovation* for the construction sector, three parallel sessions were held on "Dialogue between actors - towards common reference frameworks in construction"; "Educating the whole value chain - making construction a desired profession"; and "Promoting life-cycle thinking". The EU Commission will take into account the views expressed during this conference when

identifying priorities for future programmes and initiatives in regard to the construction sector.

### High Level Strategic Forum – Final conference

On 29 November 2013, the ACE President attended the final conference of the High Level Strategic Forum. Participants discussed the progress of the Action Plan to promote the construction sector, presented in July 2012. The Plan aims to boost the sector as a driving force in the creation of jobs and growth by: Stimulating favourable investment conditions (Group 1), Improving the human-capital basis (Group 2), Improving resource efficiency, environmental performance and business opportunities (Group 3), Strengthening the Internal Market for construction (Group 4), and Fostering the global competitive position of EU construction enterprises (Group 5). Group 1 discussed financial instruments available by

mapping the specific needs for various market segments. Group 2 noted that it is necessary to anticipate future demands on the labour market to create the conditions for a better working environment and career prospects for young people. Group 3 discussed promoting the environmental performance of construction products. Group 4 assessed the overall consistency of a number of EU legal acts imposing obligations on the construction sector. The objective is to identify/avoid/remove provisions in EU legal acts that create overlaps

or obsolete measures. In Group 5, the discussion focused on the particularities of external trade in the construction sector, such as high dependence on local market conditions, geographical distance and exposure to political risks. ACE delegates represent the interest of the architectural profession in the High Level Forum and in the five thematic groups set up by the Commission. [More information on the EU Commission website.](#)

## EU NEWS

### Delegated Acts of the Construction Products Regulation



On 30 October 2013, the European Commission published the Delegated Acts that supplement the Construction Products Regulation (CPR).

According to the Commission's proposal, manufacturers of construction products will be able to upload digital "declarations of performance" on their websites. These documents must accompany the majority of construction products sold, in order to give information on their essential characteristics (e.g. fire resistance, mechanical strength or energy efficiency). Today, all such declarations are individually communicated to the customer by post or email. Online availability of these declarations should enable faster communication through the supply chain, reduce producer costs and facilitate sales of construction products. The proposal will also make it easier for consumers to find out what performance they should expect from the product they are about to buy. The objective of the CPR, in force since July 2013, is to ensure the availability of reliable and accurate information on the performance of construction products, based on technical specifications that are harmonised across all EU countries. More information on the CPR can be found on the [Commission website.](#)

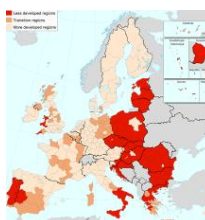
### Launch of ESCO: the European Skills/Competences, Qualifications and Occupations classification



On 23 October 2013, the European Commission launched the ESCO classification – a classification of European Skills/Competences, Qualifications and Occupations – that identifies and categorises, in 22 languages, skills and competences, qualifications and occupations relevant for the EU labour market, education and training. The system provides occupational

profiles showing the relationships between occupations, skills, competences and qualifications. The European Commission has developed ESCO to bridge the gap between the world of education and the labour market. By introducing a standard terminology, ESCO can also help to better identify and manage availability of required skills, competences and qualifications. The ultimate goal of the system is to get more people into jobs and to facilitate workers' mobility throughout Europe. The architectural profession features among the occupations addressed by ESCO. [Visit the ESCO Portal.](#)

### Agreement on the new Cohesion Policy



On 20 November 2013, the European Parliament endorsed the reform of the Cohesion Policy for the 2014-2020 period. This funding of 325 billion EUR represents roughly a third of the EU budget. In the

coming months, Member States, in cooperation with the Regional Managing Authorities, will finalise their Operational Programmes that will set out regions' priorities for delivering the funds over the next 7 years. The future ERDF Regulation provides for an increased focus on sustainable urban development. On the other hand, the amount of funding for sustainable energy and energy efficiency has increased from the previous period and investments in energy efficiency in buildings are now possible under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund. The new rules are due to be formally adopted by the EU's Council in the coming weeks.

