



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

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INTRODUCTION



The frosty weather, clear bright skies and cold fresh air hasten the step and sharpen the mind as we continue to develop our understanding of the current conditions for the architectural professional practice in Europe. Whilst we look forward to further engagement with the EU COM DG Enterprise and Industry in contributing to the implementation of the Construction 2020 Strategy, and especially its focus on growth and jobs, the findings of our own professional sector study, presented during the ACE General Assembly in November, make sobering read.

The architectural sector is predominantly made up of small and micro enterprises or sole traders and the summary of the general economic trends can be interpreted as a positive sign. Although there was a significant fall in work loads/output between 2008-2010, the rate of decline has slowed considerably. However, to assist recovery, ACE is engaging with the Commission's Construction 2020, the aim of which is to promote growth and jobs. "Size matters" and optimism for future workloads is directly proportionate to the size of architectural practice and sometimes the country. We are 'doers' and 'diversifiers', as we struggle to maintain practices at local level, while aspiring to be active internationally. Co-creation and collaboration among architects is developing across Europe and beyond, at times with an uneven distribution of roles between 'external' and 'internal' project teams.

The study shows that a large percentage of architects' work is for individual clients and individual housing projects. This also means that we are very much directly in touch with real people and the realities of life in our environments. Working only on a larger scale and remotely can result in a loss of focus on the service and make it easier to lose connection and ultimately the ability to 'commodify' people, users, recipients and participants. In doing so, we risk losing our essential purpose and meaning, which can end up with disappointment and emptiness, - empty promises, unfulfilled expectations and empty buildings - ghostly monuments to fast development driven only by profit and evidently wasteful and unsustainable concepts.

The Sector study findings - ACE's 'collective intelligence' now covering some 95 per cent of the profession in Europe - need to be carefully read and understood in order to be used at national and EU level, as part of our engagement with the national and the EU institutions on education, practice, sustainability and urban issues. The ability of architects to contribute to the understanding of the common purpose between drivers and recipients of development, our obligation to take an ethical and holistic stand, mediating between complex and conflicting interests in the 'construction value chain', will be key to shaping the future of our profession, as we continue the debate started during our Architect 2020 Colloquium.

The adequate representation of architectural profession and the understanding of the socio-political context at EU level is no small task and notwithstanding the limitations, with its established profile, ACE wishes to continue to engage with other platforms such as EAAE, ECIA, EFAP and others, with the desire to provide not a single, but unified voice of the architectural profession.

As we are nearing the shortest day and the Winter solstice. I wish to all our members, colleagues, partners and friends a peaceful and joyful festive season, and look forward to our work together in the 2013!

Selma Harrington
ACE President
December 2012

This edition is also available in French.

ACE CORE ISSUES

Construction 2020 looks further ahead!



During its General Assembly, on 30 November 2012, ACE held a Colloquium entitled “*Architect 2020 – Reflection on the future of the profession*”, which addressed several issues related to the Commission’s new Action Plan promoting the construction sector as a driving force for the creation of jobs and sustainable growth in Europe. As a special guest, Antti Peltomäki, Deputy Director-General of DG Enterprise and Industry (European Commission), underlined the fact that Europe will need “creativity” for the years to come and “architects are the ones who need to be ahead of the game and inspire other players in the construction sector”. Moreover, since the overall demand for new buildings is likely to stay low in Europe over the coming years, Mr Peltomäki emphasised that “innovative thinking will be required to make

renovations and conversions as efficient as possible in terms of resource use”. It is for this reason that the Commission Strategy goes beyond 2020, referring to long-term measures that can be applied up to the year 2050.

Following Mr Peltomäki, several experts were invited to provide reflections on the future of the architectural profession. Mr Dickon Robinson, Chair of Building Futures, presented a very interesting study prepared in collaboration with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). He explained that, in the future, “architects will need to develop greater financial and commercial acumen, welcome the integration of their work with others in the wider industry, and continue to work hard to promote the extraordinary benefits which society gains from the design process”. Then Tillman Prinz, the Secretary General of the Federal Chamber of German Architects (BAK), introduced the issue of regulation versus trust and raised a crucial question for the architectural profession: “How to bring the thinker to the fore and combine his or her creativity with all the rules, standards and technical requirements?” In the debate that followed ACE delegates discussed whether or not specialisation in the architectural training should be introduced. In the third session of the Colloquium, Fred Schoolt, Director of the Royal Institute of Dutch Architects (BNA), presented the subject value versus volume, asking participants: “What is the added value of architects?”. Then Professor Bert Bielefeld made a detailed presentation on “architects’ scope of services and the impact of financial expectations” where he focused on the client’s perspective, advising architects to win back fields of competence, especially in the areas of management, cost and scheduling, which are the clients’ main interests.

