



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE

2017
ANNUAL REPORT
& 2018
OUTLOOK



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

Founded in Treviso, Italy, in May 1990, the
ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE (ACE) is the representative organisation for the architectural profession at European level.

ACE'S MISSION IS

- to influence, through advocacy, EU legislation & policies that impact on our strategic priorities;
- to be an influential and valued source of authoritative information for the architectural profession in Europe;
- to act as the unified voice of the architectural profession in the European institutions;
- to be an effectively networked representative body for EU architects and practices;
- to create an enabling practice and regulatory environment for architects & practices;
- to demonstrate the role of architects in creating a truly competitive, enriching and sustainable Europe.

TO THIS END, ACE APPLIES ITS CORE VALUE SETS, WITH THE AIM OF BEING;

- credible, relevant, reliable;
- informed, influential, timely;
- innovative, strategic, visionary

ACE's Vision is to make a difference, and to advance architecture as a strategy for innovation, leading to greater competitiveness and profitability.

ACE is made up of Member Organisations that are the nationally representative registration bodies and professional associations in the EU Member States, the Accession Countries and other European countries with a special status in relation to the EU. Through them, the ACE represents the interests of c. 600,000 architects.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ACE acknowledges all those who have contributed to our work during the past year and helped us to progress towards and realise our objectives. These include

2017 Board Members: President: Luciano Lazzari; Vice-President & Treasurer: Paula Huotelin; Area Coordinators: Dubravko Bacic, Georg Pendl and Pedro Belo Ravara; Board Members Richard Brindley, Lionel Dunet, Lars Jarle Nore, Eugen Panescu, Ruth Schagemann and Emil Yordanov.

2017 ACE Work Group Chairs: Richard Brindley, Margaret Hynds o'Flanagan, Judit Kimpian, Thomas Maibaum, Indrek Näkk, Lars Jarl Nore, Eugen Panescu, Georg Pendl, Ian Pritchard and Ruth Schagemann.

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ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE

2017 ANNUAL REPORT & 2018 OUTLOOK

ACE BY NUMBERS

45

Number of Member Organisations in ACE



27

Percentage increase in Twitter followers since 2016



3.700

Number of Facebook followers



36.523

Number of web hits



3

Number of ACE events web-streamed in 2017 (available of the Website)



22+

Number of issues ACE is actively monitoring (Single Market Strategy, PQD, SIM, PP, Remedies Directive, EPBD, EED, Legislative Package for Services, Clean Energy Package, European Semester, trade agreements, VAT Directive, EU Urban Agenda) ...etc.



9

Number of ACE Expert Work Groups (Qualifications; Regulatory issues; Public Procurement; Scope of Services; Building Information modelling; Internationalisation; Trade in Services; Environment & Sustainable Architecture and urban issues)



36

Percentage of architects under 40



17

Size of the architectural market (in bn €)



38

Percentage of women in the profession



600.000

Number of architects in the EU



7

Number of EU-funded projects in which ACE participated



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Luciano Lazzari

The end of 2017 marks the end of my second and final two year mandate as President and sees the election of a new President and Board, with numerous members continuing from the previous Board, in a reassuring prospect of continuity and progressive development.

These four years have been richly rewarding on a personal level and I believe we have carried on and expanded the work of our predecessors to make ACE ever more relevant, efficient and responsive to the needs of our profession.

At the time of my election, I said that ACE needed to develop a long-term political vision and a short-term focus; to streamline and rationalise itself; to focus on the future of the profession, in particular on the environment and the schools so as to prepare for the future; to expand its global network and strengthen ties with the EU Commission.

ORGANISATION

So with this in mind, we first worked on developing our productivity and the organisation of our work areas, by reducing the number of work groups and introducing horizontal coordinators. ACE has eliminated the staggered renewal of Executive Board members, cut Executive Board costs and streamlined the office to allow for more communications and policy work. In Communications, the ACE logo was redesigned, the website renewed and enlarged with a new International section and ACE has expanded its presence on social media.

A lot of energy was put into revitalising the work of ACE's third thematic area, changing the name from Sustainability to the wider concept of Responsibility. With the help of dedicated coordinators and work group chairs, this Area has become more visible and pervasive, with real application to many of the problems we face in our cities and in our profession, reflecting the worldwide general focus on these issues. By being transversal, the work in Area 3 opened the doors to many valuable contacts and collaboration with the Commission, but also with other professional organisations and institutions. ACE achieved a presence at COP21 in Paris and COP23 in Bonn, joined the Global Alliance for Building & Construction and is already working on four of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

In the course of these four years, ACE developed the Sector Study, and established groups to focus on Future & Strategy, Building Information Modelling (BIM) and Internationalisation & new business models. As another response to the recommendations of the Strategy group, ACE took steps to strengthen its presence in the Member States by organising one General Assembly each year outside of Brussels - in Padova, Tallin, Berlin, Rome. Careful preparatory work on these occasions has allowed us to introduce thematic sessions to investigate topical areas of interest, introducing external guests and speakers.

As well as successfully completing the establishment of a European CPD register, we spent a substantial amount of time developing our contacts and collaboration with the EAAE, the European network of schools of architecture. Together with our external partner, the Ion Mincu University in Bucharest, we successfully ran three editions of the European Best Diploma prize. The last edition saw 156 entries from 28 countries and we have now successfully negotiated a merger of our prize with the Mies van der Rohe Young Talent Architect's Award. We have also worked closely with the EAAE for three years on the ERASMUS+ « Wicked » project.

We are close to completing a Mutual Recognition Agreement with the Canadian Architectural Licensing Authority, and have made progress in negotiations with the South Korean and Mexican architects. We signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA), the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA), the Council of Architects of Portuguese speaking countries (CIALP) and the architectural organisations of Brazil and South Africa.

We responded proactively to the Legislative Package on Services and the Clean Energy Package and have continued working on EU-funded projects, securing three new ones. ACE was successful in developing a Creative Europe funded programme which will impact significantly on our network development.

Of course, this was all part of a continuum; just as some work started by others was completed during my tenure, so others will continue what has been started during my terms of office. I extend my thanks to Executive Board members, past and present, work group chairs and other contributors, the Secretariat for their wonderful support and the Secretary General for his indispensable guidance and coordination. I also thank my national organisation and all the Member Organisations who have actively supported my presidency and our work.



SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

Ian Pritchard

In 2017 ACE adopted a Business Plan by means of which we aimed to

- advance the highest quality professional standards – to safeguard the public interest and ensure global competitiveness;
- optimise professional mobility – to stimulate jobs & growth in the EU; and
- promote Responsible Architecture – for a sustainable future.

In support of these aims we developed a range of actions in the areas of Education, training & development; Regulation; Trade in Services; Practice; Internationalisation & New Business Models; Responsible Architecture; Value; and Research & Innovation.

Most objectives have been achieved or are underway as part of longer terms initiatives and are described in the reports from Coordinators/work group chairs. We thank them for their voluntary efforts, without which our outputs would be considerably diminished.

CREATIVE EUROPE AND CONNECT-ARCH

Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework programme of support for the cultural and creative sectors. Its aims are to help the cultural and creative sectors seize the opportunities of the digital age and globalisation; to enable sectors to reach their economic potential, contributing to sustainable growth, jobs, and social cohesion; and to give Europe's culture and media sectors access to new international opportunities, markets, and audiences.

ACE is developing a four-year programme, CONNECT-ARCH, with the long term aim of assisting the sector towards recovery and helping architects face current challenges: intra-EU mobility, increased extra-EU competition, and up-skilling to adapt to digital and other new technologies. ACE proposes to reinforce the sector's capacity by pursuing the following global objectives:

Organisational Development – to strengthen the ACE network and increase collaboration among its Member Organisations (MOs)

ACE MOs have different missions – regulatory bodies, professional associations, unequal human / financial resources, different corporate cultures / state structures. To operate more effectively and improve collaboration between them, ACE will

- build organisational capacity through knowledge-sharing and peer-to-peer learning activities;
- enhance the engagement of MOs and their Members through internal and public workshops / conferences;
- develop mutually beneficial schemes between MOs;
- build MOs' capacity and leverage their positions at national / EU level through collective actions; provide best opportunities for ACE MOs to participate in EU policy / law-making.

Improving the trans-national mobility of European architects

The EU has been a driver of architects' mobility across Europe

EXTENSION OF THE GENERAL HOSPITAL IN ŠEMPETER
Gorica, Slovenia

Architect: Prima d.o.o., Jernej Prijon, Vid Razinger

Photo: Tamas Bujnovszky



providing for the automatic recognition of qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC) and facilitating cross-border service provision (Directive 2006/123/EC, Directive 2014/24/UE). But many obstacles remain – insufficient knowledge of regulations and difficulty finding insurance, partners / practical information. EU architects' high standards of training need to be recognised worldwide – as future growth will occur mainly outside the EU. To promote the mobility of architects within the EU and help them access new markets internationally, ACE will:

- identify / use opportunities and partnerships in the EU and beyond;
- negotiate Mutual Recognition Agreements with architects outside the EU.

Professional Capacity Building – to enable European architects to build up their professional and business skills

The evolution of construction techniques and their increased complexity; the expansion of the legal, regulatory and standardisation environment and the increased complexity of operating conditions require investment in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to

- ensure that architects' skills and knowledge are constantly updated to match future challenges;
- enable European architects to advance their positions as leaders in the face of global challenges;
- support firms to maintain skills / acquire new ones, to remain globally competitive;
- improve the entrepreneurial skills of architects and their ability to flourish in new markets.