### Energy Efficiency in Buildings: the UK, the Netherlands, Greece and Malta are requested to comply with their obligations



In its November infringements package, the Commission requested the Netherlands and the United

Kingdom to ensure that performance certificates are always provided when a building is sold or rented. Issuing an energy performance certificate is one of the key requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. On the other hand, the Commission formally requested Malta and Greece to ensure full compliance with their obligations under this same legislation. Directive 2010/31/EU had to be transposed into national law by 9 July 2012. To date, Malta and Greece have not fully transposed EU Provisions into national law. In September 2012 the Commission started infringement procedures against 24 Member States (all except Denmark, Ireland and Sweden) that had not notified the Commission of national measures transposing the Directive.

### **Van Rompuy flags two million energy efficient building jobs by 2020**

On 10 October 2013, on the occasion of REDay, an event organised by the Renovate Europe Campaign in partnership with the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU, H. Van Rompuy, President of the European Council delivered a video address in which he called on the EU Member States to seize the huge energy saving and economic opportunities energy efficiency in buildings represents: "Energy efficiency in buildings is not a cost, but an investment with a great rate of return (...) undertaking ambitious renovation of the existing building stock can have very significant social, economic and environmental benefit". He underlined that "buildings represent the greatest potential sector for energy savings in the EU". "Deep renovation of existing buildings has also the potential to stimulate innovation, to improve health and to create about two million new direct jobs in the Union by 2020", said the President of the Council. [Watch Van Rompuy video address on Renovate Europe website.](#)

### **19<sup>th</sup> informal meeting of European Housing Ministers**

On 9-10 December 2013, an informal meeting of the EU Housing Ministers was held at the invitation of the three regional ministers responsible for housing in Belgium. The core theme of the meeting was "*The sustainable financing of housing policies in times of crisis*". In their final Communiqué, Housing Ministers recall Member States' exclusive competence in matters of housing policy, as well as the informal nature of the Housing Minister's meetings. According to Eurobarometer surveys, almost 28 million Europeans live in inadequate housing and 58 million spend more than 40% of their income on housing and associated expenses. The Ministers recommend that housing be considered in the long-term as "an important factor for socio-economic recovery

(and) a major instrument in energy transition. [Read the complete Communiqué.](#) On this occasion, the Architects' Council of Europe supported the Statement of the [European Housing Forum](#) (EHF), in which EHF calls on the EU and Member States to mobilise existing funding instruments to assure the sustainable financing of housing policy, to promote innovation, and to further support energy and ecological transition in the housing sector. [Read the complete EHF Statement.](#)

### **Commission's proposal on Standard VAT return**



On 23 October 2013, the EU Commission presented a proposal aimed at slashing red-tape for businesses. The

Commission's proposal foresees a uniform set of requirements for businesses when filing their VAT returns, regardless of the Member State in which this is done. The standard VAT return – which will replace national VAT returns – will ensure that businesses are asked for the same basic information, within the same deadlines, across the EU. [More information.](#)

### **International public procurement instrument**



On 28 November 2013, the International Trade Committee of the European Parliament endorsed a draft law that could

bar non-EU firms from bidding for public procurement contracts in the EU unless their home countries allow EU firms reciprocal access to their public procurement markets. This position goes in the direction of the ACE response to a questionnaire from DG Trade regarding international procurement. As the EU is one of the most open procurement markets in the world, ACE advocated that access to third country procurement markets be strictly reciprocal. EU Commission data suggest that 85% of EU public procurement markets are already open to international tenders. However, EU firms are permitted to bid for only 32% of the public tenders in the USA and 28% in Japan. The proposed instrument would apply to big public tenders (from €5 million) and to tenders in which goods or services originating outside the EU exceed 50% of the total value of the goods or services involved.