The last panel discussion led by Philip Ridgway discussed new opportunities and new realities of the architectural profession. Teresa Taboas, chair of the ACE Housing Work Group, stressed the need to focus on comprehensive rehabilitation. Renovation should be understood as a whole, taking into account the economy, society and the environmental footprint. Then Jean Félix, Vice-President of the European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA), highlighted the fact that there should be more collaboration between architects and engineers and some common views on specific topics, such as the life cycle costing. To close the discussion, Peter Trebilcock, Director for Design at Balfour Beatty Construction, brought to the debate his practical experience as a designer in the United Kingdom and advocated the need for specialised architects.

Finally, to conclude this Colloquium, Dickon Robinson highlighted that it is necessary to: 1) Keep specialists in the profession, so that architects are a “group of generalists with some specialists”; 2) Ensure that architects have management skills, without which they will lack of credibility in the eyes of clients; 3) Consider whether there is a need for painful restrictions in the number of architects to avoid “competition to extinction”; 4) Create an atmosphere where the cost of regulation is not

disproportionate to the benefits; 5) Reach a consensus on the skills needed by architects in their future education.

Public Procurement Directive: EP will vote in December 2012



On 18 December 2012, two months later than originally scheduled, the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) Committee expects to vote on the text of the new Directive on Public Procurement. In the light of the debate that has been taking place so far at its meeting on 30 November - 1 December, the ACE General Assembly welcomed some of the new proposal's goals: the simplification of the procedures, the facilitation for SME's to access the market, the promotion of selection procedures and award criteria based on quality (e.g. the increased use of the negotiated procedure for planning services and the substitution of "lowest price" by "lowest cost", which includes life-cycle assessment). Nevertheless, still much can be done to facilitate access to public contracts for architectural firms and ensure that the specific nature of intellectual services is taken into account. At any rate, there is a long way to go. In Spring 2013, under the Irish Presidency of the Council of European Union, the text of the new Directive will enter the "triologue" (Commission-Parliament-Council).

Professional Qualifications Directive: further steps toward EP approval



On 23-24 January 2013, the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) Committee is expected to adopt its report, after an intense, constructive and still ongoing debate on the draft report published by the MEP Rapporteur, Ms Bernadette Vergnaud. Of particular note in relation to the debate is the position of certain Member States in the Council (e.g. Denmark, Finland, Spain, Sweden), which are against the provision in the legislative proposal and Rapporteur's report relating to professional training (and therefore, also opposed to the ACE's position of 5+2), arguing that there should be no practical traineeship requirement system.

At its meeting on 30 November & 1 December 2012, the ACE General Assembly re-confirmed its policy and strategy, and decided to focus on three issues. Firstly, ACE rejects Article 4 (Partial Access), though in the event that it is retained, it should be heavily regulated. Secondly, as regards Article 46 (minimum training requirements for architects), ACE accepts the current option of '5+1' or '4+2' (though this still falls short of its preferred '5+2'), the importance being to retain references to practical training. Thirdly, Article 49 (automatic recognition on the basis of common training principles): ACE proposes that the the proposed common training frameworks refer to five levels of qualification defined in Article 11 (and not those of the European Qualifications Framework).

Before the adoption of the text, another IMCO meeting is scheduled on 10 January 2013 for consideration of compromise amendments. The vote in IMCO is scheduled to take place on 23 January 2013. Link to ACE complete position:

http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/getdocument/content_id/1419

Energy Efficiency Directive: Implementation starts!



After the agreement was reached on the Energy Efficiency Directive (13/06), the European Parliament adopted the consolidated full text in first reading on 11 September 2012. Then, in early October, the Council voted on the EED with the Finnish delegation abstaining and the Spanish and Portuguese delegations voting against. Once approved officially, the Directive was signed in the margins of the October Plenary Session of the European Parliament (25/10) and published in the Official Journal (14/11). The EED entered into force twenty days after its publication. For the construction sector, the Energy Efficiency Directive will offer an opportunity to create new jobs, particularly in the renovation sector. However the level of ambition and achievement now depends on how Member States will implement the Directive. Therefore ACE will rely on its Member Organisations to encourage national Governments to establish new strategies to enhance the construction sector and mobilise retrofitting investments. The ACE will continue to stress that energy efficiency needs to be considered as part of an holistic approach, which includes more than the single building and connects it to the architectural context and users. By 30 June 2014, the Commission will assess the progress achieved by Member States and each of them will be required to produce an annual report, every year, outlining how they are progressing towards energy efficiency targets. The first reports are due in April 2014.