Collecting contextual data on the architectural profession

- provide comparative, quantitative and qualitative data and surveys on sector developments

During the first year of the project we have been able to

- web-stream key events for audience development (Rome Education Conference, Energy Day during the EU Sustainable Energy Week, BIM Special Session) ;
- establish an Internationalisation task-force to do scoping work for an Export Guide, identify key messages ; expand the international section of the website and consider how to develop an ACE presence at trade fairs ;
- advance mutual recognition negotiations with Canada, Mexico, South Korea ;
- make preparations for two booklets for publication – one containing best practice projects that help to mitigate the worst effects of climate change, and another featuring exemplary competition winning buildings ;
- plan web pages for those seeking/offering cross-border work, CPD, traineeship opportunities ; or establishing in another Member State ;
- conduct scoping studies on the Economic Impact of Regulation and Value of Design ;
- expand the questionnaire on which the ACE Sector Study is based, with a view to developing an Observatory to increase the contextual data available on the profession as an evidence-base to underpin policy positions.

The programme has served to strengthen ACE's contacts with COM Directorates (GROW, ENER, TRADE) and in particular DG EAC.

MEMBER STATES

while the main focus of our activity is clearly in Brussels, we also achieved visibility in a number of Member States, with meetings hosted by Member Organisations in Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland and the UK.





ACE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
ROME - 5 MAY

HIGHLIGHTS

LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE ON SERVICES

The Legislative Package on Services was published in mid-January including proposals to introduce a Proportionality Test (for new / changing legislation), a Notifications Directive, requiring Member States to serve three months notice of any new / changing measures; an optional Services e-Card for companies providing cross-border services and a set of Reform Recommendations relating to professional regulation.

ACE had responded promptly to the initial consultation, and followed the legislative process closely, sending policy positions to the Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and other MEPs, as well as to Member Organisations for use with their own political contacts.

Proportionality – the motivation for this proposal was what the Commission considered to be the poor performance of some Member States, in the earlier Transparency Review. The proposal aims to introduce an ex ante Proportionality assessment for new legislation or changes to existing legislation, which must be “necessary, suitable, not go beyond what is necessary”.

ACE felt that this would impact on the competence of national legislators. Regulation of professional services is the prerogative of Member States. Proportionality - as a principle of law - is impossible to harmonise, the proposal only addresses ex ante regulation, ignores ex post regulation and the overall list is too demanding.

However some positive elements emerged from Rapporteur Schwab's report which stated that this should not affect Member States' rules regarding education & training or the delegation of powers to professional organisations; a margin of appreciation should be left to Member States; CPD / Chamber Membership can help to satisfy public interest objectives; and the provisions should only be required for essential regulatory decisions. Meanwhile, DG GROW underlined that the proposal is designed to prevent recourse to costly infringement proceedings.

Professional Services e-Card (PSC) – the proposed e-card would be issued by the Home rather than the Host Member State, so there was a concern that this would introduce the Country of Origin principle by the back door. It was unclear how provision for a Coordinating

Authority would relate to the Points of Single Contact or the Competent Authorities, and given the very limited amount of time allowed to the Host Member State to react, there seemed to be an assumption in favour of approval, with a veto only possible where there is a threat to the public interest.

There were also concerns regarding the duration of the card, the extent to which claims could be verified that it would make it easier to obtain insurance for cross-border service provision and whether the PSC would remain optional. Moreover, the relationship between the PSC and the European Professional Card required some clarification.

In view of delays and general unhappiness, there were persistent rumours that the proposal might be withdrawn, though Rapporteurs in the Parliament did much to improve the proposal.

Notifications – this was motivated by the apparent under-performance of the Services in the Internal Market (SIM) Directive. This already requires that all authorisation schemes and establishment requirements must be notified. Whereas under SIM, proposed new measures can be implemented before notification, the new proposal imposes a standstill – of at least 3 months (2 months for consultation with the Commission and Member States, and a further month for the notifying Member State to respond - during which time new measures cannot be introduced.

ACE felt that as the SIM Directive already contained a notification requirement, the proposed new measures would create reluctance to notify and stultify legislation, while the cumulative effect of the Proportionality Test and the Notification Directive would be overly burdensome.

Reform Recommendations – in response to these Recommendations, ACE observed that the Commission should only intervene when action cannot be achieved by the Member States. It challenged claims made about professional mobility, underlined the different regulatory concepts (ex ante and ex post) and criticised the proposed new Regulatory Restrictiveness Indicator. It also refuted the Commission's claim that the argument historically used to support regulation (asymmetry of information) was less convincing as clients became better informed, and offered information about the economic impact of regulation (EUROSTAT data reveals that costs rose more sharply



in countries with no ex ante regulation). Last, it questioned “empirical evidence” provided by the Commission, considering that “churn rates” were relatively high in the profession indicating a 25% net increase in the number of architects/1000 of population during 2009-2016.

MEP Nicola Danti’s own-initiative report contained some positive elements underlining the positive role played by the professions in the economy and the need to preserve the EU model; averring that the Regulatory Restrictiveness Indicator should only be an indicative tool and that the qualitative impact of regulation should also be considered.

The interventions of ACE and similar professional bodies appear to have had some impact on the recommendations and resulted in some modifications, underlining the importance of reacting promptly and in unison with Member Organisations and other stakeholders.

In December, the IMCO committee adopted reports on all elements of the Package with the exception of the Services e-card. The report on the implementation of Directive 2005/36/EC and the need for reform in professional services will be voted in plenary session of the Parliament in January 2018. As the Council already adopted in May a general approach on the Notification Procedure and the Proportionality Test, it is expected that the inter-institutional negotiations (“trilogue”) on these two files will start in early 2018. As for the Services e-Card, the preparation of the Parliament and the Council positions is progressing slowly due to the opposition of several Member States and stakeholders to the Commission’s proposal.

CLEAN ENERGY PACKAGE

Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)
– on 30 November 2016, the EU Commission unveiled a package of measures entitled ‘Clean Energy for All Europeans’ which included proposals for reviewing the Energy Efficiency (EED) and Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD) Directives. In March 2017, ACE finalised its position on the EPBD, in which it advocates for a greater recognition of the role of architecture in delivering a step change in building performance and in the uptake of energy efficiency retrofits of the existing building stock.

The ACE position was guided by five key principles:

1. Validate Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) with measured operational performance data – only validated EPCs should be used to underpin any financial instruments;
2. Incentivise and regulate energy retrofits as part of overall functional/aesthetic upgrades of buildings, to speed up the energy efficiency of the existing building stock;
3. Target improvements across all pillars of building performance: consumption of natural resources, indoor environmental quality, occupant satisfaction and life-cycle value;
4. Define energy efficiency of buildings in a lifecycle perspective. Life Cycle Costing (LCC) and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methods must be integrated in cost efficiency and energy performance standards and benchmarks;
5. Open Big Data – harmonise reporting metrics across nation states and between calculated and achieved performance and put in place disclosure requirements to ensure the rapid and continuous improvement of energy efficiency measures and technologies.

In Spring, ACE met Bendt Bendtsen, EPBD Rapporteur in the Industry and Energy committee (ITRE), as well as several Shadow Rapporteurs, to advance its positions in the Parliament.

ACE welcomed the adoption of B. Bendtsen’s report in October 2017, which put forward significant improvements to the Commission’s proposal and counterbalanced the weak position adopted by the Council earlier in June. ACE welcomed the strengthened vision of the Parliament for the building stock by 2050: setting the ambition to transform “the national stock of residential and commercial buildings, both public and private, into a highly energy efficient and decarbonised building stock by 2050” is a prerequisite to boost investment and accelerate the transition to a more efficient, more comfortable and healthier building stock.

ACE is also pleased to see a greater recognition of health, safety and air quality aspects and welcomes the call on the Commission to assess the feasibility of introducing a Building Renovation Passport – a roadmap, based on quality criteria that would outline relevant measures to improve the energy performance of a building. However, ACE expressed concerns about the possible exemption from inspection of heating and air-conditioning systems (articles

14/15), stressing that automation of these systems increases the risk of performance shortfalls. Regular maintenance or remote inspection of such systems is essential to ensure their proper functioning.

Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) – Member States had until 30 April 2017 to notify updated versions of building stock renovation strategies to the Commission. Strategies were to include an overview of the national building stock; identify cost-effective approaches to renovations; include policies and measures to stimulate cost-effective deep renovations, as well as a forward-looking perspective to guide investment decisions of individuals, the construction industry and financial institutions.

ACE called for ambitious national renovation strategies and reiterated its recommendations for the regeneration of the EU building stock. While 75% of the EU building stock is deemed to be energy inefficient and only 0.4-1.2% of the stock is renovated each year, ACE has been actively calling on EU institutions and national governments to take concrete and innovative steps to accelerate the transition towards a comfortable, healthy, productive and low-carbon built environment that is resilient to climate change. To realise a step-change in reducing the energy consumption of buildings, ACE called for a new approach promoting 'deep renovation' of buildings, where energy and resource efficiency complement the functional, spatial and material reconfiguration of buildings. Retrofits should not just improve the energy performance of buildings but empower occupants and adapt to their changing needs. Architecture has to be at the heart of EU and national retrofit policies. ACE calls for an ambitious and clearly defined long-term 2050 vision for the EU building stock to be incorporated into the EPBD, with key milestones in 2030 and 2040, to create a stable regulatory framework, conducive to investment decisions.

5TH EDITION OF ACE SECTOR STUDY

Published in February 2017, the fifth edition of the ACE Sector Study is the most comprehensive report on the architectural profession in Europe. With over 27,000 responses from 27 countries, the Study continues to prove its usefulness by providing an evidence-base for our policy positions and enhances the credibility of ACE in its dealings with EU policy-makers.