### **Greek Presidency of the EU**



From 1 January 2014, Greece will hold the Presidency of the EU, before handing over reins to Italy on 1 July 2014. It is the fifth time that Greece will

hold the EU Presidency since its accession to the European Communities in 1981. The four pillars of the Greek Presidency will be: "Growth-

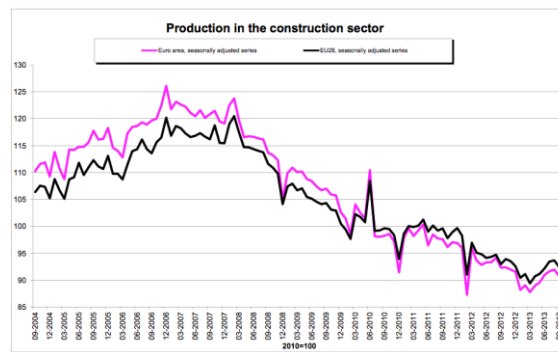
Jobs-Cohesion" ; "Further Integration of the EU – Eurozone" ; "Migration-Borders-Mobility" and "Maritime Policies". [Access the EU Greek Presidency website.](#)

### Eurostat: Production in construction down by 1.3% in EU28



According to first estimates released by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in September 2013 compared with August 2013, seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector fell by 1.3% in both the euro area (EA17) and the EU 28. In September 2013, compared with September 2012, production in construction declined by 0.2% in the euro area and increased by 0.2% in the EU28. Among the Member States for which data are available for September 2013,

production in construction fell in nine countries and rose in six. The largest decreases were observed in Portugal (-12.3%), Romania (-6.9%) and the Czech Republic (-4.6%), and the highest increases in Slovenia (+6.2%), Slovakia (+1.6%) and Hungary (+0.8%). More details for each Member State in the [Eurostat press release.](#)



## PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

In November 2013, ACE responded to two public consultations launched by the EU Commission:

### ➤ Sustainable Buildings consultation

ACE considers essential that more comparable data become publicly available about the environmental impact of construction materials and products. Transparent calculation metrics are required to enable built environment professionals to report on the environmental footprint of buildings cheaply and routinely. For the moment the lack of data, the complexity and great variety of calculation methods make such assessments prohibitively expensive and individual products and buildings difficult to benchmark. ACE supports policy measures that will achieve a measurable reduction in the environmental impact of construction and waste.

### ➤ Evaluation of the Energy Labelling Directive (ELD) and certain aspects of the Ecodesign Directive (EDD)

ACE argues that the scope of the ELD and EDD should not apply to buildings and to non Energy related products associated with the construction of buildings. The energy consumption of a building is not dependent on the energetic value of a single product but on the effect of a sustainable and integrated design process. Architects are able to conduct and coordinate the design and building process in a way that the maximum energy efficiency and sustainability is achieved in a finished building.

## ACE MATTERS

### ACE General Assembly in Biel – 6 and 7 December 2013



#### Elections: partial renewal of the ACE Executive Board

On 6 and 7 December 2013, the ACE held its second General Assembly of the year in Biel (Switzerland), at the invitation of the [Conférence Suisse des Architectes](#) (CSA). On this occasion, Mr. Luciano Lazzari (Italy) was elected President of the Architects' Council of Europe for a two-year term. Five Executive Board Members were also elected or re-elected: Dubravko Bacic (Croatia), Lionel Dunet (France), Wolfgang Haack (Germany), Pierre-Henri Schmutz (Switzerland) and Sara Van Rompaey (Belgium). The Members appointed by rotation in December 2012 complete the Board team for 2014: Bulent Batuman (Turkey), Vincent Cassar (Malta), Martin Drahovsky (Slovakia), David Falla (United Kingdom) and Indrek Näkk (Estonia).

#### Political issues and internal affairs

The General Assembly, adopted changes to the ACE By-Laws. Several changes in ACE membership were endorsed: the resignation of Poland, the suspension of membership of the Association of Architects in Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the Association of Architects in Macedonia, and the approval of the application of the Union of Architects of Serbia (UAS). The Assembly then approved

two policy positions on Closing the Performance Gap, and on Life Cycle Assessment. On the other hand, participants discussed on fee-scales, CPD and on the revised Public Procurement and Professional Qualifications Directives.

