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ACE Policy Position on the Partnership of the EU Urban Agenda
Partnership 3 - Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees
Policy Position
Date: 27/02/2018 - Ref: 32/18/PO

BACKGROUND

The objectives of the Partnership are to manage the integration of incoming migrants and refugees (extra-EU) and to provide a framework for their inclusion. This covers housing, integration, provision of public services, social inclusion, education and labour market measures.

The Partnership focuses on five themes: housing, community building & reception, education, work, and the cross-cutting theme of vulnerable groups. The identification of the bottlenecks and potentials has led to an Action Plan as related to a) EU regulations affecting the inclusion of Migrants and Refugees, b) better use and allocation of EU funding, and c) better use of data/research.

The action plan includes 6 actions that cover, indirectly, the topic "housing", combined with the other identified topics ("reception, work and education"). There is no specific action on housing or access to housing[1]. The spatial dimension and urban planning perspective is addressed under Action 8 "Improving de-segregation policies in European cities".

The Partnership brings together the urban areas of Amsterdam (NL, Coordinator), Athens (GR), Barcelona City Council (ES), Berlin (DE), Helsinki (FI). Represented Member States are Denmark, Greece, Italy and Portugal. Other participants are the European Commission (DG HOME as Coordinator, DG REGIO, DG EMPL), the CEMR, the European Investment Bank (EIB), EUROCITIES the European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), the Migration Policy Group and URBACT.

HIGHLIGHTS

Sustainable and good quality housing for refugees and migrants in the European cities is an essential element of the inclusion process and has to go hand in hand with measures for social, educational and work related integration.

ACE underlines the importance of architectural and spatial quality and an integrated planning perspective for sustainable housing of migrants and refugees in European cities.

New constructions for housing refugees and migrants, temporary or permanent, should make use of good quality materials.

Architects can play an important role in the process of identifying and transforming spaces that can be used to temporarily shelter migrants and refugees in European cities.

The quality of the public space and social facilities should be taken into account and should be co-

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[1] (…) other cross-cutting issues that are mentioned in the Pact of Amsterdam (like balanced territorial development, urban regeneration) have been less prominent in the preparatory work of the Partnership and of our mapping of bottlenecks. As such they will probably not be important considerations in the future implementation of our actions.

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designed with local communities.

POLICY POSITION

Issues and Challenges

Action 8 "Improving de-segregation policies in European cities"

- Segregation is a concept for social and physical spatial separation and distance between groups and individuals.

- School segregation means that the student body of a school – and sometimes the teaching body as well – is primarily composed of one migrant ethnic group or of migrants of different ethnicities. This school segregation is primarily the result of concentration and segregation of migrants in housing.

Proposed action:

- Methodological guidance on educational segregation in the scope of local urban development policies, in particular the Sustainable Urban Development Strategies addressing local and national challenges.

- Pilot action in two cities to test desegregation policies which may lead to relevant local legal amendments.

Implementation:

- Partnership members: Action leader: DG REGIO, Members: Cities of Berlin, DG EMPL, MPG, DG EAC, DG REGIO, ECRE.

- Methodological support paper on educational segregation in the scope of local urban development policies, in particular the Sustainable Urban Development Strategies addressing local and national challenges

- Pilot action in two cities (additional cities may be considered) to test de-segregation policies which may lead to relevant local legal amendments

ACE recommendations

Sustainable and good quality housing for refugees and migrants in European cities is an essential element for their inclusion and has to go hand in hand with measures for social, educational and work related integration.

ACE underlines the importance of architectural and spatial quality and an integrated planning perspective.

- Architects can play an important role in the process of identifying and transforming spaces that can be used to shelter migrants and refugees temporarily.

- The quality of public space and social facilities should be taken into account and should be co-designed with local communities.

- Co-housing solutions for migrants should be explored.

- A participative approach that involves migrants in the planning and running of housing projects contributes to the quality of a place.

- ACE promotes quality in temporary housing for migrants (poor quality materials are too

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often used).

– It is important to apply an integrated planning approach to fight urban segregation.

– Areas that host migrants and refugees should be well connected with the surrounding neighbourhoods and other urban areas.

ANNEXES

- Scoping Paper "Meeting housing needs and ensuring successful integration of refugees", Housing Europe

ACE Policy Position on the Partnerships of the EU Urban Agenda

Partnerships 5 - Urban Poverty

Policy Positions

Date: 27/02/2018 - Ref: 33/18/PO

BACKGROUND

The objectives of the Partnership are to contribute to the reduction of poverty and to improve the inclusion of people in poverty or at risk of poverty, in particular in deprived neighbourhoods. Urban poverty requires solutions that need to be designed and applied to integrated approaches:

- Place-based solutions: urban regeneration of deprived neighbourhoods;
- People-based solutions: socio-economic integration of specific population groups (focus on children).

The Action Plan is composed of 12 actions, structured in five groups: 1) Integrated actions, which are transversal to all the priorities of the Partnership; 2) Actions aimed at fighting child poverty; 3) Actions for the regeneration of urban deprived areas and neighbourhoods; 4) Actions aimed at ending homelessness; and 5) Actions for the inclusion of Roma people. Furthermore, the Partnership discusses cross-cutting issues and links with the New Urban Agenda/the Sustainable Development Goals and other Partnerships.