Moreover, it allows ACE Member Organisations, researchers and media to draw insightful comparisons between European countries and to contextualise national situations. The study allows us to track long-term trends and better understand the evolution of the profession since the economic crisis. The last Study revealed signs of recovery in the architectural market and positive perspectives for the profession: the value of the architectural market had increased, the average revenue was higher for most sizes of practices, the number of independent architects had fallen and workloads were expected to increase – though growth is weaker in the south.

ACE is grateful to all Member Organisations for their support, as well as to the architects who have responded to our survey and made this new edition of the Sector Study possible.



MUSEO DE LAS COLECCIONES REALES
Madrid, Spain
Architect : Mansilla + Tuñón Arquitectos
Photo: Luis Asín



ADVANCING HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

to safeguard the public interest – (ACCES)

(Strategic Priority n° 1)

Coordinator: Dubravko Bacic

SCHOOLS PROGRAMME – Dubravko Bacic

EAAE – ACE continued its collaboration with the schools' network (EAAE), organising a joint conference with the CNAPPC in Rome (Italy), on the relationship between education and practice, how we educate young professionals for what are we preparing them? If practice is changing, how should we adapt education to the new reality? What is the future of the profession and what can educators and practitioners do to influence its future development? What does internationalisation mean for the relevance, responsibility and role of the architect?

A list of speakers and presentations is available on the website and at <https://www.ace-cae.eu/activities/events/2017/education-symposium/>.

ERASMUS+ - the three-year ERASMUS + Project "Confronting Wicked Problems: adapting architectural education to the new situation in Europe" reached its conclusion.



The project 'Confronting Wicked Problems: Adapting Architectural Education to the New Situation in Europe' organised three Think Tanks for the areas of Profession, Heritage and Sustainability. Two Transnational Meetings took place per year for each Think Tank, plus annual Learning/Teaching/Training Activities in order to directly implement the new ideas into the architecture curriculum. ACE was represented

with two experts in each Think Tank. Results were presented at the EAAE conference in Bordeaux in September 2017 and the final report is available on the EAAE website: http://www.eaae.be/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Erasmus-Project_CWP_00_Final-Report-1.pdf

Best Diploma Prize – the 3rd edition of the ACE-EAAE-Ion Mincu University Best Diploma Prize was the most successful to date, attracting around 160 entries (twice the number of the previous year) from 28 different countries – See jury report (<https://eam.uauim.ro/s/res/files/EAM-BDP-2017-Jury-Report.pdf>) and winners (<https://eam.uauim.ro/projects/2017/>).

Young Talent Architecture Award (YTAA) – meetings were held with the Mies van der Rohe Foundation to secure the merger of Best Diplomas Award with the YTAA.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE, TRAINEESHIP & CPD – Margaret Hynds O'Flanagan

In the last revision of the Professional Qualification Directive (PQD) the European Commission stopped short of making Continuing Professional Development (CPD) mandatory, but required Member States to notify steps taken "to ensure, by encouraging CPD, that professionals whose qualifications are listed in the PQD are able to up-date their knowledge, skills and competence".

As a result, ACE and the European Network of Architects' Competent Authorities (ENACA) undertook a survey on CPD (& Accreditation) in order to:

- Give a concise overview of CPD models and accreditation systems across Europe;
- Equip ACE and ENACA with authoritative data in preparation for any future discussions with the EU Commission;
- Achieve greater alignment with International standards, in support of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA).

The survey was undertaken, finalised and presented by Margaret Hynds O'Flanagan, Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland and Emma Matthews from the Architects Registration Board, United Kingdom.

CPD – Organisations in 18 Member States responded to indicate some form of CPD requirement (either as a condition of registration or one relating to professional rules). The ways of recording and monitoring CPD were varied (ranging from centralised, online recording, to self-maintained paper records. The average number of hours of structured CPD was 22 p.a. and sanctions can be applied in 58% of cases (disciplinary action). Slightly more than half of schemes required specific topics to be covered (including management, legal, construction, new materials, energy efficiency).

In conclusion, CPD requirements are as varied as the systems in which they have evolved. Professionalism (rather than regulation) appears to be the strongest driver of CPD, though paradoxically – having required Member States to make it possible for registrants to do CPD and having obliged Member States to report on this, the Commission has now included CPD as an element of restriction in its new Regulatory Restrictiveness Indicator.

Accreditation - 60% of responding Member States have a national or regional level process for approving qualifications before they are notified for listing under Annex V.7 of the Professional Qualifications Directive. Confirmation that a qualification meets the requirements of PQD art. 46 is formally addressed in 58% of cases and 80% of Member States have a standard process for checking / approving that a qualification complies with national standards / requirements for registration. Moreover, 76% of Member States have a standard national or regional process for checking and approving access to market requirements. In 77% of cases, Universities and other bodies awarding qualifications are subject to other quality assurance processes.

It was found that the majority of Member States have either all or some of the following: - University level and other process for quality assuring qualifications in architecture; - a national / regional level process for approving qualifications before they are notified to the COM for listing under Annex V.7; - a national / regional level process for confirming that qualifications in architecture address the requirements of PQD art. 46.

While systems may differ, they attain similar goals by checking compliance with national / regional or EU requirements. In addition, all MS have the opportunity to examine qualifications as part of the notification process.

REGULATORY & QUALITY ISSUES – Richard Brindley

In tandem with the PQD group, much of the work of the RQI work group focused on the Legislative Package on Services (see Highlights section).

In November the DG GROW held a conference in Brussels on “Professional Services: How does regulation matter?” With over 200 participants from the different regulated professions and representatives of Ministries. Ruth Schagemann and Ian Pritchard represented the Architects Profession.

In two main Panels, the Commission discussed beneficial/desirable ways of deregulation under the umbrella of “Smarter Regulation” in order to create (allegedly) 700.000 jobs in the services sector. In his introduction, MEP Andreas Schwab suggested that “the posting of workers is a much greater problem than regulatory issues, they are just the tip of the iceberg”.

The main focus was on economic theories presented by Maria Koumenta, Queen Mary University London and Arup Banerji, World Bank Group, which mainly underlined the position of the Commission. ACE’s position - on quality of service, consumer protection and alternative economic arguments was made forcefully – shared by the Accountancies, Engineers and the health Professions. It was the usual but important exchange on well-known arguments.

Economic impact of Regulation – thanks to a study made by the European Centre for Liberal Professions (EuZFB) of the University of Cologne, the architect’s profession can challenge, in a first small step, some of the economic arguments advanced by the European Commission.

“The European architectural sector – a scientific perspective on the debate about the economic impact of different regulatory approaches in the Member States of the EU” contains a number of arguments in our favour, one of which helps us to refute the Commission’s claim that enterprises in the architectural sector are too small due to insufficient competition. This thesis is based on the observation of different average firm-size across the Member States. However, the simple observation of small enterprises in the European architectural sector is no reliable indicator for improper regulation hampering potential adaptation processes and cost-savings. A smaller firm size could also be an adaption to consumer preferences for local offices and/or a decision for outsourcing of some production stages.

Infringement proceedings

Public Procurement – in December, the Commission decided to take **Austria, Luxembourg, Slovenia + Spain** to the EU Court of Justice over the failure to notify complete transposition of EU rules on public procurement and concessions into national law. All Member States were obliged to notify the transposition of the latest public procurement rules by 18 April 2016. The Commission sent letters of formal notice to 21 Member States that had not transposed these rules in May 2016 and followed up with reasoned opinions addressed to 15 of them in December 2016. Four Member States have still not notified the transposition of the following legislation: - Austria and Luxembourg - Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU, 2014/25/EU; -Spain - Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/25/EU; and Slovenia - Directive 2014/23/EU.

Services – in December, the Commission decided to refer **Austria** to the EU Court of Justice due to overly restrictive rules on the provision of services by architects, engineers, patent attorneys and veterinarians. Austrian legislation imposes a number of requirements on regulated professions: - seat requirements for architects, engineers and patent attorneys; - legal form and excessive shareholding requirements for architects, engineers, patent attorneys and veterinarians; -

33 CENTRAL STREET OFFICES

Bucharest, Romania

Architect: iglooarchitecture

Photo: Andrei Creanga



restrictions on multidisciplinary companies for architects, engineers and patent attorneys.

The Commission holds the view that these requirements create unjustified obstacles to the provision of services by these professions and run counter to the freedom to provide services (Articles 49 and 56 of Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, TFEU) and to the Services Directive (Articles 14, 15 and 25 of Directive 2006/123/EC). Austria was requested to remedy the breach of EU law, first in a letter of formal notice sent in June 2015, then in a reasoned opinion in February 2016 and, following an exchange with the Austrian authorities, a complementary reasoned opinion in November 2016. As the Austrian authorities maintain their position, the Commission has decided to refer Austria to the Court of Justice of the EU.

Professional Qualifications – in December, the Commission sent a letter of formal notice to **Cyprus** for not recognising the professional training in the fields of engineering & architecture acquired by Cypriot citizens in other Member States, which does not seem to be in line with Directive 2005/36/EC. In addition, national rules do not fully respect the principle of automatic recognition of professional qualifications acquired abroad by architects as laid down in Article 49 of Directive



2005/36/EC. Cyprus now has two months to remedy the situation; otherwise, the Commission may decide to send a reasoned opinion.

Buildings Performance – in June 2017, the Commission requested the **Czech Republic** and the **Netherlands** to correctly transpose all the requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Directive 2010/31/EU) into national law.

In December 2017, the Commission sent letters of formal notice requesting **Greece** and **Malta** to ensure the correct implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (Directive 2010/31/EU).