> [Find pictures of the meeting on the ACE Facebook page!](#)

### ACE Board meeting in Kosice (Slovakia)



On 25 October 2013, the ACE Executive Board held a meeting in Kosice, at the invitation of the [Slovak Chamber of Architects](#) (SCA). On this occasion, ACE President Selma Harrington, Imrich Pleidl, SCA President and Richard Raši, Mayor of Kosice, opened the exhibition of the SCA Awards 2013. ACE Board Members met then with SCA Board Members and were received by the Mayor of Kosice at the City Hall.

### ACE President attends the UMAP General Assembly in Marseille



On 26-27 September 2013, ACE President Selma Harrington attended the General Assembly of the Union of Mediterranean Architects (UMAR) in Marseille (France).

### ACE President attends the launch of the Irish GPA Annual Report 2011-2012

On 11 December 2013, ACE President Selma Harrington attended the launch of the Irish Government Policy on Architecture Annual Report for 2011-2012, in the presence of Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht. The GPA 2009-2015 *Towards a Sustainable Future: Delivering Quality within the Built Environment* provides the framework for architectural policy in Ireland up to 2015 and beyond. The Annual Report is available to download at: [www.ahg.gov.ie](http://www.ahg.gov.ie).

### Voluntary common European Union certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings – Brussels, 24 October 2013



On 24 October 2013, Judit Kimpian, Chair of the ACE *Environment and Sustainable Architecture* work group, attended an expert meeting in Brussels, organised by the EU Commission about a Voluntary common EU certification scheme for the energy performance of non-residential buildings. The aim of this meeting was to get feedback from the stakeholders on their experience with defining such certification schemes and to discuss with them their needs in the market. The results of this consultation will feed into the Commission's analysis for the implementation of Article 11 (9) of the recast EPBD, which requires the Commission to adopt such a certification scheme.

### ACE partners with the WGBC Leadership Awards



On 16 September 2013, the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) announced the winners of its inaugural Europe Region Leadership Awards, organised in partnership with the ACE. The Europe Region Leadership Awards showcase how sustainable building practices are reducing the ecological footprint of our buildings and cities, while delivering valuable economic and social benefits. Selma Harrington, ACE President, Judit Kimpian, Chair of the ACE *Environment and Sustainable Architecture* work group, and Owen Lewis, former Chair of the ACE Sustainability work Group were part of the awards' judges. [Find out the winners and more information on the Awards on the WorldGBC website.](#)

### Death of Jean-Marie FAUCONNIER, former ACE President



It is with sadness that we heard of the death of Jean-Marie Fauconnier on Friday 15 November. Jean-Marie Fauconnier was President of the Architect's Council of Europe in 1995. He was also Honorary President of the National Council of the Belgian Order and Former President of the Walloon Union of Architects.

## ACE ECONOMIC TRENDS SURVEY

The Architects Council of Europe is tracking, intermittently, the impact of the current Economic and Financial downturn on the architectural profession in Europe. To assist the ACE in its work, we kindly invite you to answer a short questionnaire on your opinion of the economic trends. The questionnaire is available in 17 languages at the following address: <http://aceques.produweb.be>. It should only take 2 minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire.

We thank you in advance for your help !

## EU FUNDED PROJECTS

Currently the ACE is involved in 3 research projects, which are partially funded by the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP7): [LEEMA](#), [INSPIRE](#) and [A2PBEER](#). These projects are addressing issues relating to energy efficient retrofitting of buildings, and innovative materials and technologies. OPEN HOUSE, another FP7 research project in which the ACE had a major role, recently came to an end and its' final reports are now available to download.

