



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

ACE INFO

[FEBRUARY 2011]
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Welcome to the first edition of *ACE Info* in 2011, in which you will discover a number of items of both general and specific interest as they relate to the priorities and actions of the European Institutions in the fields of architecture and the built environment.

An eventful year lies ahead for the ACE as the European Union progresses with its policy plans in several key areas for the architectural profession. First amongst these is the intention to modernise the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC) under whose provisions the architects of the EU enjoy automatic recognition of their qualifications when they migrate within the borders of the EU. For the architectural profession, this action of the Commission provides the opportunity to advocate for a change in the text of the Directive so as to bring its provisions into line with common educational practices across the EU.

The key objective of the ACE is to ensure that the text will be modified (in Article 46) to require that the minimum duration of studies for architects be stated as being five years. In addition, the ACE will have the opportunity to ensure that when Member States notify the European Commission of the qualifications they recognise at national level, these notifications contain the provisions relating to the acquisition of professional practice experience as well – qualifications usually acquired after formal education in a third level institution.

These two changes are crucial for a number of reasons. Firstly, well over 95% of all courses of architecture that lead to a recognised qualification are already of five years duration. The mention in the current Directive of a minimum duration of four years is an anachronistic remnant of the negotiations that led to the adoption of the Architects' Directive in 1985 and should be revised. Secondly, at global level, the profession has adopted International Standards of professionalism in architecture in which the minimum duration of studies is stated as being five years. This current discrepancy makes it difficult for the ACE to negotiate international agreements with the countries that the EU has Free Trade Agreements with, as it gives a false impression that the EU standard for education falls short of the global standard.

The General Assembly of the ACE has agreed, in December 2010, that the top priority for the 2011 has to be the work related to the modernisation of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and our work on the issues is already underway.

Another related work in 2011 and on the same subject, is collaboration of the ACE with the Schools of Architecture in the EU as notifications of diplomas under the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications must start with them. Unfortunately, it seems that in many countries the schools and universities appear to be unaware of their important role in ensuring that graduates of their courses can enjoy automatic recognition of their qualifications when they move within the borders of the EU.

The other key priority issues that the ACE will need to address include the review of the Directive on Public Procurement (a public consultation has just been launched – see item in this edition) as well as the adoption of the revised Energy Efficiency Strategy (due in March 2011).

This edition is also available in French.

CORE ISSUES

Public Consultations Open on Key Directives



The European Commission has recently launched two Public Consultations on key Directives that affect the architectural profession. The first, with a deadline for responses of the 15th March 2011, relates to the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC). As discussed in the editorial above, the ACE considers the modernisation of this Directive to be its top priority for 2011. To view the

consultation website and to respond, go to:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2011/professional_qualifications_en.htm

The second important consultation, with a deadline of 18th April 2011, relates to the review of the European procurement market and includes a review of the Framework Directive on Public Procurement of Services and Works (2004/18/EC) that is of particular concern to the architectural profession. This Directive has been transposed into the national laws of the Member States of the EU in such a way that the opportunities for architects to win public contracts has been severely restricted – exactly the opposition of the objective of the legislation. The ACE will be working hard on this consultation in order to ensure that all possible steps to change the situation will result. To view the consultation website and to respond, go to:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publicprocurement/modernising_rules/consultations/index_en.htm

Source: EU Commission

ACE Survey Indicates Double Dip Recession is Underway



The result of the latest survey by the ACE on the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on the architectural profession indicates that a double dip recession is underway in Europe. When linked to recent statements by the EU Employment Commissioner, Laszlo Andor, that the EU is experiencing a “jobless recovery”, the prospects for 2011 for architects seem bleak. In fact the level of optimism about the future workload for the profession has dropped significantly since the last running of the survey in June 2010 and the expectation of an increase in staff numbers in architects’ offices is also low.