The partnerships brings together the urban areas of, Birmingham (UK), Daugavpils (LV), Keratsini-Drapetsona (EL), Kortrijk (BE), Lille (FR), Łódź (PL), Timișoara (RO) and the regions of Brussels Capital Region (BE) and Île-de-France (FR). Involved Member States are Belgium (Coordinator), France (Coordinator), Germany, Greece and Spain. Other participating organisations are the European Commission (DG EMPL, DG REGIO), Eurochild, EUROCITIES, the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), UN Habitat and URBACT.

HIGHLIGHTS

The design of a sustainable urban project and the regeneration of deprived urban areas requires a comprehensive and integrated approach, taking into consideration economic, social, environmental, political and cultural aspects.

ACE recommends to
- put people at the centre of urban development;
- promote the compact city model to encourage urban density and intensity;
- favour social and functional mix;
- establish governance mechanisms shared by all.

POLICY POSITION

Issues and Challenges

Action 6 – Cohesion Policy post 2020: Setting up a new Urban Territorial Objective

The current programming period of the Cohesion Policy is based on funding and policy instruments

that are not fully adapted to the complex and specific challenge of fighting urban poverty. For this reason, this action proposes setting up a new Urban Territorial Objective in the Cohesion Policy 2020, specifically designed and oriented to face the problems of urban deprived areas and the most vulnerable social groups.

Responsible: European Commission, DG for Regional and Urban Policy in charge of designing the Cohesion Policy, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (Deadline 2019)

Implementation

The new Urban Territorial Objective should be proposed by the EU as a specific objective in the next "Common Strategic Framework" and be included in the upcoming regulatory package of Structural Funds (at least in the human capital funds and physical investment funds – currently ESF and ERDF, if necessary EARDF). It should be supported in particular by the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion. Urban authorities must be integrated in a process of shared analysis and diagnosis related to urban poverty, with the support of relevant regional and national authorities. The requests and needs of urban authorities need to be taken into account in the definition of the Urban Territorial Objective.

The new Urban Territorial Objective and the Local Pact (Action 7) will be tested through an URBACT Pilot Action. This action should be developed and implemented in full coordination with Actions 1 and 7.

Action 7 – Cohesion policy post 2020: Local pact for the regeneration of urban deprived areas and neighbourhoods (UDAN)

This action proposes the Local Pact as a multi-fund instrument aimed to assign urban authorities a leading role in the design of their strategies of urban regeneration of Deprived Urban Areas and Neighbourhoods in the Cohesion Policy post 2020. Based on a multi-level approach, it adopts a mixed place-based and people-based vision, allowing it to adopt the necessary flexibility to address the different dimensions of urban poverty through integrated strategies.

The convergence and the socio-spatial consequences of impoverishment concentrate poverty in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. In order to address this challenge, it is necessary to tackle urban poverty by adopting a place-based approach that also takes into account all the inhabitants and their necessities (people-based approach). The fight against urban poverty should be formalised on the basis of integrated, urban, place-based interventions in the context of an EU urban poverty reduction policy that adopts a targeted and integrated approach towards the most deprived neighbourhoods. However, under the current Cohesion Policy (2020), urban authorities face a number of obstacles to developing relevant approaches to tackle urban poverty. The Local Pact aims to give rise to integrated urban regeneration interventions including the following four dimensions to tackle urban poverty:

– Urban regeneration/living environment. These strategies will aim to integrate deprived neighbourhoods in the dynamics of their urban agglomeration by reinforcing their residential attractiveness, the quality of services, and the quality of the standard of living and social mix. Important aspects of this dimension include living environment, public space, housing, transport, equipment, facilities, services and economic development.

– Social cohesion. This dimension focuses on vulnerable social groups (jobseekers particularly young people, single parent families, migrants, older people, etc.), the fight against child poverty, and the integration of homeless and marginalised communities. It includes education, employment, health, integration, and access to jobs and skills.

– Inclusive economic development. This dimension refers to action fostering the economic

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potential of UDAN. It will aim to foster the establishment of economic activity and business creation in UDAN, to improve integration with local and internal dynamics and support transition to formal economic activities.

- – Environment/energy. This dimension will tackle challenges such as energy efficiency in housing and urban regeneration programmes, the fight against climate change, adaptation to climate change and urban resilience.

Responsible: European Commission, DG REGIO in charge of designing the Cohesion Policy and DG EMPL.

Implementation

The Local Pact will be designed as an EU-funded, multi-level governance framework for the regeneration of the UDAN, including national, regional and local authorities, local stakeholders, private sector, NGOs, citizens (particularly people experiencing poverty and social exclusion) and civil society, committed to a pact over several years. In its functioning, such an instrument should enable the implementation of an urban regeneration multi-fund approach, making possible the concentration of the resources and the intensity of the action undertaken. It will be oriented to guarantee action in the four mentioned dimensions (see above), fostering targeted investments at European level for an improved living environment and daily lives of all citizens in UDAN, including the marginalised communities (Roma people, the homeless), with a special focus on child poverty.

The Local Pact will be the appropriate instrument to deliver the Territorial Urban Objective on the ground. The Local Pact will be managed by local authorities, financed where appropriate by the Block Grant (see Action 1), based on simple rules and results-oriented, in order to implement targeted intervention in the UDAN to reduce the socio-economic gaps at city level. (Pilot Project through URBACT)

ACE recommendations

The design of a sustainable urban project and the regeneration of deprived urban areas requires a comprehensive and integrated approach, taking into consideration economic, social, environmental, political and cultural aspects. This is why it is necessary:

1. to put people at the centre of urban development: the sustainable city is primarily a desirable, cohesive and inclusive city where citizens will enjoy living over time. Its primary purpose is to create communities and to promote social inclusion for present and future generations. The sustainable city is not one with isolated social groups and confinement but a busy city where public spaces are given back to all citizens.