### ❖ OPEN HOUSE - [www.openhouse-fp7.eu](http://www.openhouse-fp7.eu)



The project started in February 2010 and was completed in July 2013 with a final event that took place in Brussels. The objective of OPEN HOUSE has been to merge existing methodologies for the sustainability assessment of buildings (like LEED, BREEAM and DGNB) towards a common view. With the aim of being widely adopted in Europe, the OPEN HOUSE methodology was developed through a fully transparent, collective and open process, with extensive communication and interaction between various stakeholders. The final outcome of the research performed is a non-proprietary sustainability assessment method for buildings in design phase or operation. OPEN HOUSE offers a comprehensive and user-friendly methodology, supported by an interactive and free to use web tool ([OPEN HOUSE Platform](#)). An Assessment Guideline providing a detailed description of all the indicators examined is available to download at: [http://www.openhouse-fp7.eu/assets/files/OPEN\\_HOUSE\\_AG1.2.pdf](http://www.openhouse-fp7.eu/assets/files/OPEN_HOUSE_AG1.2.pdf)

### ❖ LEEMA - [www.leema.eu](http://www.leema.eu)



The month 18 project meeting of the LEEMA consortium partners took place at the premises of Schlagmann industrial partner October 1<sup>st</sup> in Zeilarn, Germany. During the meeting, progress in the research undertaken towards the development of a new generation of inorganic insulation materials and building insulation masonry components was acknowledged: The developed materials will be suitable for applications both in new and retrofitted buildings. They will have significantly lower embodied energy and a lower unit cost. Moreover, they will not present any technical, health and environmental drawbacks. **ACE is currently conducting a survey on the specification of insulation materials and building insulation masonry components by architects. Thank you for taking five minutes to complete this survey:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VVBPG7K>

### ❖ INSPIRE - [www.inspirefp7.eu](http://www.inspirefp7.eu)



This 4-year project aims to produce systemic renovation packages applicable to residential and office buildings. These packages aim to reduce the primary energy consumption of a building to less than 50 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year. During the first year of the project significant work has been done: there has been extensive collection of data on the existing European Building stock. Moreover, the designing of a monitoring system to assess the energy savings of buildings under renovation is underway, and a market survey on existing renewable energy solutions has been carried out. In addition, several concepts for radiant ceiling solutions are being developed. An interest group for public procurers on sustainable construction has also been launched. The group will be hosted via the Procurement Forum (<http://www.procurement-forum.eu>). It will be a closed group with up to 30 participants from the public sector. If you wish to join the group, please email Marlene Grauer on [marlene.grauer@iclei.org](mailto:marlene.grauer@iclei.org) By copying the following address you can access and download the first INSPIRE newsletter with more news about the project: <http://inspirefp7.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/iNSPiRe-Newsletter.pdf>

## ❖ A2PBEER - [www.a2pbeer.eu](http://www.a2pbeer.eu)



The kick-off meeting of A2PBEER took place mid-September in Bilbao. The full title of this 4-year project is “Affordable and Adaptable Public Buildings through Energy Efficient Retrofitting”. 22 partners from 11 countries around Europe form the project’s consortium. Among them, there are research institutes, companies from the sectors of technology, energy, building industry, as well as universities, local and national authorities. A2PBEER will develop a systemic energy-efficient retrofitting buildings’ methodology for Public buildings and will take advantage of synergies derived from interventions at district level. The outcomes of the research performed will be demonstrated in three real demo-cases as well as in three complementary virtual projects. The aim will be to cover a variety of climatic areas and building uses. One of the main roles of the ACE in A2PBEER is to participate in the dissemination of the project’s outcomes and in the development of training materials addressed to architects and other identified key training groups.

## 📢 NEWS FROM ACE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

### Jos DELL – New President of the OAI



At its General Assembly of 24 October 2013, the *Ordre des Architectes et des Ingénieurs-Conseils du Luxembourg* (OAI) elected Jos DELL as its new President, and Andrea De Cillia as Vice-President. J. Dell replaces Bob Strotz, who chaired the OAI for four years. Gilles Christnach, Steve Weyland, Sala Makumbundu, Max Von Roesgen and Marc Feider were (re)elected as members of the OAI Council. Read the OAI press release issued on this occasion on the [OAI website](#).