Statements by Commissioner Andor came during comments on a recent report by the International Labour Organisation that shows that developed countries and regions (the EU, Australia, Canada, Japan and the USA) have suffered much larger increases in unemployment than other parts of the world. In the EU, the most worrying aspect of the recent figures is the fact that young people (those under 25 years of age) are the worst affected by these increases in unemployment. For example, in Spain where the overall unemployment level is running at over 20%, roughly 43% of those under 25 are unemployed. This pattern is repeated in many EU countries. Given that young people are the future, it is imperative that rigorous action is undertaken to re-dress this situation and, for architects, it is necessary to ensure that we do not have a “lost generation” of recent graduates. To read the results of the ACE survey, go to:

http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/getdocument/content_id/1034

Source: The ACE and euractiv.com

ACE MATTERS

Follow-up to the ACE 20th Anniversary Events

Readers of *ACE Info* will recall that 2010 marked the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the ACE and that it organised a number of events in Brussels to mark the occasion. These events were made possible by generous sponsorship from industry and European Associations and included the an exhibition of sustainable architecture in the European Parliament, the running of a Sector Study of the profession, a Conference in the European Parliament and a celebratory dinner in the Palais Des Beaux Arts. These events were a great success and the ACE is justifiably proud of what it achieved during the week-long series of events (29th November to 4th December 2010). In order to ensure that the memories of these events are preserved, the ACE has undertaken a number of follow-up actions

to make the content of the events available to all. This includes, for the first time, use of multi-media and new media actions. Should you wish to re-live our events, or discover them for the first time, you are invited to visit the following resources:

To download the catalogue of the exhibition:

http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/index/category_id/229

To download the report of the Conference:

http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/index/category_id/232

To get a flavour of the events, look at our audio slideshow:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_nBGQ_g2tM

To see our first ever video Press Release:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVgnb8o22KU>

ACE Executive Board – Roles Assigned During First Meeting in 2011

At its first meeting in 2011, the Executive Board assigned roles to all members, with the exception of the President who is mandated for two years. This is a necessary action for the first Executive Board meeting in each year as the rules of the ACE see either five or six new members taking up their positions each year. The decision for 2011 is as follows:

President:	Selma Harrington (IE)
Vice-President:	Lionel Dunet (FR)
Treasurer	Christos Savva (CY)
Vice-Treasurer:	David Falla (UK)
TA1 Coordinator:	Wolfgang Haack (DE)
TA1 Vice-Coordinator:	Constantinos Belimpassakis (EL)
TA2 Coordinator:	Pawel Kobylanski (PL)
TA2 Vice-Coordinator:	Pierre-Henri Schmutz (CH)
TA2 Coordinator, Responsible for Procurement:	Georg Pendl (AT)
TA3 Coordinator:	Lionel Dunet (FR)
TA3 Vice-Coordinator:	Mauro Latini (IT)
Coordinator Responsible for Communications:	Vladimir Petrovic (HR)

Procurement – The ACE General Assembly Adopts Two Important Documents

At its Second General Assembly in 2010, the ACE adopted two key documents related to the issue of public procurement. The first was a draft position paper on the review of the Public Procurement Directive (2004/18/EC) and was the result of hard work in the ACE Work Group on the subject, which had met in October 2010. It recalls the difficulties that the architectural faces in relation to the procedures used by contracting authorities across the EU and it outlines the principles that should be put in place to rectify the situation. It can be found at:

http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/index/category_id/90

The second paper adopted is the Master Document on Architectural Design Contests. It is the fruit of long and careful work led by Executive Board member, Georg Pendl of Austria and of the nominated experts of many member organisations of the ACE. It sets out all of the stages that must be followed by a contracting authority when using architectural design contests to procure the services of an architect and it relates the stages of a contest to the various Articles in the EU Directive on Public Procurement, thereby giving clear and reliable guidance to any users of the document. It is hoped that it will become the principal reference for all contracting authorities across the EU and readers of *ACE Info* are invited to promote its use as widely as possible. The document can be downloaded (currently available only in English) at the following address:

http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/getdocument/content_id/1033