2. to promote the compact city model to encourage urban density and intensity: addressing challenges posed by climate change requires rethinking the prevailing model based on urban sprawl. Urban sprawl, in addition to increasing costs to the community, eats away natural areas at the expense of biodiversity. This scenario is incompatible with the development of a low-carbon city. The future city shall combine balanced density and intensity ratios, and a fine interweaving of residential, commercial buildings and public facilities. A public transport service tailored to the needs of all citizens is at the centre of the sustainable city problematic. Accessibility and mobility are major priorities. Moreover, urban development needs to rely more on green and blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions as a response to heat-waves, drought and flooding, pollution peaks, etc.

3. to favour social and functional mix: the balanced planning of housing, offices, shops and community facilities is the priority of the sustainable city. The separation of urban functions through zoning should be rejected in favour of an integrated, mixed use approach to the city. A

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functional mix, based on short production circuits, minimising sprawl, land-take and soil sealing, is the key to better optimising resources and flows. Living well is to live near jobs, services and public transport.

4. to encourage urban regeneration: urban policy should first aim to reconstruct the existing city based upon preliminary surveys and analysis. On the basis of a Law or Strategic Plan on Architecture, to provide the framework for a sustainable reuse that protects land and makes best use of its resources, investing in quality public spaces and areas and revaluing the heritage that is our common wealth and memory of the nation. The low-carbon city is primarily a reversible city. The development of new towns, eco-neighbourhoods built from scratch should not be the norm but the exception.

5. to establish governance mechanisms shared by all: sustainable urban development is collaborative planning that involves all stakeholders and citizens in the city. Establishment of a legislative and regulatory corpus, respect for public policy decisions, creation of consultation bodies involving all stakeholders are decisive factors in the success of the urban project.

ANNEXES

-   [Tallin Declaration on the responsibility of the architectural profession in tackling local and global challenges of our time, April 2015](#)
-   [Manifesto for Responsible Architecture, 2015](#)

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ACE Policy Position on the Partnerships of the EU Urban Agenda

Partnership 7 - Digital Transition

Policy Position

Date: 27/02/2018 - Ref: 34/18/PO

BACKGROUND

The objective of the Digital Transition Action Plan is to provide improved public services to citizens, to support European cities in exploiting the possibilities of digitalisation, and assist European businesses to develop new innovations and create new business opportunities for global markets.

The Partnership focuses on the creation of European solutions to the global digitalisation markets. In this context, cities have a central role to play, as they provide services to citizens and create conditions for businesses. The partnership proposes initiatives on the topics where digitalisation can have the most profound effect in transforming urban governance, quality of life of citizens, and business and growth opportunities for businesses.

POLICY POSITION

Description of the issue / challenge for the architectural sector

- Little policy in place for the inevitable smart city - user interface,

- Fragmentation of knowledge and digital tools - need for standardised formats,

- Lack of access to big data for research and planning,

- Emerging technologies like Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) offer huge benefits to architects and planners and should be embraced asap,

-The Building Passport initiative is omitted while it could be hugely beneficial and complementary to the Planned Land Use (PLU) efforts and as Big Data.

ACE recommendations

- **TRANSPARENCY, BIG DATA AND ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE (ACTION 6)**

Due to the numerous EU Partnerships and programmes, there seems to be much fragmentation in the knowledge base and networks. A good move would be to expand upon the Futurium website (https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/urban-agenda) and unite all the partner programs websites for each partnerships, to allow simpler access to all the research being conducted, along with case studies in each partnership. This would allow for a dramatic increase in speed of searching, thus knowledge penetration and exchange, spark more cross professional and public debate within the existing Futurium system.

Collected Big Data, within a common data exchange framework, should be disclosed to the public, to research centres and to government bodies. This could support urban planning development by measuring and assessing outcomes to create virtuous cycles of improvement.

Open Big Data/Closing the Performance Gap – ACE calls for the harmonisation of reporting metrics across Member States and between calculated and achieved performance and for disclosure requirements to ensure the rapid and continuous improvement of energy efficiency

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measures and technologies.

Current legislation does not mandate the reporting of achieved operational performance or the validation of the indoor spatial and environmental quality achieved. This has caused major unintended consequences, including a significant gap between the expected and achieved energy performance of buildings that must be tackled by revised EU legislation.

ACE calls for the creation of a transparent and harmonised reporting and benchmarking of building energy use and building performance indicators by Member States; the mandatory EU-wide disclosure of building operation performance across all sectors; and the implementation of measurement and verification of energy performance in use.

▪ PLANNED LAND USE (ACTION 6)

The general Planned Land Use (PLU) data should be integrated in one system within the upcoming digital Building Passport (BP) data.

This way urban planning could be streamlined with access to vast amount of Big Data. Of course, it would be best to integrate it with a new or existing digital Geographic Information System, to further streamline the planning process and ultimately allow for intra EU data exchange in a common format.

Combining PLU with the BP's select data on function, occupants, owners, area, volume, height, 3d model etc. could even help building a live data analysis, both helpful to planners and to the wider public (as an existing and planned city map rising awareness and inclusion, available in physical locations, online and in VR).