Ireland's EU Presidency 2013



From 1 January until 30 June 2013 Ireland will host the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the seventh time. At the same time, it will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its membership of the European Union. The full Presidency programme will be published in December but much of the work on identifying key issues and priorities has already taken place. Here are some of

the issues that will be focussed on during Ireland's Presidency: Multiannual financial Framework (that will determine EU budget from 2014-2020), Horizon 2020 (the EU's future framework programme for research and innovation), Youth scheme (designed to ensure that young unemployed people will automatically be directed into employment, education or training), etc. More information will soon be available on: www.eu2013.ie/

Source: The European Commission

Commission Work Programme 2013: Concrete Actions for Growth



On 23 October 2012, the European Commission published the new Commission Work Programme for 2013. It summarises the objectives for the EU in seven key areas and sets out what is missing today. It explains how the Commission will tackle these objectives by taking forward key initiatives already on the table, by making new proposals, and by ensuring that the benefits of reform are carried through to citizens by effective implementation. The seven key areas of the adopted Work Programme are: 1) A genuine economic and monetary Union; 2) Boosting competitiveness through the Single Market and industrial policy; 3) Connect to compete: building tomorrow's networks today; 4) Growth for jobs: inclusion and excellence; 5) Using Europe's resources to compete better; 6) Building a safe and secure Europe; 7) Pulling our weight: Europe as a global actor. Initiatives to be undertaken within the second key area are of particular interest, especially regarding costs reduction for businesses in areas like VAT and invoicing, as well as the reinforced cooperation with Member States on the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive. For more information, click on the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/key-documents/index_en.htm

Source: The European Commission

Canada – Europe Trade Agreement (CETA): Close to the deal



The EU has been negotiating a trade agreement with Canada after having prioritised this country as a key market, which escaped the worst of the recession and experiences skills shortages in a number of areas. On 22 November, Commissioner Karel de Gucht met with the Canadian Trade Minister Ed Fast. After in-depth discussions on the trade deal, negotiators announced that an agreement should be reached in the coming weeks. According to an economic survey jointly released by the EU and Canada in 2008, a comprehensive agreement could increase bilateral trade by €25.7 billion. Carefully following the progress of this trade agreement, ACE met several times with the Canadian Architects Licensing Authorities (CALA) to discuss a simple procedure to provide for mutual recognition for architects. At its last General Assembly, ACE delegates agreed on the general direction of this agreement, which will now be submitted to DG Trade and notified to the CETA negotiators to be approved under international law.

Source: DG Trade & ACE

First European SME Assembly



On 15 & 16 November 2012 an Assembly on SMEs issues took place in Nicosia, organised under the Cypriot Presidency. During this two-day event, a policy session was organised on "Helping SMEs grow through public procurement" where several speakers emphasised the importance of facilitating the direct participation of SMEs in Public Procurement. Through its political position, ACE strongly supports SME access to public market. In fact, in a context where 96% of architectural offices have less than 6 employees, ACE strongly advocates simplifying administrative demands and opposes setting turnover requirements for architectural service providers at three times the estimated contract value. Moreover, ACE believes that the Public Procurement Directive should promote selection procedures and award criteria based on quality and also ensure

that the specific nature of intellectual services is taken into account. For more information on the ACE political position, go to: http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/getdocument/content_id/1393

Source: European Commission & ACE

New Online Portal for the Energy Performance of Buildings



In November 2012, the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPiE) launched a data hub for buildings performance and related policies in Europe. This portal presents facts and figures collected for "Europe Buildings under the Microscope", a study released at the end of 2011. It has the ambition to

become an in-depth source for anyone interested in energy efficiency in European buildings. The data will be improved on an on-going basis and over time, this hub will be enriched with additional topics and information generated through data exchange projects and research partnerships. Have a look at: <http://www.buildingsdata.eu/>

Source: BPiE

Single Market Act II: Boost Growth and Strengthen Confidence



In October 2012, the European Commission proposed the "Single Market Act II", a second set of actions to further develop the Single Market as an engine for growth and central element to address the current economic crisis. The Single Market Act II put forward twelve key actions for rapid adoption by the EU institutions. These actions are concentrated on four main drivers for growth, employment and confidence: 1) integrated networks, 2) cross border mobility of citizens and businesses, 3) the digital economy, and 4) actions that reinforce cohesion and consumer benefits. To more info, see the link: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/smact/index_en.htm