Tower in Taiwan Competition won by Romanian Architects

The Romanian member organisation of the ACE, the Order of Architects in Romania (OAR), has informed the ACE Secretariat that *DSBA (Dorin Stefan Bureau of Architecture)* with Mihai Bogdan Craciun from the USA won First Prize in the recent International Competition **TOWER IN TAIWAN** organised by the Taiwan City Municipality. The project will be an important landmark and will act as a model green building for the 21st Century. For more information and photographs, go to:

<http://design-daily.com/2010/11/dsba-wins-international-contest-for-300m-tower-in-taiwan/>

Announcements from Member Organisations

Many Member Organisations have, since the last edition of *ACE Info*, informed the ACE Secretariat about changes in their organisations as follows:

bAIK – Austria

Georg Pendl was elected for a second term as President of the Bundeskammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten (bAIK). He is well known to the ACE, being a member of the Executive Board of the Chair of the Work Group on Architectural Design Contests. The Vice-President of the bAIK will be Rudolf Kolbe. Peter Kompolschek was elected as Head of the Federal Section of Architects and Klaus Thurriedl as Head of the Federal Section of Chartered Engineers.

ACA – Norway

Egil Skavang has been appointed as Director of one of the two Norwegian member organisations of the ACE – the Association of Consulting Architects in Norway.

BAK – Germany

Sigurd Trommer was unanimously elected as the new President of the Bundesarchitektenkammer (BAK) in September of 2010 and will serve a four-year term in office.

CNOA – France

Lionel Carli was elected President of the Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes (CNOA) in France and will serve a three-year term in office.

The ACE at External Events

The ACE is frequently represented by its President, Members of its Executive Board, Chairmen of Work Groups and/or the Secretariat at external events and conferences. These activities often go unnoticed, but are very important to the pursuit of the policies of the ACE. Readers who wish to know more about these activities can access the reports, prepared after the events, in the calendar of external representations maintained on the website of the ACE at the following address:

http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/index/category_id/211

Opportunity Corner

The ACE Secretariat has been asked to publish three opportunities that may be of interest to the readership of *ACE Info*:

The Università della Svizzera Italiana, Accademia di architettura is seeking to fill a position of full Professor of Architectural Design. The successful candidate will be required to teach two design studios a year, each consisting of a 14-week semester with a required presence of 1.5 days a week. Interested candidates must apply before 15th February 2011 and full details can be requested by writing to: stefanie.hitz@usi.ch

BIO Intelligence Service is presently working on a project for the European Commission relating to large scale planning and design of resource use. One of the tasks involves identifying innovative and multi-faceted case studies of large-scale planning or design that leads to resource efficiency. In addition to seeking such examples, BIO Intelligence Service wishes to find experts in the field to implicate them in the project. Further information can be found at: <http://isp.eu-smr.eu> and interested experts may write to: linda.johansson@biois.com

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is currently seeking to appoint an architect or engineer as Head of Physical Plant Services. The IRRI is based in the Philippines and has staff in 14 Asian and African countries. The successful candidate will have 10-years professional experience, preferably in a tropical climate. Full details can be found at: <http://irri.org/job/1/110/table>

Forthcoming ACE Events and Meetings:

Work Group on Urban Issues – Wednesday 9th February, Brussels
Work Group Housing – Thursday 17th February, Brussels
TA1 Workshop – Thursday 17th February, Brussels
General Coordination Meeting – Friday 18th February, Brussels
Finance Committee Meeting – Friday 11th March, Brussels
Executive Board Meeting 2/11 – Friday 11th and Saturday 12th March, Brussels
Executive Board Meeting 3/11 – Friday 31st March, Dublin
General Assembly Meeting – Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd April, Dublin
Joint Working Party Meeting with Schools of Architecture – Thursday 7th April, Venice

OTHER MATTERS

Tweet Your MEP

The increasing importance of social networks in the daily lives of European citizens' has persuaded the European Union to follow the movement. Since last September a brand new website is at the disposal of all. The *Tweet your MEP* website is an effective way for the EU to come closer to its citizens and it has a simple aim: making citizens (and civil society organisations like the ACE) able to keep in touch with their MEP's, to be informed on their ongoing activities and, for those who wish to do it, ask a question to the members of the European Parliament on any subject. www.twitter.com is a simple, direct and efficient way to be in touch with your elected representatives at the EU level. The principle is very easy: a free "tweet" question of maximum 120 characters is sent, and then the user just waits for the answer.