### Barbara ETTINGER-BRINCKMANN – New President of the BAK



At its General Assembly of 13 September 2013, the Bundesarchitektenkammer (BAK) elected a new executive committee. Barbara ETTINGER-BRINCKMANN was elected President. Joachim Brenneke, Martin Müller and Prof. Ralf Niebergall were elected as Vice-Presidents. Read the [press release published by the BAK](#).

### Catherine JACQUOT – New President of the CNOA (France)



In November 2013, Catherine JACQUOT was elected President of the French [Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes](#) (CNOA). She succeeds Lionel CARLI who chaired the organisation from 2010 to 2013. François Rouanet and Denis Dessus were elected as Vice-Presidents, Jean-Mathieu Collard as Secretary, and Régis Rioton re-elected as Treasurer.

### Participation of the ACE President and Secretary General in the UNSFA Congress



On 3-4 October 2013, ACE President Selma Harrington and ACE Secretary General Ian Pritchard attended in Paris the [44<sup>th</sup> congress of the Union Nationale des Syndicats Français d'Architectes](#) (UNSFA). I. Pritchard, ACE Secretary General, presented the practice of the profession in Europe and on how to establish in another Member State.

### ACE President attends the CSCAE General Assembly



On 22 November 2013, ACE President Selma Harrington attended the General Assembly of the [Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España](#) (CSCAE).

### RIBA Plan of Work 2013



First developed in 1963, the Plan of Work of the [Royal Institute of British Architects](#) (RIBA) is the UK model for the building design and construction process. The Plan of Work now includes an online resource enabling professionals to browse, customise and download a plan of work. It is intuitive to use with on-screen help at each stage. Access the RIBA Plan of Work at : <http://www.ribaplanofwork.com>.

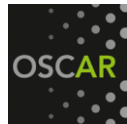


## 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of Croatian Architects



From 27 to 29 September 2013, the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of Croatian Architects, entitled "the Earth", was held in Osijek. The Congress was organised by the [Croatian Chamber of Architects](#) (CCA) and the Association of Croatian Architects, under the high sponsorship of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Ivo Josipović, LL.D., with the support of numerous ministries. About 500 participants discussed the strategy of physical planning of Croatia, laws in the field of construction and physical planning and architectural practice within EU. Conclusions of the Congress are available in English on the [CCA website](#).

## OSCAR: a CNOA (France) software for thermal design



The French [Conseil national de l'Ordre des Architectes](#) (CNOA) seeks to provide French architects with tools to facilitate their daily practice. It has identified, for the vast majority of them, the need for a tool to help with simple thermal design which is suitable for all early project phases, when the architect has not yet started working with the engineer. The CNOA has developed a completely free tool for architects, which does not compete with the software market. This tool, called OSCAR, is available online and each architect has an account, with which he can simulate the expected energy performance of its projects. OSCAR has been online since May 2013 and make possible to simulate new construction projects (housing and offices). A version for the renovation of existing buildings will be available. [Detailed presentation on the CNOA website](#).

## PUBLICATIONS

### World Green Buildings Council's Report: *A New Era in Building Partnerships*



In a world of shifting paradigms, sustainability is one of the global 'mega-trends' requiring new ways of thinking. New forms of collaboration between NGOs, the public sector and industry are starting to take shape, to build better public policy and tools for a sustainable built environment. But what do these forms of collaboration actually look like? How do they take shape, and what are the keys to success? This report examines these questions through eleven case studies of innovative collaboration, and distils this learning into 'Key Principles for Collaborative Policy-Making'. [Download the report on the WGBC website](#).