▪ SMART CITIES AND DIGITALISATION IMPLEMENTATION (ACTIONS 3, 4+13)

Technology is changing faster than our ability to regulate it. We need proper yet general legislation in place to secure digital democracy, but we also need fast implementation of basic features and their distribution to society. Otherwise it will take too long to 'catch on' before technology makes another leap - we would not reach a critical mass of users allowing for the system to take root.

To put things simply, many of the digitalisation efforts boil down to the relationship between the INDIVIDUAL and the (smart) CITY.

An 'app' focused on the user-city relationship, expanded over time, with direct and clear benefits to the user (quickly providing all city related information and services), while providing transparent access to a live knowledge base on the city and its architecture seems like a good place to start.

Convenient, ready-made services (eg. Google maps) could ease the user into the app. On top of that public services could be added, like access to public transport tickets, city information, traffic, local news, tourist information, events, emergency services etc. As time goes on, deeper modules would be added like opt-in behavioural tracking with rewards for eco-friendly behaviour. Finally an eGovernment interface could be added, e.g. to allow for voting or to obtain various civil services.

The 'app' would provide anonymous Big Data, for the city to organise itself more efficiently and have a closer than ever relationship with its users.

The added benefit would be that the Big Data would be in the hands of the local governing

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bodies, which have the greatest reason and potential to secure its fair use and anonymity.

Of course it would be beneficial for this information to be visualised outside the app in physical living labs, open to the public, throughout the city. One of the best way to do this is to make use of the emerging technology of VR and AR to convincingly show what changes in architecture and city structure will take place in the near future.

- **EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES (ACTIONS 11+12)**

Emerging technologies have the power to change lives dramatically, and only by encouraging transparency and high exposition of new tech can we safeguard the public interest. We must think in general terms of how we can protect the individual within the city to allow for a transparent and fair use of the smart city of the future.

First and foremost pilots and living labs must be a part of the public space, and must be accessible from one common place in the digital space. A common platform of knowledge and map of living labs would be beneficial. Otherwise fragmentation of access and awareness will slow down or block public transition to new technologies. With the transition to electric and shortly after self-driving cars, the entire infrastructure game will be redefined. Similarly with the inevitable future of augmented reality overlaying multiple layers of information on our perception of the city, the public has to be confronted with the technology as soon as possible. Debate needs to spark before these products reach mass adoption, otherwise we are left with the private sector setting the rules.

The potential not to be ignored for emerging technologies is the 'canvas' of the city. In case of Artificial Intelligence and AR/VR, we should consider our cities and our architecture as an information bearer and passive cue giver to these emerging technologies.

With this in mind, we can think of using the reflectivity (visible and infrared) or the colours of certain materials as guidelines for these systems, both in the horizontal plane(street) and the vertical (facades). Creating a clear visual separation, clear planes of colour or defined lines would be extremely beneficial for future Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM) analysis of these systems.

The emerging technology revolution will undoubtedly come from the free market with private interest in mind. The cities must thus produce something in advance to offer the IT companies of the future, retaining ownership and control, lest they will be left out of the equation all together.

What we should do is pre-emptively create general regulatory safeguards, as well as prepare the infrastructure (power, 5G) and fabric of the city (street materials, small architectural elements, facade material coding or cue/trigger elements) to provide good conditions for these technologies to appear. The city should provide the ground rules, while the market should tailor fit the solution, not the other way around.

ACE Policy Position on the Partnerships of the EU Urban Agenda

Partnership 10 - Climate Adaptation

Policy Position

Date: 27/02/18 - Ref: 35/18/PO

BACKGROUND

The main objective of the Partnership on Climate Adaptation is to find the best way to translate the needs of cities into concrete action. Through proposals in the areas of better regulation, funding and knowledge exchange, the Partnership wants to achieve a common awareness level on climate change and develop progressively city capacities to address and adapt to the impacts of such change. The Partnership will define an Action Plan where every action chosen, implemented in urban areas, will be assessed in light of the Adaptation Policy Cycle. The cycle consists of four phases: assessing risk and vulnerability to climate change; selecting and planning adaptation actions; implementing adaptation actions; monitoring and evaluation.

The Partnership brings together urban authorities (The Province of Barcelona (ES), Cities of Glasgow (UK), Trondheim (NO), Potenza (IT), Loulè (PT), Sfantu Gheorghe (RO)), Member States (France, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria), observers and associations (CEMR, EUROCITIES, URBACT, EIB) and the European Commission (DG REGIO, CLIMA, ENV, RTD, ECHO).

HIGHLIGHTS

Architects are the instigators of urban development proposals aimed at housing populations in safe, healthy, supportive and humane conditions. They are key stakeholders in the design of low-carbon, energy efficient, resilient, healthy and inclusive built environments that contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change and adapting our cities and buildings to its side effects.

Planning and building cities that are resilient to climate change requires:

1. putting people at the centre of urban development,

2. promoting the compact city model to encourage urban density and intensity,

3. favouring social and functional mix,

4. favouring urban regeneration,

5. establishing governance mechanisms shared by all.

Better urban environments start from better streets, and better streets start from better homes. The building is a key element to reduce carbon emissions in cities. This requires:

6. favouring innovative proposals,

7. giving value to design studies,

8. favouring the use of local resources and solutions for construction

9. constructing buildings that satisfy needs and anticipate their future adaptation,

10. studying the life cycle and scenarios for deconstruction,

11. renovating the existing building stock.