Fees (HOAI) – in November 2016, the European Commission decided to take further infringement action against **Germany** regarding the HOAI. According to the Commission, the binding minimum/maximum rates of the HOAI are not compliant with the EU Services Directive (2006/123/EC). As the German Federal Government disagrees with the legal opinion of the Commission and will not change the HOAI to remove the binding minimum and maximum rates, the case was brought before the EU Court of Justice at the end of June 2017.

Meanwhile there are legal opinions and studies that support the position of the German Federal Government and the Federal

Chamber of German Architects (BAK), that price regulation in the market of credence goods leads not only to better quality but also to a higher market efficiency. At the General Assembly meeting last year, the Architects' Council of Europe consulted its Member Organisations to ascertain whether the existence of a statutory fee-scale in Germany has any impact on professional mobility and in particular, whether it acts as a hindrance to or prevents architects from going to Germany to work.

In ACE's view the HOAI fee-scale imposes no restriction on market access whatsoever. There is no discrimination as the fee-scale applies to everyone established in Germany on an equal basis (and does not apply to those offering temporary or occasional services without establishment). Moreover, there are other "general interest" justifications for minimum / maximum fee-scales: e.g. to guarantee high levels of quality, protect consumers; ensure a transparent system in the interests of consumers, assist SMEs and to ensure an appropriate correlation between price and service. The HOAI is non-discriminatory and does not prevent foreign companies from offering services. It could even be understood as an incentive to work in Germany.



OPTIMISING PROFESSIONAL MOBILITY

to stimulate jobs and growth – (Practice)

(Strategic Priority n° 2)

Coordinator : Georg Pendl

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT / ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN CONTESTS *G. Pendl*

The ACE Rules for Architectural Design Contests were up-dated in 2017, comprising nine rules and including a provision for public participation. The Master Brief for architectural design competitions was also up-dated and a new web page was developed containing links to competitions web sites all over Europe. .

Contracts below Thresholds: although the COM had indicated a desire to ensure that 'Contracts below Thresholds' satisfy the basic criteria of those above the thresholds, there had been little movement, so it was proposed that ACE develop its own policy.

Remedies Directive – ACE agreed a policy position advocating that professional organisations be given "complaints competence" to allow them to represent their members (particularly SMEs) if they wish.

Finally, during 2017, ACE began collecting images from Member Organisations to illustrate a Best Practice Brochure on successful design competitions, for publication in Spring 2018.

SCOPE OF SERVICE – *R. Schagemann*

Fact Sheets on Liability and Insurance – ACE has published a series of factsheets on the International Section of the ACE homepage to provide a quick and practical overview of architects' liabilities and professional indemnity insurances per country. It is now easy to review the differences in national insurance and liability regimes, thereby assisting and facilitating architects' mobility within Europe.

These fact sheets are part of the results from a wider study, aimed to provide insights into the different national legal situations. These sheets are intended as a practical 'tool' for architects intending to conduct business abroad. Within the limitations of a one-page template, they provide the most necessary information about liabilities and insurances (is insurance obligatory? How is the insurance premium calculated? What forms of contract are used?

Particular thanks are owed Mathias Lehner from Royal Institute of Dutch Architects, Netherlands who took charge of this project.

New insurance platform celebrates its first birthday – Professional insurance protection for architects' cross-border activities in Europe - the work carried out in the area of liability insurance with the GEAAC ('Groupement Européen pour l'Assurance des Architectes et des Concepteurs') has already borne fruit. Last year the ACE Work Group presented a solution developed with the GEAAC representatives at the ACE General Assembly which will make cross-border insurance protection easier.



The lack of heterogeneity in the liability situation across EU Member States and the associated difficulty in obtaining coverage for architects' cross-border activities has created limitations for the European Commission in terms of intra-EU service provision. An insurance solution has been sought to enable architects to claim insurance protection for professional liability risks in Europe simply and without (price) discrimination.

GEAAC is an association of professional insurance co-operatives (mutuals) owned by architects in a number of EU Member States. The commitments of GEAAC currently cover members in Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Luxembourg and Austria. Together, they have created a web-based platform enabling insured architects quickly and easily to obtain information on premiums and basic policy details for GEAAC firms in their native language.

Insurance policies for building projects depend on the law of the "construction country" and are dealt with by the insurer / broker in the domestic market. Insurance protection and parallel support in the event of claims are obtained in the country in which the construction is completed.

While GEEAC's approach is a step in the right direction, it is not yet available to all architects and it will not be extended to other EU Member States until the test phase has been successfully completed. The solution has already been online for a year and is being used intensively within the GEAAC association. The aim of the "Scope of Services, Liability & Insurance" work group is to attract new member countries and professional representations in order to extend the network, which is free for architects, throughout Europe.

TRADE IN SERVICES – *Ian Pritchard*

Mutual Recognition talks continued with the Canadian Architectural Licensing Authority (CALA), with the aim of signing a final agreement (MRA) in the Spring of 2018. Thereafter, It is intended that this should be notified to the European Commission and Canadian Trade authorities, as well as to the MRA Committee (for which the Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement [CETA] makes provision.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
DENMARK CAMPUS
Kolding, Denmark
Architect: Henning
Photo: Hufton+Crow

Mutual recognition talks also took place, in Seoul, with the Korean Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA) and contact was revived with the *Federación de Colegios de Arquitectos de la Republica Mexicana* (FCARM) with the aim of progressing towards a MRA during the period 2018-2019.

INTERNATIONALISATION & NEW BUSINESS MODELS *Indrek Näkk*

In 2017, ACE created a new task-force to focus on Internationalisation & New Business Models. Following an initial meeting in Brussels to gauge interest, two further meetings were held in the autumn - one in Paris at which the French Architects for Export agency (AFEX) made a presentation, and another in Berlin, where the German Architectural Export Network (NAX) presented.

The group proposed a statement of strategic purpose that relates to one of the UN sustainable development goals – “Delivering liveable, sustainable cities and communities” and then agreed on a number of priority tasks namely:

- the preparation of an Export Guide,
- the development of a set of key promotional messages;
- the creation of a number of web-based tools designed to assist cross-border service providers;
- to consider ways in which ACE might take part in trade promotion events.

In due course, it will be necessary to sensitise Schools of Architecture to the importance of international work, to consider two-way interests i.e. what are those coming to the EU seeking?), practice sizes, strategic target countries, funding for missions, contracts and the impact of cost of living differentials (in earnings) between countries.

BUILDING INFORMATION MODELLING *Lars Jarle Nore*

The ACE BIM Work Group has been active since 2015, acting as a platform for Member Organisations to share experience, information and take common positions on Building Information Modelling. During the 3 years of activity more than 30 experts from 21 member countries joined the work group meetings.

The BIM WG held 3 meetings in 2017: 16 February, Paris (connected to CEN TC 442 plenary meeting); 12 June, Luxembourg (joint meeting with EFCA BIM Task Force); 12-13 September, Budapest (connected to CEN TC 442 WG meetings).

Since 2016, the Group's Chairman Lars Jarle Nore assured liaison with the work of the CEN TC 442 on BIM. The CEN TC 442 Chair and WG convenors have been invited to give updates on CEN and ISO works to ACE Work Group meetings. The chair and secretary of the EU BIM Task Group (Representatives from EU Public estate owners, public procurers and policy makers – co-founded by the EU Commission) have also submitted reports to ACE BIM WG meetings.

In June 2017, the Work Group strengthened links with the European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA). The Public Procurement Directive and Software manufacturer dependence were amongst common issues discussed. EFCA shared ACE's concerns on the increase in cost of BIM software and the change of Autodesk licence subscription and data ownership policy. Cloud based systems create risk regarding the ownership and availability of data. EFCA and ACE agreed to submit a joint query to DG COMP on this matter.

At a joint meeting with CEN TC 442 WGs in Budapest in September, the Group also met the Graphisoft developers in their headquarters in Budapest to know more about how a software vendor sees future developments in BIM.

On 1 December, the BIM WG was responsible for the "BIM in Europe" Conference, which presented the results of three years of work, together with interventions by the EU BIM Task Group, CEN Technical Committee and BIM users. The event was organised with the support of the EU Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. Videos and presentations from the event are available on the ACE Website.

In 2018, the Work Group will not hold live meetings, but will continue its work as an online experts network. Moreover, ACE will develop CPD modules for architects making them available on the ACE Website.



PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE ARCHITECTURE

to improve quality of life

(Strategic Priority n°3)

Coordinator : Pedro Belo Ravara

OVERVIEW

To some extent, there is nothing new in the concept of *Responsible Architecture* promoted by the ACE at EU level. It echoes the 1st century BC Roman architect, Vitruvius, author of *De architectura* – according to whom buildings must be designed taking into consideration durability (*firmitas*), convenience (*utilitas*), and beauty (*venustas*).

Through its Strategic Priority 3, ACE advocates a greater recognition of architectural solutions in the built environment and for a holistic approach to building performance, where retrofitting should not be about standardised solutions blindly applied to buildings, but about the overall functional and aesthetic upgrades of buildings, through the enhancement of their performance and, if possible, the adoption of alternative passive solutions.

ACE calls for continued improvements across the four pillars of building performance, namely: (1) reducing the consumption of natural resources throughout the building life cycle; (2) improving the indoor environmental quality (air quality, thermal comfort, daylight, acoustics); (3) raising occupant satisfaction and (4) increasing the value by lower lifecycle cost, higher market value, greater adaptability and resilience to changes of use and climate.