Source: The European Commission

Europe's Regions and Cities supporting Europe 2020



Early October, the Committee of the Regions launched a new website in the context of its campaign "Europe's Regions and Cities supporting Europe 2020", which is meant to show that successful recovery of Europe's economy depends to an important degree on involvement of regional and local authorities. At the heart of the campaign, there will be a series of seven conferences, one for each of the seven Flagship Initiatives of the Europe 2020 strategy. Planning of the conferences is available on the following address: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/europe2020/Pages/europe-2020.aspx>

Source: The Committee of the Regions

ACE MATTERS

Second General Assembly 2012



During ACE Second General Assembly held on 30 November & 1 December 2012, five new Executive Board Members were appointed by rotation for the period 2013-2014. These new EB members are: Bulent Batuman (Turkey), Vincent Cassar (Malta), Martin Drahovsky (Slovakia), David Falla (United Kingdom) and Indrek Näkk (Estonia). An Executive Board meeting will take place early January to assign roles to all members under the

Presidency of Selma Harrington (Ireland) and to decide on priorities for 2013.

Beside Construction 2020 addressed in a specific Colloquium on Friday afternoon – see ACE Core Issues – other important topics were debated during the ACE General Assembly, such as progress on the Professional Qualifications Directive and the Public Procurement Directive, update on the work carried out by the Scope of Services Work Group and its joint meeting with the Liability and Insurance Work Group, news from Urban Issues Work Group and Communication Work Group, to name but a few. ACE delegates also received the results of the 3rd ACE Sector Study on the Architectural Profession carried out by Mirza & Nacey Research Institute. More information on this Study will be available soon.

European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP): Conference in Cyprus



From 22 to 24 November 2012, the European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) organised a Conference on "Promoting Architectural Quality in Public & Private funded Projects" to address the challenges and prospects of architectural policies in Europe. The ACE Vice-President, Lionel Dunet, ACE Board Members Konstantinos Belibassakis and Christos Savva, as well as the Secretary General, Ian Pritchard, participated to this event, which was organised under the Cypriot Presidency. Constructive discussions between architects and senior officials from EU Members States highlighted the need to promote

architectural quality and its impact on the everyday life. Results of this debate are expected to contribute to the improvement of the legislative framework for better architectural creations, urban design and to provide solutions to social justice, ecological and economic crisis.

International Seminar on Architectural Practice in Moscow



On 11 & 12 October 2012, the ACE President, Selma Harrington, was invited as speaker and honorary guest to the International Seminar on Architectural Practice organised by the Union of Architects of Russia in collaboration with St-Gobain. During this event, three main topics were discussed: Regulation, Education and Reconfiguration of Architectural Practice. The ACE President, in her presentation, provided information to Russian architects and decision makers about architectural practice in Europe and gave a review of the European political context as well as the Architects' Council of Europe strands of work.

Secretariat: Recruitment of a new Communications & Policy Officer



To replace Laurie Hastir who worked with the ACE for the last two years, Pierre Obajtek joined the Secretariat in December 2012 as Communications and Policy Officer. Pierre studied History and completed a Master's degree in European Affairs at the Lille Institute of Political Studies (France). Before joining the ACE, Pierre carried out internships in Berlin and gained experience in EU Affairs at the Committee of the Regions of the European Union. Then he worked for one year at the Brussels Office of the French Medical Council, where he dealt with the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive. Pierre speaks French, English and German.

News about the ACE Involvement in EU-Funded Projects

The ACE is currently involved in 5 European research projects, funded by the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) and the Innovation and Competitiveness Programme (CIP-IEE). These projects are: [OPEN HOUSE- FP7](#), [SHELTER-IEE](#), [TRAINREBUILD-IEE](#), [LEEMA-FP7](#), and [INSPIRE-FP7](#). All projects are related to the building sector and are addressing issues related to sustainability, energy efficiency and renovation, innovative materials and technologies. Through these projects the ACE is promoting the architects' role in building sustainability and energy retrofitting. Moreover, the ACE is raising its visibility and recognition by engaging with a wide range of stakeholders in the European Union and participating in important events and conferences. Below you can find the most important updates concerning the progress of these projects. For further information you can also contact the Project Officer of the ACE at the following address: eleni.goni@ace-cae.eu

OPEN HOUSE- FP7 Project



The objective of the [OPEN HOUSE](#) project is to develop and to implement a common European building assessment methodology for planning and constructing sustainable buildings. Following the conclusions drawn from the assessment of 68 case studies in 35 countries, the developed OPEN HOUSE methodology is currently being refined and necessary adaptations are underway so as to ensure

that the final sustainability assessment methodology will be suitable for use in all European countries. A free to access and free to use web-tool is already available at the following address: <http://oh.building-21.net/>. To download a guideline for the sustainability assessments go to: http://www.openhouse-fp7.eu/assets/files/D1.5_APPENDIX_C.pdf. A questionnaire is also available in the project's website and your feedback will be highly appreciated. To access it, please press [HERE](#).