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POLICY POSITION

Issues and challenges

According to the EU Commission, buildings are responsible for 40% of energy consumption and 36% of CO_2 emissions in the EU. It estimates that 35% of the EU's buildings are over 50 years old and that 75% are energy inefficient. By improving the energy efficiency of buildings, the EU Commission estimates that the total EU energy consumption could be reduced by 5-6% and CO_2 emissions could be lowered by about 5%. Furthermore, it is now widely acknowledged that the construction sector is a major consumer of natural resources (water, wood, sand, etc.).

Therefore, buildings offer great untapped potential in the fight against climate change. On the one hand, they can play a major role in mitigating climate change, and on the other hand, the adaptation of the built environment to the effects of climate change is essential in order to increase the resilience of our societies.

ACE recommendations

Architects have a key role to play in meeting the challenge of climate change given their unique skills for planning and designing a low-carbon, resource-efficient, resilient and adaptive built environment. Without the formulation of new urban proposals and the design of more energy- and resource-efficient buildings, targets set by the international community will remain out of reach. At the world level, lowering GHG emissions is closely linked to a substantial increase in the resource and energy efficiency of buildings and cities.

The design of a sustainable urban project requires a comprehensive and integrated approach, taking into consideration economic, social, environmental, political and cultural aspects. The reduction of energy consumption should not be the only objective of the sustainable city. This is why it is necessary:

1. to put people at the centre of urban development: the sustainable city is primarily a desirable, cohesive and inclusive city where citizens will enjoy living over time. Its primary purpose is to create communities and to promote social inclusion for present and future generations. The sustainable city is not one with isolated social groups and confinement but a busy city where public spaces are given back to all citizens.

2. to promote the compact city model to encourage urban density and intensity: addressing challenges posed by climate change requires rethinking the prevailing model based on urban sprawl. Urban sprawl, in addition to increasing costs to the community, eats away natural areas at the expense of biodiversity. This scenario is incompatible with the development of a low-carbon city. The future city shall combine balanced density and intensity ratios, and a fine interweaving of residential, commercial buildings and public facilities. A public transport service tailored to the needs of all citizens is at the centre of the sustainable city problematic. Accessibility and mobility are major priorities. Moreover, urban development needs to rely more on green and blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions as a response to heat-waves, drought and flooding, pollution peaks, etc.

3. to favour social and functional mix: the balanced planning of housing, offices, shops and community facilities is the priority of the sustainable city. The separation of urban functions through zoning should be rejected in favour of an integrated, mixed use approach to the city. A functional mix, based on short production circuits, minimising sprawl, land-take and soil sealing, is the key to better optimising resources and flows. Living well is to live near jobs, services and public transport.

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4. to encourage urban regeneration: urban policy should first aim to reconstruct the existing city based upon preliminary surveys and analysis. On the basis of a Law or Strategic Plan on Architecture, to provide the framework for a sustainable reuse that protects the territory and makes best use of its resources, investing in quality public spaces and areas and revaluing the heritage that is our common wealth and memory of the nation. The low-carbon city is primarily a reversible city. The development of new towns, eco-neighbourhoods built from scratch should not be the norm but the exception.

5. to establish governance mechanisms shared by all: sustainable urban development is collaborative planning that involves all stakeholders and citizens in the city. Establishment of a legislative and regulatory corpus, respect for public policy decisions, creation of consultation bodies involving all stakeholders are decisive factors in the success of the urban project.

Better urban environments start from better streets, and better streets start from better homes. The building is a key element in reducing carbon emissions in cities. This makes it necessary :

6. to favour innovative proposals: a project designed around communal architecture should aim for a more rational use of resources. During the design of new buildings or renovation operations, we should encourage innovative solutions that favour shared spaces and facilities that can adapt to multiple uses.

7. to give value to design studies: the energy and resource consumption of a building results from in-depth studies during the project design phases. The environmental performance of a building is closely related to proposed architectural solutions during the preliminary design stage. The project orientation, its compactness and the design of adaptable volumes have as much impact on the energy consumed by the building as the thermal performance levels of construction materials. The total carbon emissions of the building throughout its lifespan are closely linked to the quality of the design phase studies.

8. to favour the use of local resources and solutions for construction: the construction of buildings using local resources will significantly reduce the project carbon footprint. The use of materials adapted to the local context and procured through short supply chains are likely to reduce GHG emissions and promote project appropriation by local habitants.

9. to construct buildings that satisfy needs and anticipate their future adaptation: sustainable construction requires buildings designed to correspond to the needs of the region and end-users. To live well is to live in energy efficient housing that is fit for purpose and future changes in family composition. The obsolescence of commercial buildings and public facilities can be slowed down by anticipating the future requirements of end-users.

11. to study the life cycle and scenarios for deconstruction: sustainable construction implies considering buildings throughout their life-cycle. It requires paying attention to the recycling/re-use of materials and construction products. Responsible design implies also considering construction waste and scenarios for deconstruction.

13. to renovate the existing building stock: large-scale renovation of the existing building stock is an important prerequisite to achieving the overall objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Consequently, the extensive renovation of the existing building stock should be at the heart of public policy.