As coordinator of this Strategic Priority, my mission has been to instil in the policy positions developed in the Urban Issues and Environment and Sustainable Architecture Work Groups this spirit of deconstructing technological approaches and of promoting architectural solutions. Over the last three years, ACE has been working together with the relevant Directorates General of the Commission, the Member States, Members of the European Parliament and other stakeholders of the sector to advance its positions on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), the new Level(s) scheme, the Smartness Indicator and the Urban Agenda for the EU, to name but a few. ACE's efforts in this area culminated in 2017 in the organisation of two public events during the EU Sustainable Energy Week and in participation in COP23 in Bonn.

Besides the constant reference to adapting to the impacts of and mitigating the effects of Climate Change, the 2030 United Nations' Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to achieve a *world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and where there is universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy* (Goal 11). A *Responsible Architecture* can undoubtedly play a major role in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals as well.

ACE is also searching to be proactive in the fight against Climate



Change. It took part in the last three COP Conferences, organised in Paris (COP21 - 2015), Marrakech (COP 22 - 2016) and Bonn (COP23 - 2017) and is currently preparing a publication on good architectural practices with respect to climate change.

The future of our buildings, cities, nations and planet, lies in the growing awareness that all acts, - from the flight of a butterfly to the architectural design of a building, from the shaping of an urban space to the emergence of a new city - can make a difference: a difference for better, a difference that can be achieved through our professional responsibility.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE WORK GROUP

Judit Kimpian

ACE-BAK Panel Discussion and Workshop at the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) – In the framework of the 2017 EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), ACE and the Federal Chamber of German Architects (BAK) organised two public events on Thursday 22 June 2017 in Brussels on the theme Architecture: Towards a Step Change in Building Performance. In the context of the revision of the EPBD, the purpose of these events was to share feedback from architectural projects that have successfully overcome the challenges of achieving healthy, comfortable and productive environments at measurably low energy and resource consumption. Both events have enabled a debate to shed light on the architectural determinants of building performance and the imperative to consider building performance in a broader and more holistic perspective.

The first event was a Panel Discussion at the Résidence Palace, with a keynote speech by Ms Anne Speicher (Baumschlagler Eberle Architekten), who presented the Office Building 2226 – a passive building in Lustenau (Switzerland) designed to guarantee continuous comfortable temperatures, all without heating, cooling or mechanical ventilation. In the afternoon, a Workshop took place at the Architects' House. Following a presentation of the Clean Energy Package by a representative from DG Energy, several architects and experts gave presentations on the architectural determinants of building performance, the importance of the validation of the operational performance of building, embodied energy, life cycle assessment, the value of design and innovative financing solutions for the renovation of the building stock.

The video recordings of both events, as well as all speakers presentations are available on the ACE website.

Level(s): A common language for sustainable buildings – in 2017, ACE continued working on the development of Level(s), a voluntary framework of indicators for the reporting of the environmental performance of buildings, developed by the EU Commission in close collaboration with stakeholders, including the ACE. Level(s)



FACULTY OF CIVIL
ENGINEERING
Osijek, Croatia
Architect:
Dinko Peračić & Roman Šilje
Photo: Damir Žižić

enables users to move from simple through to more complex life cycle assessment calculation methods. Level(s) indicators cover: greenhouse gas emissions, resource efficient and circular material life cycles, efficient use of water resources, healthy and comfortable spaces, adaptation and resilience to climate change, and whole building life cycle cost and value. Judit Kimpian, Chair of the ACE Sustainability Work Group, represents ACE in the Steering Committee set up by the Commission. She carried out video interviews with the Commission for the promotion of this new tool (available on DG Environment website). Level(s) has been entering a testing phase. Professionals of the construction and buildings sector, including architects, can test Level(s); their feedback will contribute to improve the tool.

Smartness Indicator – in its proposal to revise the EPBD, the Commission proposes to create a ‘Smartness Indicator’, or ‘Smart Readiness Indicator for Buildings’, in order to assess the technological readiness of the building to interact with occupants and the grid and to manage itself efficiently. The smartness indicator is meant to raise awareness amongst building owners and occupants of the value behind building automation and electronic monitoring of technical building systems and to give confidence to the occupant about the actual savings of these new enhanced-functionalities.

Following the ACE-BAK events at the EUSEW, ACE was invited by the Commission to join a stakeholders group in charge of following up a preparatory study commissioned to external consultants, which will investigate the potential design and propose a methodology to determine the indicator.

URBAN ISSUES AND HOUSING WORK GROUP

Eugen Panescu

Urban Agenda for the EU – in 2016, EU Ministers Responsible for Urban Matters agreed the Pact of Amsterdam, which established the Urban Agenda for the EU. The Urban Agenda for the EU is meant as a new working method to promote cooperation between Member States, cities, the EU Commission and stakeholders, in order to develop and implement actions to successfully tackle challenges of cities.

Part of this new approach is the development of 12 thematic Partnerships, involving on an equal basis cities, Member States, the Commission and stakeholders. Four Partnerships were launched in 2016 on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees, Air Quality, Housing and Urban Poverty. Four others started their work in February 2017 on Circular Economy, Digital Transition, Urban Mobility and Jobs and Skills in the Local Economy. The last four ones were launched before summer 2017 on Energy Transition, Climate Adaptation, Innovative and Responsible Public Procurement and Sustainable Use of Land and Nature-Based Solutions.

Cities Forum, Rotterdam – on 27-28 November, members of the ACE Urban Issues WG participated in the third ‘Cities Forum’, organised in Rotterdam (Netherlands) by the EU Commission. This two-day event brought together key stakeholders from European, national and local levels to debate the progress of the Urban agenda for the EU, the urban dimension of the Cohesion Policy as well as the EU response to the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

On this occasion, a new platform was launched to assist cities in improving their investment capacities. Mayors, Ministers, Commissioners and other high level speakers reflected on their current challenges and shared their visions on the way forward towards better urban policy making and urban investments.

The Commission pointed to the need to start working on new Partnerships, such as the security of public spaces and cultural heritage. It also highlighted recent initiatives in the Commission, notably the Urban Innovative Actions funding scheme, which provides urban areas with resources to test new and unproven solutions to address urban challenges and is fully aligned with the Urban Agenda priority themes.

ARCHITECTS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE CAMPAIGN

In the framework of its ‘Architects Against Climate Change Campaign’, ACE has been seeking to raise the awareness of the public, construction professionals and decision-makers to the solutions that architecture can bring to the challenges posed by climate change. With buildings being responsible for 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO₂ emissions in Europe, ACE believes that reaching the EU climate ambition will only be possible if urgent policy actions are taken in the buildings sector.

On the occasion of **COP23**, which took place in November in Bonn (Germany), ACE participated in the Building Action Symposium organised by the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Global ABC). Judit Kimpian, Chair of the ACE Sustainability Work Group, gave the keynote address of the event.

She highlighted the significant role of the built environment in achieving the Paris climate goals and argued that transforming the built environment to improve health and wellbeing, with significantly less use of natural resources and at a low life-cycle cost, is a generational design challenge. “*Architecture is a potential game-changer: armed with robust data and feedback & supported by progressive regulation, it has the potential to create a step-change in renovation rates while adding significant value to national building stocks, raising quality of life and making a major contribution to the development of the circular economy*”.



EU-FUNDED PROJECTS

Veronika Schröpfer

In 2017 ACE participated in five EU funded projects. The ERSAMUS+ project in corporation with EAAE (European Association of Architectural Education) which was successfully completed at the end of August. The FP7 project A2PBEER was extended for another six months. The Horizon 2020 (H2020) projects PROF/TRAC and ABRACADABRA continued. Furthermore two new H2020 projects BIMplement and RenoZEB started in September and October.

All projects address issues related to sustainability, climate change, resource efficiency and building renovation. The projects develop for instance innovative materials and technologies, CPD training and better architectural education, business models to finance energy retrofits and policy position papers. Through these ACE seeks to promote the architects' role in energy efficient construction and urban regeneration, to influence cutting edge research and make it more applicable for European architects.

A2PBEER

(October 2013- February 2018)

www.a2pbeer.eu



The A2PBEER project developed a systemic energy efficient buildings' retrofitting methodology for public buildings and took advantage of synergies derived from interventions at district level. A2PBEER retrofitting solutions include already available technologies and more innovative ones developed within the project, such as "high performance envelope retrofitting", with super-insulated façade panels and smart windows, "smart lighting systems" combining LED and natural light, and the "Smart Dual Thermal Substation", a new approach to district heating. A "kit-concept" was applied in the development of new solutions in order to deploy adaptable and affordable solutions.

A2PBEER has produced two free online tools for public building retrofitting, which are available on the project website: The Support Guide Toolkit assists stakeholders in making best practice decisions on how to improve the energy performance of their public building or district. The Financial tool uses a simple excel sheet which focuses on financial analysis, return on investment, cost control and evaluation of rehabilitation of public buildings.

The 2017 highlight were the training courses on innovative technologies for public building retrofitting, which were run in seven countries, up-skilling over 300 professionals for free. Moreover the project has created online webinars on various training units, available for everybody, anytime and for free on the A2PBEER YouTube channel. We are looking forward to 2018 to complete this project and **present all results in Wels, Austria at the World Sustainable Energy Days on 02 March 2018.**



PROF/TRAC

(March 2015 - February 2018)

www.profrac.eu



PROF / TRAC

PROF/TRAC develops and maintains an Open Education Platform for Continuing Professional Development. This platform addresses technical experts, engineers, architects and building managers involved in nZEB design and construction. Especially the collaboration between these professions is necessary to develop mutual understanding of each others' disciplines and combine skills to achieve optimal nZEB construction and retrofitting in terms of performance quality, energy efficiency and cost effectiveness.