SHELTER- IEE Project



SHELTER project is bringing together Social Housing organisations and European professionals for testing and promoting project teams in Energy Renovation. In the second year of the projects' lifetime there was an analysis of the renovation processes followed by the 6 Social Housing Organisations participating in the research project. There was also a European Survey addressed to architects, policy makers, managers, representatives of construction and maintenance companies and other Social Housing Organisations. On the basis of this research, a set of recommendations is currently being finalised by ACE in collaboration with CECODHAS Housing Europe and the European Builders' Confederation. These recommendations are addressing ways to improve, at political level, the coordination of professionals involved in energy renovation processes. Through these recommendations, ACE aims to strengthen the role of architects involved in energy renovation processes. Once completed, by January 2013, the recommendations will be widely communicated and also published in SHELTER project's website. From the website you can also download all the reports that have been delivered so far as well as the latest newsletter: www.shelterproject-iee.eu

TRAINREBUILD- IEE Project



TrainRebuild project came to an end in early December 2012 with a final Forum Event in Brussels dedicated to the challenges related to the retrofitting of Heritage Buildings. The objective of **TrainRebuild** project has been to encourage retrofitting in a wide range of residential buildings. To successfully reach building owners, training materials presenting technical and financial aspects of residential retrofitting works were produced. These training packages were also customised to the local conditions of 10 EU countries (BG, DE, ES, FR, GR, HU, IT, PT, RO, UK). The developed materials can be of particular use to architects as they provide valuable information on technical issues, legislation and financial instruments. This information can in fact be used to help property owners overcome any constraints or uncertainties over renovating their buildings. To access and download training packages please follow the link: www.trainrebuild.eu/toolkits

INSPIRE- FP7 Project

This project started in October 2012 and is funded by the 7th Framework Programme. The aim of INSPIRE is to conceive, develop and demonstrate systemic packages for deep energy renovation of buildings – both in the residential and tertiary sectors. At this early stage of the project an attempt is being made to gain an understanding of the condition of the building stock across all EU countries and for this purpose a survey is underway.

ACE at External Events

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 ACE policies. 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 ACE website at the following address:

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

ACE Events and Meetings from January to June 2013 (all in Brussels unless stated otherwise):

- Meeting of the Practical Professional Experience – 11 January 2013
- Meeting of the Public Procurement Work Group – 12 January 2013 (Berlin)
- Meeting of the Architecture & Sustainable Environment WG – 17 January 2013
- First Executive Board Meeting – 18 January 2013
- Meeting of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) WG – 25 January 2013 (Vienna)
- Meeting of the Scope of Services WG – 25 January 2013
- Joint Meeting of the Scope of Services WG & Liability and Insurance WG – 26 January 2013
- Finance Committee – 14 March 2013
- First General Coordination Meeting – 14 & 15 March 2013
- Second Executive Board Meeting – 28 March 2013
- Third Executive Board Meeting – 6 June 2013
- First General Assembly – 7 & 8 June 2013

NEWS FROM ACE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

AA – Danish Architects' Association

Feedback from the “Conference on Growth for Architecture and Design”

At the end of October 2012, the Danish Architects' Association and Danish Designers organised a Conference on Growth for Architecture and Design in the Danish Parliament. This conference aimed at supporting the current growth agenda issued by Danish Government, which launched two political initiatives in the field of architecture and design: a "Growth Team for Business and Design" and a "Consortium for Danish Design and Architecture". So, the scope of this Conference was to focus on an overall political context allowing both large and small companies to contribute to the debate on the growth potential for architecture and design. For more information, please contact: ab@arkitektforeningen.dk

BDA – Association of German Architects

Foreign Trade Day: Architecture, Planning and Building

For the second time, “Architecture, Planning and Building” will be the focus of a Foreign Trade Day hosted by the German Federal Foreign Office. At the cross-industry networking event, architects, engineers, urban planners, contractors, craftspeople and building suppliers with foreign trade experience will exchange information and ideas about future markets and export strategies. Federal Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle will make a speech on this occasion. When: 19 February 2013, 9h00 to 17h30. Where: Federal Foreign Office Berlin, Unterwasserstraße 10, 11013 Berlin

CAB – Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria

Feedback from “Sofia Architecture Week”

From 26 November to 2 December 2012 the annual architectural event took place in Bulgaria, supported by CAB and the Union of Architects in Bulgaria. For one week, Sofia became the European architectural capital where architecture, culture, town planning and sustainable development of the built environment were promoted. This event is a continuation of the “Architecture & Quality of Life” initiative, which started during a round table held in May 2012 in Sofia with the Architects' Council of Europe.