14. to favour simple, low-tech oriented solutions: the design of intelligent buildings cannot be seen as the universal solution to decrease the carbon and environmental footprint of the built environment. Generally more fragile, intelligent buildings require high technicity for their

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operation and routine maintenance. If no one can provide the region with the necessary expertise for their maintenance, the effect will be opposite to that intended. Priority should primarily be given to the context favouring locally tested means of insulation, heating and natural ventilation.

ANNEXES

- Tallin Declaration on the responsibility of the architectural profession in tackling local and global challenges of our time, April 2015
- Manifesto for Responsible Architecture, 2015

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Urban Agenda for the EU

Partnership 11- Energy Transition

ACE Policy Position

Date: 27/02/2018 - Ref: 36/18/PO

BACKGROUND

According to a draft Orientation Paper[1] produced by the Energy Transition Partnership, *the energy transition requires a long-term structural change in our approach to energy systems, creating a more integrated and smarter energy system that is better able to manage and balance dynamic patterns of supply and demand at an EU, national and local level.* It recognises the importance of paying attention to building performance and occupants' behaviour: "*When, how and how much energy consumers and their buildings use […] plays an important role in the optimisation of the energy system and they clearly need to be an integral part of it*".

The following pathways are mentioned:

– *Improve building regulations' specifications and quality requirements for place and building design requirements to help address overheating issues;*
– *Energy platforms to support people to undertake energy efficiency work on buildings;*
– *Educate consumers to use their buildings in the optimum way.*

The Partnership on Energy Transition brings together urban authorities (Gdańsk (PL), London (UK), Roeselare (BE), Gothenburg (SE), Navarra Nasuvinsa (ES), Tilburg (NL), Udine (IT), Vaasa (FI), Warsaw (PL)), one Region (Vidzeme Region (LV)), two Member State (France and Germany), observers and associations (URBACT, CEMR, EUROCITIES, EIB) and the European Commission (DG REGIO and DG ENER).

HIGHLIGHTS

The ACE calls on public authorities at all governance levels to:

1. Implement legislative change that recognises the role of architecture in the energy transition, by its capacity to deliver a step change in building performance;

2. Accelerate the renovation of the building stock: Incentivise energy retrofits as part of overall functional and aesthetic upgrades of buildings in order to improve the uptake of energy efficiency retrofits and deliver greater return on investment in terms of property value and well-being;

3. Recognise the need to target improvements across all four pillars of building performance: consumption of natural resources, indoor environmental quality, occupant satisfaction and value over the life-cycle of a building;

4. Define energy efficiency of buildings needs in a lifecycle perspective. Life Cycle Costing (LCC) and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methods need to be integrated in the cost efficiency and energy performance standards and benchmarks;

5. Open Big Data/Close the Performance Gap – Harmonise reporting metrics across Member States between calculated and achieved performance and put in place disclosure requirements

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[1] https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/system/files/ged/3.orientation_paper_energy_transition.pdf

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to ensure the rapid and continuous improvement of energy efficiency measures and technologies;

6. Implement research funding to better target Architecture SMEs and incentivise interdisciplinary collaboration across the construction industry.

POLICY POSITION

Issues and Challenges

While buildings and construction together account for 36% of global final energy use and 39% of energy-related CO_2 emissions, it is urgent to take actions in the building sector to optimise the use of energy and minimise primary energy demand.

The architecture of a building has a major impact on building performance outcomes. The spatial and material configuration of a building is one of the most important determinants of occupants' experience of comfort, security and productivity, and how energy is used in the building to achieve this. Architects create bespoke designs integrating structural, technical, spatial and material solutions for each project that balance the passive and active measures required to control indoor environments that meet the long term needs of occupants.

The way in which buildings can support and adapt to occupants' needs requires a holistic and long-term approach to building performance. Socio-technical methods of analysis and design, employed by architects, ensure that buildings enhance occupants' lives and can adapt to variations in occupancy patterns, use, demographics and climate. Beyond the sole energy considerations, better performing buildings have multiple positive impacts (health, well-being, productivity, etc.).

ACE recommendations

1. Implement legislative change that recognises the role of architecture in the energy transition, by its capacity to deliver a step change in building performance

The energy performance potential of a building is governed by solutions developed by the architect during the design stage. Its connection to its site and users as well as its form, materials and long term flexibility have as much impact on the energy consumed by a building as the performance levels of its materials.

The design of 'smart buildings' cannot be seen as the universal solution to decrease the carbon footprint of the built environment. Generally more fragile, smart buildings require high technicity for their operation and routine maintenance. A greater emphasis is needed on the evaluation of buildings over their lifecycle so that more architectural solutions to energy use, such as building form and mass, usability, spatial adaptability and other parameters are recognised as preferential over solutions that may appear more effective and lower cost in the short term such as mechanised/automated heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting solutions[2].

While ACE recalls the wider long-term societal benefits of energy-efficient buildings (health, mitigation of climate change, employment, productivity, etc.), it underlines that the reduction of energy consumption should not be the only objective. Designing sustainable buildings and cities requires also taking into consideration economic, social, environmental, political and cultural aspects affecting the built environment. Architects have the ability to address all these aspects in an holistic manner. Thus they enable populations to settle in secure, healthy and humane conditions

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[2] Innovate UK BPE study has shown that the cost of these risks can amount to 2 to 5% of the capital cost and up to 50% of the maintenance cost of a project

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and contribute to the mitigation of climate change and the adaptation of our societies to its effects.