The first step was the mapping of existing skills and qualifications for seven pilot countries in the EU and to compare this with the required skills for nZEBs. Thereafter, this detected skills gap was matched with existing qualifications, knowledge sources, education programmes, post-initial training supply and accreditation/ certification structures, and also linked to the BUILD UP skills actions. On this basis the project developed a Train the Trainer training, which was open to CPD trainers from all around Europe and run five times.

ACE involved eight of its member organisations (MO) in this project. ACE MOs Italy and Slovenia were project partners from the beginning. In addition the Danish, Czech, Croatian, Irish, Spanish and Portuguese MOs sent their CPD trainers to the workshops.

The highlight in 2017 was the creation of 11 webinars on nZEB training, which are available on the PROF/TRAC YouTube Channel. Furthermore various reports and guidelines on how to map the skills in your country and how to set up a nZEB training have been published on the project website. There is even a free database of training material to be used for everybody.

We are looking forward to 2018 to finish this project and present all results in Brussels at the final conference 'European Multi-Level Skills Offensive – The Key To Assuring Public Support For The Energy Transition' on 20 February 2018.



OBJECTS FOR NATURE
RESERVE ŠKOCJANSKI ZATOK
Koper, Slovenia
Architect: avnikar Potokar Architectural Office
Photo: Miran Kambič

ABRACADABRA (March 2016- February 2019) www.abracadabra-project.eu



This three-year project focuses on the market up-take in energy efficiency and is based on the prior assumption that non-energy related benefits play a key role in the deep renovation of existing buildings. In particular, actions will focus on the main benefit of generating a substantial increase in the real estate value of buildings through significant energy and architectural transformation with new volume additions to go beyond the minimum energy performance and aim at achieving Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (nZEBs).

There are national workshops every six months in Italy, Greece, Spain, Norway, Bulgaria, Romania, the Netherlands and Latvia, which are open to all interested stakeholders. The meetings are discussing technical, regulatory and financial issues to raise the renovation rate of the EU buildings stock. All positions from the national workshops are brought forward to bi-annual international workshops coordinated by ACE.

Highlights of 2017 were the two international conferences in Brussels and Barcelona, which included free training workshops on the developed decision support tools. Mr Richard Brindley from the ACE Executive Board has spoken about the value of design at the Brussels conference, highlighting the role of the architect in energy renovation.

2018 will bring more interesting national and international workshops open to everyone. Moreover the project offers the possibility to renovation projects to participate in the project as case studies and benefit from free consulting on financial, technical and regulatory issues.

BIMplement (September 2017 - February 2020) www.bimplement-project.eu



The overall aim of this project is to achieve an improved quality for nZEB construction and renovation by setting up large-scale training, Continuous Professional Development and BIM-enhanced qualification schemes. These will address the entire value chain in a cross-trades and cross-level multidisciplinary approach, strengthened with hands-on and BIM enhanced workplace learning tools.

NZEB construction needs an enhanced systematic approach for the quality control of the entire process to reduce the gap between designed and actual performances of buildings. This requires a fully qualified and equipped workforce, capable to implement, execute and perform all the necessary labour actions with understanding of the responsibility of their own profession and work, as well as the relation with the other involved professions and work.

We are looking forward to 2018 to bring better and free training to European architects and to start talks with all important sector stakeholders in the international stakeholder network managed by ACE.

RenoZEB (October 2017 - March 2021) www.renozeb.eu



RenoZEB aims to unlock the nearly Zero Energy Building (nZEB) renovation market by increasing property value through a new systemic approach to retrofitting. This will include innovative components, and processes and decision-making methodologies to guide all value-chain actors in the nZEB building renovation action. RenoZEB will provide cost-effective 'plug and play' solutions for large-scale deep nZEB rehabilitation schemes, ensuring the integrate-ability of all its components, methodologies, training, guidelines, and demonstration cases. The real and virtual demonstration cases will show and ensure the replicability of the schemes to different building types and climates. The technical tools will appropriately address the valorisation of the building stock before and after nZEB renovation schemes are applied.



COMMUNICATIONS

Lionel Dunet

WEBSITE

ACE's 'Architectural Policy in Europe' and 'Architectural Design Contests' web-pages were finalised and are now available to consult. The 'Internationalisation' webpage is constantly updated to reflect the current situation in the EU (new funding schemes, new publications, insurance sheets, etc)

In 2017 the ACE Website was visited by 23.000 users, with an average of 3.000 sessions per month. The most visited pages were « Architects in Europe » and « ACE Policies ».

SOCIAL MEDIA

ACE has reached almost 900 followers on Twitter, which became a prominent channel to share information and engage with stakeholders, achieving (on average) 680 visits a month and 15.000 Tweet impressions.

Today 3700 users are following ACE Updates on Facebook and 780 have subscribed to the professional social network LinkedIn.

Moreover, we boosted the ACE Youtube Channel, where architects can find videos of ACE events and EU Projects. In 2017, the profile received 1.300 visits (for a total of 6.300 minutes watched!)

WEBCASTS

For the first year of the Creative Europe project, ACE web-streamed the Special Sessions of both General Assemblies. The Spring session took the shape of a Symposium on Architectural Education and the second, was the "BIM in Europe" conference. ACE also web-streamed a workshop on Building Performance, held in June in Brussels as part of the European Sustainable Energy Week.

Thanks to webcasts ACE was able to reach a wider audience and have a stronger impact on the Architectural community. Videos of recorded events are available on the ACE Website.

PUBLICATIONS

Other ACE publications e.g. the ACE Sector Study and the "The economic impact of different regulatory approaches on the architectural sector in Europe », were also made available on the ACE website.



CUBIERTA DEL MOLINETE
Cartagena, Spain
Architect: Amann-Cánovas-Maruri
Photo: David Frutos





VIVIENDAS
Madrid, Spain
Architect: Amann-Cánovas-Maruri
Photo: David Frutos

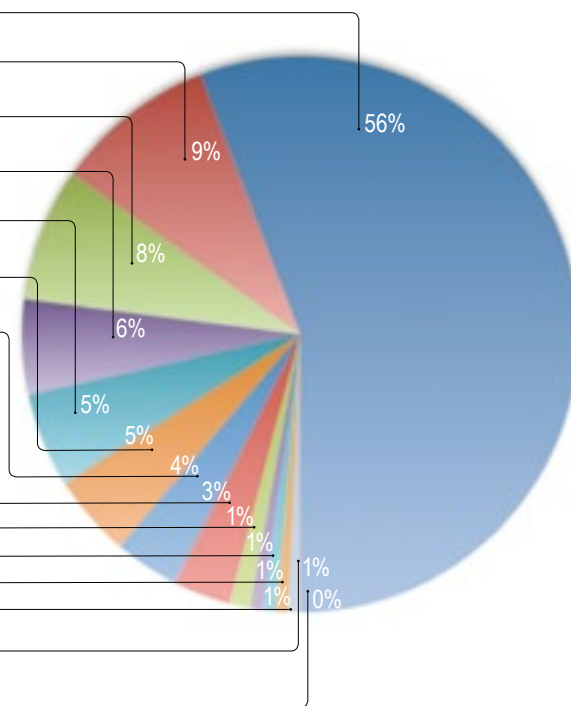


TREASURER'S REPORT & FINANCIAL OUT-TURN FOR 2017

Paula Huotelin

EXPENDITURE

Staff costs	€ 452.879
Projects	€ 76.162
Executive Board expenses	€ 62.862
Premises	€ 44.791
Depreciation & provision	€ 44.553
ACE meeting expenses	€ 38.968
Other operating expenses	€ 30.543
Professional fees	€ 27.049
Motor vehicle expenses	€ 9.630
Insurance	€ 6.532
Communications	€ 6.034
Office supplies & services	€ 5.316
Maintenance	€ 5.028
Financial expenses	€ 652
Transfer to the reserve fund	€ 109.147



TOTAL EXPENSES

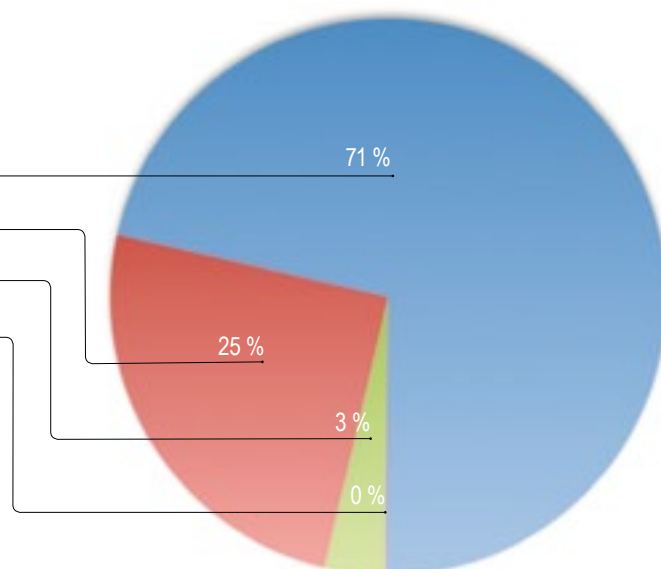
€ 920.145

INCOME

Members subscriptions	€ 657.013
Activities	€ 229.279
Recovered expenses	€ 31.883
Financial income	€ 1.970

TOTAL INCOME

€ 920.145



ACE STRUCTURE

(governance, membership)

The Architects' Council of Europe is an international, not-for-profit association. It consists of a General Assembly; an Executive Board; and a Permanent Secretariat in Brussels.