CAT – Chamber of Architects of Turkey

International Young Architects' Ideas Awards

CAT has launched the International Young Architects' Ideas Awards within the theme of “Temporary Sheltering Spaces”, opened to young architects worldwide in accordance with UIA-UNESCO regulation. The main aim of this programme is to evaluate the architectural responses to the needs of temporary housing and open the debate. The participants in the competition are required to define the context of a disaster of their choice and produce dismountable design proposals for temporary housing units and settlements in an economic and practical way. Both visual and textual formats are going to be used for the presentation of the design proposals. The deadline for the submission of projects will be 15 March 2013. For more information:

<http://www.youngarchitectsmeeting.com/ana.cfm?PgID=146>

CNAPPC – National Council of Italian Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservationists

News from CNAPPC Delegate: Luciano Lazzari

Luciano Lazzari (CNAPPC) has been successfully nominated by the UIA to the Scientific Committee for the Durban 2014 World Congress, which will be held at the Durban International Convention Centre from 3 to 7 August 2013 under the title: Otherwhere – Looking elsewhere for other ways of creating a better future. For more information on this Congress, visit: www.uia2014durban.org.

Reform of the Professions in Italy

New legislation regarding the Reform of the Professions in Italy has finally been approved. The main provisions of the decree are: compulsory insurance, CPD, liberalised publicity for architects and a compulsory agreement on fees with the client before beginning work. Contrary to expectations, the minimum of 18 months compulsory practical experience has not been introduced in the final version of the law. Therefore, the CNAPPC will continue driving this agenda, as part of its intent to reform the State exam that is now compulsory in order to practise the profession.

L'Aquila: Scientist found guilty

More than three years after the devastating earthquake in L'Aquila, the city is once again at the centre of the international attention, after the members of the Risk Assessment Committee were condemned to six years of prison by the Lower Court. This sentence created a vociferous condemnation by the scientific community, which compared it to the treatment of Galileo at the hands of the Holy Inquisition. Read more on: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-20025626>

OAR – Order of Architects in Romania

Opening of Mincu House, OAR office

On 26 October 2012 the Order of Architects in Romania inaugurated its office, the Mincu House. The conservation and restoration of the Mincu House main wing finished at the end of October this year. The House will function according to the OAR's main priorities and strategic objectives. It will continue to be the headquarters of the OAR general secretariat, a museum of architecture as well as the architect Ion Mincu memorial house, a continuous professional training centre, a library, etc.

UIA Region II Presidents Meeting in Bucharest



From 8 to 10 December the UIA Region II Presidents Meeting took place in Bucharest. The meeting was preceded by a public conference on "How to get good architecture – The process for obtaining Quality in the Built Environment" where participants discussed ways to generate better architecture, knowing that architectural quality can be obtained in many systems and traditions, through a combination of procedures including, or not, rules, requirements and guidelines.

Exhibition: "Mincu, a century ahead"

"Mincu, a century ahead" is a photographic exhibition by Victor Velculescu, which transforms the visitor into a time and space traveller, through a fabulous world of symbols and buildings that were realised by the architect Ion Mincu. The exhibition is open at the Mincu House, OAR Office, until 16 December 2012.

RIBA – Royal Institute of British Architects

New client guide from RIBA Competitions

The new RIBA client guide gives essential information and practical advice on how to plan and run a successful competition. Cutting through jargon, explaining the different types of competition, how they work and what to consider, this guide reinforces the RIBA as the leading expert provider of competitions management services in the United Kingdom. To download this free guide, go to: <http://competitions.architecture.com/requestform.aspx>

SARP – Association of Polish Architects

On 8 December, the Association of Polish Architects elected Mariusz Ścisło as President.