ACE emphasises the importance of design studies, which offer long-term, cost-effective energy-saving solutions. ACE advocates that priority should be given to simple, passive, low-tech, locally tested solutions that do not consume energy and are less prone to human error.

2. Accelerate the renovation of the building stock: incentivise energy retrofits as part of overall functional and aesthetic upgrades of buildings in order to improve the uptake of energy efficiency retrofits and deliver greater return on investment in terms of property value and well-being

In recent years the financing of energy efficiency measures, in particular the retrofit of the existing stock, has been decoupled from investment in the spatial and architectural design of buildings. With legislation focusing on technical solutions to energy efficiency, the business case to undertake spatial and architectural renovation as part of an energy efficient retrofit has been reduced. As EU Member States embark on one of the largest retrofit efforts ever undertaken, there is a major opportunity to improve the uptake of efficiency measures by interlinking financial instruments with architectural design and renovation. By re-connecting energy efficiency with market drivers for architectural renovation, public investment in energy efficiency will offer far greater returns and achieve greater traction and robustness for technical solutions. ACE supports the development of innovative financial schemes for energy and resource efficiency in buildings that appreciate architecture as part of the solution rather than an on-cost.

3. Target improvements across all four pillars of building performance: consumption of natural resources, indoor environmental quality, occupant satisfaction and value over the life-cycle of a building

The current EU legislation has been very successful in raising the performance of the building fabric and improving the notional efficiency of the systems installed. In terms of the integration of building architecture and systems design there is an increasing body of scientific evidence showing the **need to see building performance in a broader lifecycle perspective**, so as to better consider occupants' behaviour (a major driver of building energy performance[3]) as well as non-energy benefits of better indoor environment. ACE therefore calls for a greater acknowledgement of all four pillars of building performance, namely:

- <u>Reducing the consumption of natural resources,</u> including energy, water, materials, the creation of waste and environmental impacts;

- <u>Improving indoor environmental quality</u> including indoor air quality, thermal comfort, daylight, acoustics, biophilia;

- <u>Raising occupant satisfaction</u> including occupants' health and their perception of building functionality, indoor environmental quality and how the building meets their needs;
- <u>Increasing value</u> as demonstrated by lower lifecycle cost, higher market value, greater adaptability and resilience to changes of use and climate.

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[3] In old buildings, the calculations overestimate consumption by 60-80%: occupants are aware of the building's poor performance and have a more energy-efficient behaviour. Conversely, as showed by post-occupancy evaluations, the energy consumption of new buildings is underestimated as electronic controls consume energy, do not achieve their expected savings and are often the source of poor indoor environmental quality.

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4. Energy efficiency of Buildings needs to be understood in a lifecycle perspective. Life Cycle Costing (LCC) and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methods need to be integrated in the cost efficiency and energy performance standards and benchmarks

The regulatory framework about buildings should incorporate life cycle principles guiding energy efficiency in buildings, and require life cycle costing as a standardized method for cost efficiency calculations. The current requirements for nearly-zero energy buildings (NZEB) are so tough that it is not possible to save more energy by requiring, for example, thicker insulation. The regulatory framework should therefore open up the possibility of including embodied energy in the calculations. Where NZEB has been compulsory since 2015 for new buildings, such as in Denmark, operational energy use is now of the same order of magnitude as the embodied energy of building materials seen over a 30 year life-span. It is therefore more cost effective to reduce embodied energy in materials than to save the last few kWh/m^2 with ever more insulation to achieve nZEB status.

Life Cycle Costing and Life Cycle Assessments need to be implemented as methods for documenting feasibility and environmental impacts. Life Cycle Assessments need to be implemented because reducing environmental impacts – particularly climate gas emissions – are among the key political aims of achieving higher energy efficiency.

5. Open Big Data/Close the Performance Gap – harmonise reporting metrics across nation states between calculated and achieved performance and put in place disclosure requirements to ensure the rapid and continuous improvement of energy efficiency measures and technologies.

Current legislation does not mandate the reporting of achieved operational performance or the validation of the indoor spatial and environmental quality achieved. This has caused major unintended consequences, including a significant gap between the expected and achieved energy performance of buildings that must be tackled by revised EU legislation.

ACE calls for the creation of a transparent and harmonised reporting and benchmarking of building energy use and building performance indicators by Member States; the mandatory EU-wide disclosure of building operation performance across all sectors; and the implementation of measurement and verification of energy performance in use.

6. Implement research funding to better target Architecture SMEs and incentivise interdisciplinary collaboration across the construction industry.

Supporting research in the overlap of architecture and energy/resource efficiency is a priority if the legacy of EU investment in energy efficiency is to stand the test of time. The architectural profession in Europe has much research potential but is in need of leadership to enable it to develop new evaluation tools, products and services. This is hampered by a lack of collaboration and a lack of research and development investment right across the construction industry. The ACE calls for EU research funding programmes that better target Architecture SMEs and interdisciplinary collaboration across the construction industry.