The General Assembly is composed of Delegates from all Member Organisations. It is the sovereign body and meets twice a year to adopt ACE policies and budgets.

The function of the Executive Board is to execute policies formulated by the General Assembly and to ensure the proper administration of ACE. It is composed of 11 Members.

The Secretariat's main function is to support the governance structure of ACE, act as the permanent interlocutor of the EU institutions in furtherance of ACE's advocacy work.

2017 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Luciano Lazzari



Italy
President

Paula Huotelin



Finland
Vice-President, Treasurer

Dubravko Bacic



Croatia
Coordinator:
Access to the Profession

Georg Pendl



Austria
Coordinator:
Practice & Trade in Services

Pedro Belo Ravara



Portugal
Coordinator:
Responsible Architecture

Richard Brindley



UK
Regulatory Issues

Lionel Dunet



France
Communications

Lars Jarl Nore



Norway
Building Information
Modelling

Eugen Panescu



Romania
Urban Issues

Ruth Schagemann



Germany
Scope of Services

Emil Yordanov



Bulgaria
Board Member

STAFF

Ian Pritchard



Secretary General

Gerardo Ambrosecchia



Communications Officer

Caroline André



Head of Administration

Pierre Obajtek



Policy Officer

Giulia Obinu



Administrative Assistant

Veronika Schröpfer



EU Projects Officer



POLITICAL CONTEXT AND PRIORITIES FOR 2018

The current “Trio Presidency” of the EU Council – **Estonia – Bulgaria - Austria** – runs to December 2018. Unsurprisingly, there are many commonalities between the 18 month programme of the Council and the Commission’s 2018 work programme. The programme will contain only a limited number of legislative actions in priority areas - partly because the Commission has already completed 80% of the proposals it set out to deliver – and partly because any further proposals will need to be tabled by May to allow the Parliament and Council time to complete their work ahead of the next round of elections in June 2019.

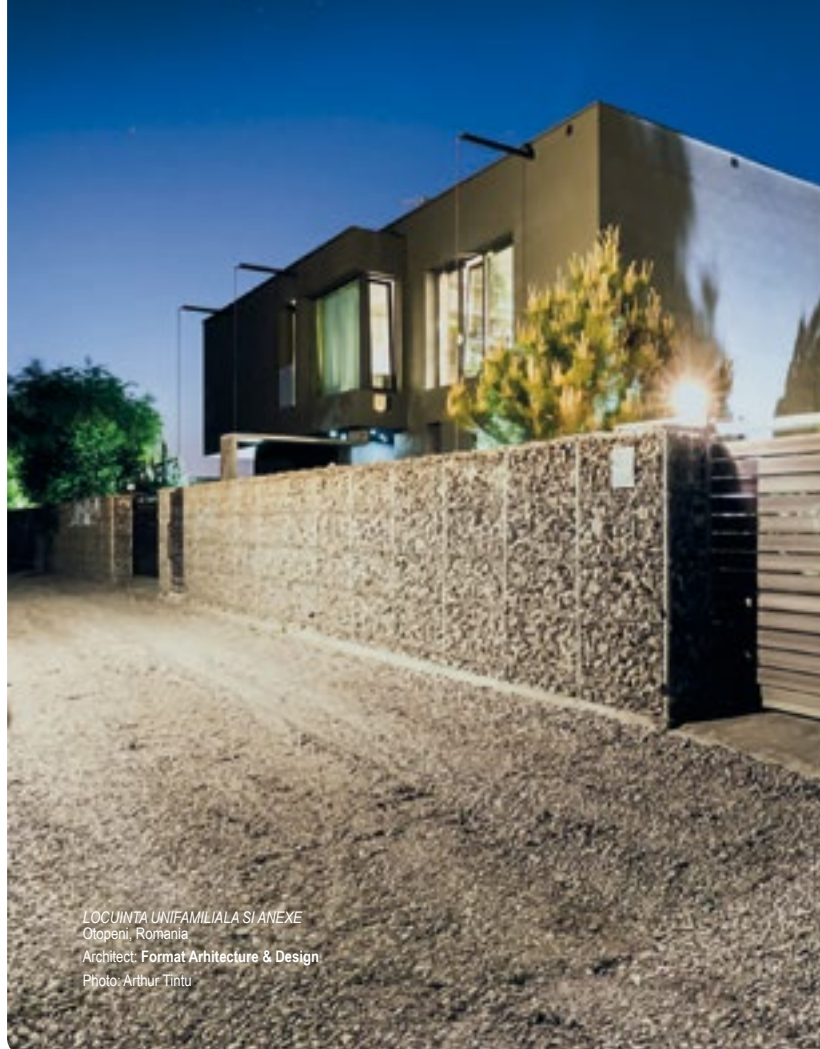
The overriding focus on jobs and growth continues, along with closer involvement of citizens in line with the principles of better regulation. As always, completing the Single Market is a priority, with the focus on implementation and enforcement of Single Market rules and removing remaining barriers by completing the initiatives set out in the services and goods packages. In 2018, the Commission will focus its efforts on revising EU company law to support businesses with more efficient rules and modernise rules for setting VAT rates and make a proposal to simplify the VAT system. The Commission will also address labour mobility and social security coordination challenges by proposing a European Labour Authority.

Education & Culture are key to building inclusive and cohesive societies, and sustaining EU competitiveness. The European Council calls on Member States, the Council and the COM to work on stepping up mobility (Erasmus+) and avail of the European Year of Cultural Heritage to increase awareness of the social and economic importance of culture / cultural heritage. They are also asked to examine measures to address skills challenges, the need for inclusive life-long learning and an innovation-driven approach to education and training, as well as the legal and financial framework conditions for the development of the cultural and creative industries and mobility of professionals in these sectors.

The Commission will continue to promote a climate of Entrepreneurship and job creation, and the three Presidencies will work on tackling skills challenges and skills gaps, with a focus on employability, mobility, sustainable growth and fair competition. To this end the COM will support SMEs and start-ups by ensuring access to alternative forms of funding, fostering investment in innovation, research and development, facilitate access to intellectual property products and better skills for all to maintain high competitiveness and productivity in the labour market.

The EU has some of the world’s highest Environmental Standards that help to safeguard the health and quality of life of citizens. The ‘Trio’ will continue to implement the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and further “green growth” that can play a part in creating employment, spurring innovation and stimulating investment, in order to make the EU more competitive. The three Presidencies will also take forward the implementation of the Energy Union Strategy, including delivery of the Clean Energy Package and delivering its Climate Policy objectives (cf. commitments to the Paris Agreement and the EU’s 2030 targets). DG Energy will continue the work towards the development of a Smartness Indicator, as foreseen by the revised EPBD, in order to assess the technological readiness of buildings to interact with their occupants and the grid and to manage themselves efficiently.

The EU will continue to demonstrate the benefits of open, rules-based trade with a focus on the implementing the CETA agreement



with Canada and look to conclude negotiations with Japan and others. Partnerships with international organisations such as the UN, regional organisations (e.g. ASEAN) and key players (Brazil, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Mexico and South Africa) will be enhanced.

ACE PRESIDENT’S PROGRAMME – GEORG PENDL

At its meeting in December 2017, the ACE General Assembly elected Georg Pendl (Austria) as its President for the period 2018-2019).

Much of ACE’s on-going programme is already fine-tuned to respond to a number of the COM initiatives enumerated above. Therefore, ACE will continue to react to the legislative agenda as regards Professional Qualifications, the Legislative Package on Services and other work on professional regulation designed to advance the completion of the Single Market.

It will continue to respond to the COM’s Public Procurement Package, the up-skilling of the profession particularly with regard to digitalisation (in particular, Building Information Modelling and the development of a European standard in the CEN Technical Committee) and the promotion of greater entrepreneurial skills in response to the threats and opportunities of internationalisation and the need to remain globally competitive (Trade, Export).

We will continue to rely on the expertise of our advisors on sustainability issues, and to respond actively and critically to the implementation of the Clean Energy Package and, in particular, the revised Energy Performance in Buildings Directive. Similarly, it will be important to have experts follow developments in the area of Building Information Modelling.

In the area of Urban Issues, I hope that it will be possible to put some energy into working on the relevance of architecture to the cultural



sector. The European Year of Cultural Heritage offers opportunities to bring an additional focus to this area. Our proposal to hold a conference, in tandem with the winter Assembly, in one of the EU Capitals of Culture, will be a high point.

We will also explore opportunities to work with architecture centres on issues relating to Baukultur, to communicate the value of architecture for the built environment at EU level, for example, bringing them together, with other stakeholders, in a conference to develop a declaration as a basis for on-going work.