OTHER MATTERS

Professional Practice and the Future of the UIA

On 18 and 19 October, the UIA Council met in Strasbourg to discuss several points, such as how to integrate the *UIA recommended international Guidelines for Policy on Architectural Practice in a Host Nation* in national codes of ethics. The UIA Council also decided to open a debate on the UIA's future. The first stage of this debate will begin in March 2013 in Durban, in conjunction with the next Council session. To read the entire article, please visit:

<http://www.uia-architectes.org/en/participer/nouvelles/7108#.UMCnxc2VO6l>

Source: UIA

Bauhaus.SOLAR 2012: Key factors for a successful energy transition and practical solutions

The 5th International and Scientific Bauhaus.SOLAR Conference took place on 13-14 November 2012 in Erfurt, Germany. Participants in this Conference discussed key factors for a successful energy transition and practical solutions. Conference conclusions include the following statements: (1) energy transition will not be resolved on a mono-linear or mono-causal basis; (2) sustainability is a team effort; (3) new generations of scientists need to be trained to face energy challenges; (4) systems that are suitable for new buildings are often unsuitable or are not commercially viable for existing buildings. For more information, visit: <http://www.bauhaus-solar.com/>

Source: Bauhaus.SOLAR

Renovate Europe Day 2012

On 11 October *Renovate Europe Day 2012* took place, a resounding event which included a morning conference focused on Renovation as a Stimulus for Growth and Jobs in Europe, a High-Level Lunch in the European Parliament aimed at bringing Business Leaders together, and an afternoon workshop aimed at debating and reconciling diverging views in the Construction Sector. Launched in 2011, the Renovate Europe Campaign is an initiative of the European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings and its objective is to reduce the energy demand of Europe's building stock by 80% by 2050, as compared to 2005 levels. To listen message from Renovate Europe Day, go to: <http://www.renovate-europe.eu/>

Source: Renovate Europe Campaign

Sustainable Buildings Centre Website

The Sustainable Buildings Centre Website is the IEA's online voice for low energy building. It is a collaborative effort between the IEA secretariat, government agencies, industry experts, policy makers, NGOs and independent researchers. The web site includes energy consumption trends in the buildings sector, IEA publications, events related to buildings, lighting and appliances and Building Energy Efficiency Policies (BEEP) database, which is a global one stop shop for building energy codes, labelling and incentive schemes. For each country, BEEP currently provides the full buildings energy efficiency policy context. To visit this website, go to: <http://www.sustainablebuildingscentre.org/>

Source: Sustainable Buildings Centre

Build Up interesting stories

Have a look at the Build Up Website to read the following stories:

- **Social Housing Providers Reach for 20 – 20 – 20 Targets and Beyond**
<http://www.buildup.eu/news/32104>
- **Defining Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings – the Story so Far**
<http://www.buildup.eu/news/30786>
- **CEN Standards to Support the Recast Energy Performance of Building Directive**
<http://www.buildup.eu/news/31463>
- **New Challenges for Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning**
<http://www.buildup.eu/news/31464>

Competition Winners

- **Gorka Blas wins the competition for a public library in Gosan, Korea**
<http://www.dacb-competition.kr/>
- **Thyssenkrupp Quarter in Essen wins the European Real Estate Investment Award**
<http://www.prime-property-award.com>
- **Two Chinese Students win the 2012 International VELUX Award**
http://iva.velux.com/about_the_award/winners2012
- **International Bauhaus.SOLAR AWARD 2012 for young talent goes to Berlin**
<http://www.solarinput.com/press-release/items/international-bauhaussolar-award-2012-for-young-talent-goes-to-berlin-791.html>

PUBLICATIONS

IEA's World Energy Outlook 2012

On 20 November 2012, the International Energy Agency (IEA) launched its World Energy Outlook 2012, which underlines the unexploited potential of energy efficiency, especially in the building sector where the threshold of 20% of energy savings is far from being reached. According to IEA's report, for energy efficiency to become a reality, it would be necessary (1) to have good governance, (2) to make energy efficiency affordable, (3) to increase the visibility of energy efficiency and show economic gains

to the public, (4) to make energy efficiency become the norm. More information on: <http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/>

Urban adaptation to climate change in Europe

Climate change will affect Europe's cities in different ways. To give an overall impression of the challenge for European cities to adapt to climate change, the European Environment Agency (EEA) has published a series of detailed interactive maps, allowing users to explore data from more than 500 cities across Europe. For more information, go to: http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/how-vulnerable-is-your-city?utm_campaign=how-vulnerable-is-your-city&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions

The multiple benefits of investing in Energy Efficient Renovation of Buildings

Renovate Europe released a study at Renovate Europe Day in October 2012. This study was realised by Copenhagen Economics on the multiple benefits of investing in energy efficient renovation of buildings. To download full report, go to: <http://www.renovate-europe.eu/Multiple-Benefits-Study>

Eceee Report – Energy Efficiency Obligations: the EU experience

Eceee published a briefing on the European experience from energy efficiency obligations (EEOs) in March 2012, which was produced for the European Commission's Directorate-General Energy. Despite the variations in national schemes, all have been judged successful by their governments and they have expanded their EEOs accordingly. There is now around €2 billion per year being spent by energy companies in the EU to deliver energy efficiency under EEOs. To read the full report, go to: <http://www.eceee.org/EED/energy-efficiency-obligations>