For more information on this new way to communicate, you can go to www.tweetyoumep.eu

Source: CEPLIS Telegram No.18/10

New President for the EAAE

The European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE) has a new President. He is Stefano Musso from Genoa in Italy and he will serve a two-year mandate until September 2012. The EAAE and the ACE maintain close contacts through a Joint Working Party and, as noted in the editorial, the spotlight will come onto this collaboration over the next year or so as the European Commission progresses towards a modernisation of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. In addition to the bi-annual meetings of the Joint Working Party, the ACE and the EAAE organise an annual joint workshop. The subject of this year's event will revolve around the theme of *Research by Design*, although the details are still being finalised. The event will be held in Paris on Friday 25th March.

To read more about the EAAE, you can visit its website at: <http://www.eaae.be>

Source: ACE and the EAAE

Action Plan for the Danube Region Announced

The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, announced the main priorities for an EU Action Plan for the Danube Region in November 2010. The long-term strategy will involve eight Member States and six other countries and will create the second *macro-region* in the EU. The first was created by the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in 2009. There are four main axes in the Strategy: develop the Danube as a freight corridor, improve the quality of the environment, stimulate economic development and improve security and movement of persons and goods. Although there is no specific funding associated with the Strategy, it will facilitate the planning and coordination of national and European investments throughout the region. The architects in the countries covered by the Strategy are optimistic that there will be direct benefits for them in terms of new, sustainably conceived development along the Danube corridor.

Source: euractiv.com

New President for the ECCE

At its General Assembly in November 2010, the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) confirmed Gorazd Humar of Slovenia as its President. He succeeds Vassilis Economopoulos of Greece who remains on the Executive Board. The Vice-President and new President-Elect is Fernando Branco of Portugal. To read more about the ECCE, visit its website at:

<http://www.eccenet.org>

Source: ECCE Press Release

Emergency Architects Launches Appeal for Funds

The role of humanitarian organisations is frequently in the media spotlight after major catastrophes. During these periods, funds flow in from the general public but rapidly fall-off after the media coverage ends. Architects know that re-construction after natural disasters (the 2005 tsunami, the Haiti Earthquake, the floods in Pakistan etc.) takes sustained effort over many years. The success of these re-construction efforts are often dependent on the quality of information gathered immediately after the disaster and in the continued availability of expertise over the years. Emergency Architects is one such organisation and the ACE is supportive of the contribution that it and other organisations make to

the alleviation of suffering in the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters. In fact the ACE held a special session at its General Assembly in 2006 dedicated to these organisations (see *ACE Info*). Should you wish to contribute financially or with your skills to the work of Emergency Architects, then please visit:

<http://www.archi-urgent.com>

Source: Architectes de l'urgence

EU Promises to Present an Accessibility Act in 2012

Vice-President of the European Commission, Viviane Reding recently informed members of the European Parliament that she would present a proposal for a *European Accessibility Act* before the end of 2012 as a key element of the European Disability Strategy that was launched at the end of 2010. A major study will shortly be initiated that will seek to identify and analyse the barriers that prevent people with disabilities from making full use of public buildings, transport and all kinds of services. Viviane Reding said that she is determined to make the EU a world leader in developing products and services that are accessible to people with disabilities. To see more about the European Disability Strategy, go to:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0636:FIN:EN:PDF>

Source: euractiv.com

Delphi Survey on Sustainable Construction

A questionnaire has been developed by the Eco-Innovation Observatory (EIO) project in order to gather expert opinions on the future of sustainable construction in Europe. The deadline for answers is set on the 15th February 2011 and the results will be used to build scenarios of the future to inform future policy developments in Europe. Readers are asked to take 10 minutes to participate as a high response rate will deliver a reliable output. To access the questionnaire, go to:

<https://www.webropol.com/P.aspx?id=508203&cid=8217042>

To learn more about the EIO project, go to:

www.eco-innovation.eu

Source: EIO

Flagship Initiative on Resource Efficiency Adopted

On the 26th January last, the European Commission adopted the Flagship Initiative on Resource Efficiency. Part of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the objective is to decouple economic growth from the use of resources, thus supporting the shift to a low-carbon economy, an increase in the use of renewable energy sources, the modernisation of the transport sector and the promotion of energy efficiency. It is an initiative that will surely have an impact on the architectural profession, as the construction sector is the biggest industrial user of resources. To read the contents of the initiative, go to:

<http://ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe>

Source: euractiv.com

Green Homes Don't Translate to Sales Success

Results from new EU-funded research show that home buyers are unwilling to buy new, energy-efficient houses. Poor communication between builders and buyers is a big part of the problem. The results are part of the *Create Acceptance* and *Changing Behaviour* projects, which are funded under the European Commissions' Sixth and Seventh Framework Programmes for Research. This is a worrying finding if society is to move to a low-carbon future and if the construction sector is to be encouraged to be more sustainable in its work. The conclusions and proposals of the researchers make interesting reading and can be accessed at:

<http://www.createacceptance.net/>

and

<http://www.energychange.info/>

Source: DG Research – Research Information Centre

PUBLICATIONS

CSR Guidelines for Companies in the Construction Sector

A guide to corporate social responsibility (CSR) for companies in the construction sector has recently been published by a European Project on Building Responsible Competitiveness. The Guide focuses on four issues: health and safety, eco-compatibility, supply chain management and equal opportunities. It is available for free at the following address:

ACE ● Rue Paul Emile Janson 29, B-1050 Bruxelles ● T: +32 2 543 11 40 ● F: +32 2 543 11 41 ● W: www.ace-cae.eu

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www.csreurope.org/pages/en/brc.html

URBACT Cities Facing the Crisis: Impacts and Responses

The current global economic crisis is having an impact across Europe, in a variety of forms and contexts. It is clear that cities and local governments are on the front line of the crisis, in terms of its impact on people, businesses and places. From sheer necessity, cities have also already started to explore a wide range of responses. The URBACT Network has therefore published a review of these impacts and responses. It can be found at:

<http://urbact.eu/en/header-main/integrated-urban-development/understanding-integrated-urban-development/urbact-cities-responding-to-the-crisis/>

COMPETITIONS

The Philippe Rotthier European Prize for Architecture

The *Fondation pour l'Architecture* has announced the 2011 session of the Philippe Rotthier Prize for Architecture with a deadline for submission of candidates of 30th April 2011. For full details, go to:

<http://www.fondationpourlarchitecture.be/en/news/philippe-rotthier-european-prize-architecture-2011>

EVENTS

World Sustainable Energy Days 2011 – Wels, Austria, 2nd to 4th March

The largest annual conference in this field with a large number of associated events will, as one of its key subjects, address the challenge of how to responsibly trigger a renovation boom that will lead to the deep renovation of existing buildings. Always an interesting event, find out more at:

<http://www.wsed.at/en/world-sustainable-energy-days>

11th Pan-Hellenic Architectural Conference – Athens, Greece, 17th to 20th March

This Conference is organised the Association of Greek Architects (SADAS-PEA) and the Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE), both members of the ACE. The theme will be *The Architectural Profession* and it will address policy and regulatory issues affecting the architectural profession at the present time. To find out more, go to:

<http://www.sadas-pea.gr/11/>

EU Sustainable Energy Week 2011 – Brussels and Everywhere, 11th to 15th April

A pan-European series of events that will show, promote, discuss and celebrate energy efficiency and renewable energy. Check out the extensive website and register for an event near you:

<http://www.eusew.eu>

UIA Congress 2011

An important date for your diary is the next UIA Congress that will take place in Tokyo, Japan from the 25th to the 29th September 2011. The main theme of the event will be *Design 2050* and it will be approached from three key themes: Environment; Life; Survival. More information can be accessed at:

<http://www.uia2011tokyo.com/en/>

Listing of events relating to Urban Issues

The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) maintains a very good listing of events that relate to urban issues on its website, many of which are interest to architects. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.eukn.org/Meetings>

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Selection of Useful and interesting links:

European Commission homepage

http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

Search page for Commission documents
http://europa.eu/documents/comm/index_en.htm

The Barroso Commission:
http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/index_en.htm

Commission page containing reference documents for the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications:
http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/future_en.htm#docs

Web portal site leading to all Points of Single Contact set up under the Services Directive:
http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/eu-go/index_en.htm

The European Parliament Homepage:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu>

Website of the Hungarian Presidency (Jan 11 to Jun11):
<http://www.eu2011.hu>

Website of the Belgian Presidency (Jul10 to Dec10):
<http://www.eutrio.be>

European Forum for Architectural Policies:
<http://www.efap-fepa.eu/>

EU Video Website:
<http://www.youtube.com/eutube>

URBACT Network website:
<http://urbact.eu>

Sustainable building website
www.sustainablebuilding.info

Collegi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya (COAC) international relations database:
<http://www.coac.net/international/>

Consiglio Nazionale degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori (CNAPPC) database - ArchiEuro:
<http://www.awn.it/AWN/Engine/RAServePG.php/P/26111AWN0905/L/1>

Website of the network of French Architecture Centres:
www.ma-lereseau.org

Website of the European Construction Technology Platform:
<http://www.ectp.org>

Website of the *Build Up* website on energy efficient buildings:
<http://www.buildup.eu>

Archi-Student website – a wealth of information on schools and students of architecture in Europe:
www.archi-students.org

Link to the Newsletter of the International Union of Architects (UIA):
<http://www.uia-architectes.org/texte/england/Menu-2/4-lettre.html>

Passive and Draught Cooling in Buildings – The website of an EU-funded project that shows the way towards a pragmatic alternative to conventional air conditioning in buildings:
www.phdc.eu

Database of Digital Architecture – A subscription based website that contains several sections including one that provides images of the works of the great masters of architect and videos of talks by famous architects has been set up. For full information go to:

www.pidgeondigital.com

Interactive Database for Architects – Launched in March 2008, this site provides an opportunity for all architectural practices to become globally recognised. Check it out at:

www.worldarchitecture.org

ACE Website:

www.ace-cae.eu

Useful tip:

In the website addresses given in *ACE Info* for the documents of the EU, you will frequently see the following near the end of the address: “_en”. These two letters define the language of the document (English in the case of “en”) and you can usually change these two letters in order to bring you to a different language version as follows:

French _fr	German _de	Danish _da	Swedish _sv
Italian _it	Spanish _es	Greek _el	Dutch _nl
Portuguese _pt	Finnish _fi	Czech _cs	Maltese _mt
Estonian _et	Latvian _lv	Lithuanian _lt	Polish _pl
Hungarian _hu	Slovene _sl	Slovak _sk	Bulgarian _bg
Romanian _ro	Irish _ga		

The editorial board for the compilation of this *ACE Info* is:

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Director at the ACE:	Adrian Joyce

ACE Info is issued on a regular basis, with about six editions per year. You are free to circulate the document as widely as you wish, to translate its contents for use in your publications and to refer to the information it contains once you credit the ACE as the origin.

If you wish to receive *ACE Info* regularly and you are not on the mailing list, you can register online at: <http://www.ace-cae.org/MemberN/Content/EN/sub/sub/subscribe.asp>

If you have information that you wish to have included in the next edition then e-mail it (in English or French please) to adrian.joyce@ace-cae.eu. The deadline for submissions is the first Friday of each month.

End