We will continue to develop international contacts, with regional architectural bodies, in particular, with our closest neighbours at the Africa Union of Architects. Moreover, we will attempt to convert some of the information held in the international section of our website into an application which could be made available to individual architects interested in cross-border work.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR ACE WORK AREAS IN 2018

The ACE 2016 – 2020 Strategy focuses on the following areas:

1. **ADVANCING HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS (ACCESS) – to safeguard the public interest**
 - **Education, training & development** – promote greater convergence of standards, common approaches to traineeship, life-long learning, accreditation; prepare for the 2018 evaluation of the Professional Qualifications Directive;
 - **Regulation** – monitor regulation and its impact on the profession;

respond to Legislative Package on Services (proposals for a Proportionality Directive, Notifications Directive, Services e-Card, Communication on Reform of Professional Regulation);

- **Ethics & Trust** – promulgate up-dated ACE Deontological Code as part of the EU voluntary convergence agenda (cf. SIM Directive);

2. OPTIMISING PROFESSIONAL MOBILITY (PRACTICE) – to stimulate jobs & growth

- **Internationalisation & New Business Models** – maintain focus on internationalisation and new business models to assist the acquisition of business + entrepreneurial skills and avail of EU assistance for export. Continue working to align EU and international standards and conclude Mutual Recognition Agreements with key markets;
- **Professional Practice** - assist cross-border service providers by developing work on insurance/contracts; promote Quality-based selection and Design Contests in public procurement, and complaints' competence for professional bodies under the Remedies Directive;
- **Business Information Modelling** - develop ACE positions on BIM;

3. BAUKULTUR – achieving quality in the built environment

- **Responsibility** – respond to EU Clean Energy Package; develop architects' role in renovation and reducing energy consumption; contribute to post COP23 initiatives;
- **Urban Issues** – address EU Urban Agenda, map national Housing Strategies; respond to European Year of Cultural Heritage initiatives.
- **Value** – work for recognition of the value of design vis-à-vis the project life-cycle, as an intelligent investment; consider the impact of architecture on the quality of life.
- **Research & Innovation** – continue actively to participate in EU projects (Horizon 2020)

Creative Europe Year 2 objectives include: EUSEW seminar; Architectural Heritage Conference; April 2019 Conference on Baukultur; new web-pages; Export meetings, publication + app; Mutual Recognition Agreements; CEN work on BIM; Value study; Sector Study; Economic Study; ESA study; exhibition of best examples of projects that help to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

ACE 2018 BUSINESS PLAN

ADVANCING HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

EDUCATION, TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Professional Qualifications Directive

- **Legislative Package on Services** – together with the RQI work group, monitor the ordinary legislative process relating to the Legislative Package on Services ;
- **PQD** - prepare for the publication of COM's evaluation of the implementation of the PQD;
- support the development of **Traineeship** to enhance international mobility and increase opportunities for young architects;
- recognise the importance of **Life-Long Learning** and

the profession's role in delivering Continuing Professional Development to ensure that architects' skills remain current. Monitor responses to PQD article 22 (CPD);

- develop CPD module on "how to establish in another country"

Schools Programme

Consolidate the merger of ACE-EAAE Best Diploma Project with the Mies van der Rohe Young Talent Architecture Award

ADVOCATE FOR AN ENABLING REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

Regulatory Questions & Issues

- coordinate, with PQD work group, ACE response to the Legislative Package on Services; evaluate COM guidance on Proportionality and Reform Recommendations for professional regulation;
- monitor COM study "to improve access to and the exercise of regulated professions";
- conduct follow-up study on the Economic Impact of Regulation on the profession ;
- re-visit the **2001 Council Resolution on Architecture** to ensure that the social, economic and public value of architecture is recognised.

ETHICS & TRUST

Promulgate ACE Deontological Code, setting a standard for the profession and protecting the consumer

OPTIMISING PROFESSIONAL MOBILITY

RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONALISATION + NEW BUSINESS MODELS

New Business Models & Export

- maintain ACE Export Promotion network;
- develop **Export Guide** and key promotional messages
- develop **web-based tools** to assist practitioners to find partners (app)
- consider ACE participation in **trade promotions**
- develop collaborative innovation strategies enabling new business models.

Trade in Services

- conclude **Mutual Recognition Agreement** with Canadian Architectural Licensing Authority, for signature in April 2018
- pursue MRA talks with Korean Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA)
- revive MRA talks with Mexican Architects (FCARM)
- develop interaction with regional & global organisations.

DEVELOP RESOURCES TO ASSIST THE PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE EU

Scope of Services, liability & insurance

Promulgate policy position on **Insurance**; support GEEAC platform as a possible solution to insurance problems; develop a check-list for cross-border service providers;

Public Procurement & Architectural Design Contests

- respond to Communication of the European Parliament, Council, EESC and the Committee of the Regions "**Making Public Procurement work in and for Europe**" in particular
- formulating clear national procurement strategies;
- ensuring more efficient coordination at national and regional levels;



- providing clear national rules and practical guidelines;
- exchanging good practices;
- putting in place "competence support centres" (e.g. Client Adviser scheme)
- putting in place centralised purchasing bodies;
- increasing transparency and providing speedy, independent, equitable review procedures.
- Issue publication of best practice examples of architectural design competitions.

BUILDING INFORMATION MODELLING (BIM)

In 2018, the BIM Work Group will not hold live meetings, but will continue his work as an online experts network. Moreover, ACE will develop CPD modules for architects making them available on the ACE Website.

BAUKULTUR – ACHIEVING QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

RESPONSIBILITY

Environment & Sustainable Architecture

In 2018, the ESA Work Group will continue to support ACE advocacy for a greater recognition of the role of Architecture in the areas of building performance and sustainability, notably through the following actions:

- Follow-up the inter-institutional negotiations on the **EPBD**,
- Organise a **webinar** on **Level(s)**, in order to inform Member Organisations and architects about the usefulness of this new tool and how to engage in the on-going testing phase,
- Organise of a **workshop** during the EU Sustainable Energy Week;
- Organise **exhibition** of best practice projects that help to mitigate



VILJANDI FESTIVAL ARENA
Viljandi linn, Estonia
Architect: Kadarik Tüür Arhitektid
Photo: Architect

the effects of climate change;

- Assess the role of architecture in building performance as defined by the EU Level(s) scheme
- Follow-up of the new **TripleA-Reno** project, dealing with the behaviour of buildings occupants
- Engage in the **Smartness Indicator** stakeholder group
- Contribute to the work of the **Global ABC** (toolkit) – **COP24** in Katowice;
- Contribute to the work of the EMF-ECBC Energy Efficient Mortgages Initiatives

Urban Issues

In 2018, the ACE Urban Issues Work Group will finalise a set of policy positions to feed into the work of the **12 partnerships** of the EU Urban Agenda. It will also undertake a mapping of national housing strategies and prepare a conference on architectural heritage.

2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage - in May 2017, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU decided to designate the year 2018 as the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH). Within this framework, ACE will organise in 2018 a full-day event on the back of its Winter General Assembly in order to discuss the challenges raised by the preservation and **adaptive re-use** of the European architectural heritage and the role of the architectural profession in this area.

Architects Against Climate Change

In 2018, ACE will publish a **booklet and exhibition** to showcase architectural projects that contribute to fight climate change. It will include solutions to mitigate climate change, but also to adapt to its worst side effect. On the other hand, ACE will continue contributing to the work of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Global ABC).

VALUE OF DESIGN

ACE will develop a study on the **Value of Design**.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION (EU-FUNDED PROJECTS)

Recognise the importance of Research & Innovation. Develop case-based, evidence-based and performance-based knowledge references. Foster diversity and strengthen competitiveness through promotion of innovation.

Maintain Research & Innovation panel to evaluate requests to participate in EU-funded projects, advise on existing project work, disseminate the results of EU project work and deliver content for a EU CPD platform. Circulate information on opportunities for architects and Member Organisations.

2018 COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

In 2018 ACE will develop more webpages to support architects in exporting their services and graduates to find a traineeship opportunity.

ACE will also strengthen the collaboration with sub-contracted designers to make the website more pleasant and easier to navigate. Major events will be web-streamed and we will develop video-CPD for upgrading architects skills (e.g. on BIM, Heating and Cooling, etc).

SECTOR STUDY

The fifth edition of the Sector Study will be published at the end of 2018.

LIST OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

AUSTRIA	Bundeskammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten BAIK
BELGIUM	Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes CNOA Fédération Royale des Sociétés d'Architectes de Belgique FAB
BULGARIA	Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria CAB Union of Architects in Bulgaria UAB
CROATIA	Croatian Chamber of Architects CCA
CYPRUS	Cyprus Architects Association CAA
CZECH REPUBLIC	Czech Chamber of Architects CCA
DENMARK	Akademisk Arkitektforening AA Danish Association of Architectural Firms DA
ESTONIA	The Union of Estonian Architects UEA
FINLAND	Finnish Association of Architects SAFA
FRANCE	Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes CNOA Syndicat d'Architecture SA Union Nationale des Syndicats Français d'Architectes UNSFA
GERMANY	Bundesarchitektenkammer BAK Bund Deutscher Architekten BDA Bund Deutscher Baumeister Architekten und Ingenieure BDB Vereinigung Freischaffender Architekten VFA
GREECE	Association des Architectes Diplômés SADAS-PEA Chambre Technique de Grèce CTG
HUNGARY	Chamber of Hungarian Architects MEK
IRELAND	Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland RIAI
ITALY	Consiglio Nazionale degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori CNAPPC
LATVIA	The Latvia Association of Architects LAA
LITHUANIA	Architects Association of Lithuania AAL Architects Chamber of Lithuania ACL
LUXEMBOURG	Ordre des Architectes et des Ingénieurs Conseils du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg OAI
MALTA	Kamra tal-Periti KTP
NETHERLANDS	Bond van Nederlandse Architecten BNA Bureau Architectenregister BA
NORWAY	Association of Consulting Architects in Norway ACA Norske Arkitekters Landforbund NAL
POLAND	Polish Chamber of Architects IARP
PORTUGAL	Ordem Dos Arquitectos OA
ROMANIA	Architects' Chamber of Romania OAR
SLOVAKIA	Slovak Chamber of Architects SKA
SLOVENIA	Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia ZAPS
SPAIN	Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España CSCAE
SWEDEN	Swedish Association of Architects SA Swedish Federation of Consulting Engineers and Architects STD
SWITZERLAND	Conférence Suisse des Architectes CSA
UNITED KINGDOM	Architect's Registration Board ARB Royal Institute of British Architects RIBA
Observer Members	
SERBIA	Union of Architects of Serbia UAS