COMPETITIONS

International Design for All Foundation Awards 2013

The awards recognise the efforts of private companies, not-for-profit organisations and public bodies across the world to promote equal participation by all in the construction of society. In so doing, they also aim to draw international attention to best-practice examples within the different areas of Design for All. The award categories for this year's edition are as follows: Project undertaken by a not-for-profit organisations ; Project undertaken by a government or other public body ; Project undertaken by a private company or professional ; User-centred design in Living Labs. The deadline for submitting entries is 17 February 2013. More information on: <http://designforall.org/new/awards.php?Setlang=en>

2013 Sustainable Energy Europe & ManagEnergy Awards

The European Commission invites all sustainable energy actors to submit their projects for the Sustainable Energy Europe Awards and ManagEnergy Local Energy Action Award. For more information, please visit: <http://www.eusew.eu/awards-competition> Deadline for submission is 8 March 2012.

International Young Architects' Ideas Awards

Learn more about this competition in the section "News on ACE Members Organisations" (CAT) and/or visit: <http://www.youngarchitectsmeeting.com/ana.cfm?PgID=146> Deadline for submission of projects is 15 March 2013.

EVENTS

Historical City Centres are Tomorrow's Eco-Districts, Links Final Conference, EU Parliament

How can the challenges concerning the environment and heritage building protection be reconciled to offer a majority of people sustainable and attractive housing at the very heart of the city? This is the main question that the Network of European Historic cities of the LINKS Project have tried to answer within the URBACT Programme. More information on this final conference at: <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/urban-renewal/links/news/?newsid=906>

Historical Lab 4: Symposium on Raw materials and Art Nouveau, Aveiro, PORTUGAL

The Fourth Lab is organised by the Réseau Art Nouveau Network and the City of Aveiro in the framework of the Art Nouveau & Ecology Project. The symposium will be held on 26 January 2013 in Aveiro (Portugal). It will highlight the fact that the ideal of beauty and modernity that inspired Art

Nouveau led the architects of that time to use a variety of construction materials and techniques but now, many of these materials have disappeared. Read more information on: <http://www.artnouveau-net.eu/Network/ArtNouveau/Homepage/tabid/108/language/en-GB/Default.aspx?id=388>

World Sustainable Energy Days, Wels, AUSTRIA

The World Sustainable Energy Days are one of the largest annual conferences in this field in Europe, offering a unique combination of events on sustainable energy. From 27 February to 1 March 2013, the event will take place in Wels and during these days, a conference on "European Nearly Zero Energy Buildings" will be organised. This event will be an opportunity to meet the global sustainable energy community, discuss latest technology trends and inspirational case studies, receive updates on policies and legislation, etc. For more information on the programme and registration, go to: <http://www.wsed.at/en/service/home/>

EU Sustainable Energy Week, EUROPE

EU Sustainable Energy Week is a core activity of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign. Every year hundreds of organisations and individuals participate in the EUSEW. From 24 to 28 June 2013, EU Sustainable Energy Week will take place across Europe. Through bottom-up efforts, organisers of EUSEW Energy Days, events and activities connect directly with citizens and energy stakeholders at the local, regional and national levels. The combined results of EUSEW efforts are helping Europe reach its energy goals. More information and registration at: <http://www.eusew.eu/>

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_barroso/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

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

Website of the Irish Presidency (Jan to Jun 2013):
www.eu2013.ie/

Website of the Lithuanian Presidency (Jul to Dec 2013):
<http://www.eu2013.lt/en/>

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

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

URBACT Hous-Es Network website:
<http://urbact.eu/projects/hous-es.html>

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>

ArchiEuropa website – comparative information on practice of architecture:

<http://www.arvha.net/selectionlang.php?s=AXMIG1FZFB>

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			

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

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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 pierre.obajtek@ace-cae.eu. **Next deadline for submissions is 4 February 2013.**

End

Sources of illustrations:

CORE ISSUES

Illustration 1: ACE Architect 2020 Colloquium, Mr Antti Peltomäki

Illustration 2: European Commission Website

Illustration 3: European Junior Doctor Website

Illustration 4: European Commission Website

EU NEWS

Illustration 1: Ireland's EU Presidency 2013 Website

Illustration 2: Wikipedia – European Commission

Illustration 3: Beacon News

Illustration 4: European Commission Website

Illustration 5: BPIE Website

Illustration 6: European Commission Website