### BPIE study: *Boosting building renovation. An overview of good practices*



At the end of September 2013, the French government reaffirmed its ambitions to massively increase building renovation rates, with the goal of refurbishing 500 000 buildings per year by 2017. To achieve this objective, the Plan to Renovate the Energy of Households (PREH) was presented in March. To support the French debate, CLER, a French NGO, commissioned BPIE to produce a report on successful building renovation programmes in Europe and around the globe. It includes several guiding principles that Member States should consider when developing renovation plans. [Download the study, in English and in French, on the BPIE website](#).

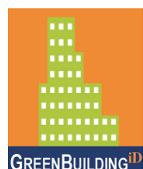
### Accelerating change – Delivering sustainable energy solutions



This joint publication of the Intelligent Energy Europe and INTERACT programmes showcases good practice projects on territorial cooperation in the field of sustainable energy. A chapter is dedicated to the integration of sustainable energy aspects into spatial planning, with articles on *Leadership for energy action and planning*; *Future-proof historic city centres* (by Antonio Borghi, Chairman of the ACE Urban Issues work group), and on *Urban planners with renewable energy skills*. [Download the publication on the IEE website](#).

## COMPETITIONS

### Green Building Integrated Design Award – Call for applications



Integrated Design (ID) is a design procedure that considers the building as a whole system with the aim of optimizing it throughout the lifecycle. The Green Building Integrated Design Award aims to highlight outstanding ID processes. This is a continuously open call. Each year an evaluation committee will assess all applications

arriving before 1 March and will reward the best projects during a European high-level conference. [More information on the website of the award.](#)

### Sustainable Energy Europe Awards 2014



A new edition of the Sustainable Energy Europe (SEE) Awards is now open. Managed by the EU Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) the SEE Awards recognise outstanding projects in energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean transport. The competition is open to stakeholders from the public and private sector including SMEs, industry associations, academic institutions and NGOs. The awards integrate five different categories, including BUILDINGS ("Living" category). Projects in this category are about making buildings more energy efficient and/or equipping them with renewable energy systems. This applies to all types of building, including public buildings, private homes, multi-occupancy dwellings, or offices. [More information.](#)

### International architectural competition for the Arvo Pärt Centre building (Estonia)



In collaboration with the Union of Estonian Architects, the Arvo Pärt Centre is organising an international competition for designing a building for the Arvo Pärt Centre. The aim of the competition is to find the best architectural solution for the building, which will house the Arvo Pärt archive. The Arvo Pärt Centre was founded in 2010 with the aim of preserving the creative heritage of the composer in his native land, Estonia. The centre is situated in Laulasmaa, 35 km from Tallinn, on a peninsula with magnificent natural surroundings within a pine forest near the sea. The total prize fund for the competition is 30,000 euros. Deadline for applications: 22 January 2014. The final results will be announced on 20 June 2014. [More information and rules of the competition.](#)

## EVENTS

### Building Test Expo – 17-19 June 2014

Building Test Expo is an international free-to-attend exhibition focusing on testing and certification of construction products in order to promote increased innovation, quality, safety and sustainability. [More information.](#)

### BUILD UP: Playback presentations and video recordings of previous web-seminars



BUILD UP, the European portal for energy efficiency in buildings, regularly organises web-seminars. Playback presentations and video recordings of web-seminars remain available on BUILD UP website:

- [Indoor air quality and thermal comfort: Conserving energy, maintaining health](#)
- [Statistics on Europe's building stock: A guide to collecting, harmonising and sharing data](#)
- [Building and Ductwork Airtightness: Legislative Drivers, New Concerns and New Approaches](#)
- [Superinsulating materials: State of the art applications and long term performance](#)
- [Energy-efficient retrofitting of residential buildings: A holistic approach is required](#)

### Construction21EXPO – 18-19 February 2014



A virtual trade fair dedicated to sustainable construction solutions for the European market. Leading green investors, developers, bankers, building owners, project managers, architects, engineers, facilities managers, technology, materials, products, and service providers along with municipalities, expert organizations and other key stakeholders of green building projects will participate in this event. [More information.](#)

This newsletter is available in French and in English on the ACE Website  
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