ANNEXES

- [ACE Manifesto on the Role of Architecture in Energy-Efficient Construction](#)
- [ACE policy position on the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)](#)

ACE Policy Position on the Partnership of the EU Urban Agenda

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BACKGROUND

According to the Orientation Paper of the Partnership on Innovative and Responsible Public Procurement[1], the aim of the Partnership is *to push forward the development and implementation of an ambitious procurement strategy*. According to this paper, *using Public Procurement and the Procurement of Innovation as a strategic management tool, cities can increase significantly the positive impact on their social and environmental objectives. When procurement strategies are well aligned in an overall management strategy, procurement has the potential to play a catalyst role at all levels of the multi-level governance in the EU Urban Agenda.*

The Partnership brings together urban authorities (Haarlem, Gabrovo, Larvik, Nantes, Preston, Vantaa), a Member State (Italy), observers and associations (CEMR, EUROCITIES, URBACT) and the European Commission (DG REGIO and DG GROW).

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Better access for SMEs: ACE recommends facilitating and strongly promoting the widest possible access of smaller architectural firms to public contracts.

2. Quality-based procurement procedures and awarding decisions: ACE recommends providing for procedures which are clearly focused on quality with the application of most economically advantageous tender for awarding of contracts.

3. ACE recommends the organisation of Architectural Design Contests (ADC) as the best way of commissioning architectural services.

To help exploit the full potential of ADCs and facilitate their application as a procedure, the ACE offers nine rules (guidelines): equal opportunity for all participants; the transparency of the procedure; the independence of the jury; the Design Contest brief; anonymity; prize money and remuneration; copyright; dispute resolution; and public participation.

POLICY POSITION

Issues and Challenges

The modernised EU Public Procurement Directive adopted in February 2014, had to be transposed by all Member States by April 2016. The Commission has launched several infringement procedures against Member States that have not yet done so.

In October 2017, the Commission released a new Public Procurement Package to encourage Member States to develop a strategic approach to procurement policies, focusing on six priorities: 1) greater uptake of innovative, green and social criteria in awarding public contracts; 2) professionalisation of public buyers; 3) improving access by SMEs to procurement markets in the

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[1] https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/system/files/ged/orientation_paper_public_procurement_0.pdf

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EU and by EU companies in third countries; 4) increasing transparency, integrity and quality of procurement data; 5) digitisation of procurement processes; and 6) more cooperation among public buyers across the EU.

In the architectural sector, the main challenges are a lack of competition as a result of the misapplication of selection criteria and an excessive focus on price instead of quality. Overcoming these challenges is of utmost importance to ensure quality in the built environment.

The 2014 PP Directive and 2017 Commission's recommendations provide a range of options and tools to solve these problems, to the maximum benefit of citizens, economic operators and contracting authorities.

ACE has developed best practice recommendations for the procurement of architectural services, including design competitions, summarised below.

ACE Recommendations

1. Better access for SMEs: ACE recommends facilitating and strongly promoting the widest possible access of smaller architectural firms to public contracts

Contracting authorities may only impose certain participation requirements on economic operators. They must be limited to those that are appropriate to ensure that a service provider has the legal and financial capacities and technical abilities to perform the contract – and they must be proportionate to the subject matter of the contract.

Generally, selection criteria should never be designed with the sole objective of reducing the number of participants. Generally, intellectual services such as architects' services, should be chosen on the basis of the best idea/concept. ACE believes that the criteria for choosing an architect should be based on performance and not quantitative selection criteria, like turnover or number of employees.

While it might be helpful for securing competition in the construction sector that economic operators be required to have a minimum yearly turnover of at least twice the estimated contract value, this is totally different in the sector of architects' and engineering services. Turnover requirements for architects must be substantially lower. Even when turnover requirements are set at the threshold value for application of the EU Public Procurement Directive (€207,000), this excludes 90% of practices from competition, thereby losing a valuable source of innovation. The situation becomes even worse when the contracting authority avails of the option to double this value, which would lead to an exclusion of around 95% of architects' offices in the EU. This is why selection criteria should be restricted to professional qualifications and the absolute minimum of additional criteria to guarantee genuine competition.

The PP Directive requires contracting authorities to provide reasons for not sub-dividing contracts into lots (e.g. architects' services, engineering services and construction services). Member States could implement this article by rendering it obligatory to award contracts in the form of separate lots, which would be better adapted to the needs of SMEs, in compliance with the European Code of Best Practice Facilitating Access by SMEs to Public Procurement Contracts. Although the Directive leaves the decision to award joint or separate contracts for design and execution of works to the contracting authority, the design and execution of works should be procured separately, not only to promote SME's but also to allow the architect to act as an independent trustee and produce better economic results.

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2. Quality-based procurement procedures and awarding decisions: ACE recommends providing for procedures which are clearly focused on quality with the application of most economically advantageous tender for awarding of contracts

The PP Directives provide for a range of procedures (open, restricted, negotiated, innovation partnerships) not all of which are well suited to procurement of architectural services. ACE has concluded that the preferred way of procuring architectural services is the Architectural Design Contest (ADC) as a quality-based and project-orientated procedure, followed by the competitive procedure with negotiation without prior publication.

This provides for best quality because as it engages the market, uses qualified expertise (juries) and optimises the tender in subsequent negotiation. Alternatively, a competitive procedure with negotiation may be used. Procedures requiring participants to submit a tender (especially open procedures, competitive dialogue and innovation partnership) are not suited to architectural services.

Electronic auctions are only suitable where contract specifications can be established with precision. Indeed, the Directive states that certain service contracts having intellectual performance as their subject matter (e.g. the design of works) may not be the object of electronic auctions. Generally, framework agreements are not suitable for architectural services because they determine the terms governing contracts to be awarded for a given period with regard to price; they restrict access to single contracts and prevent competition for each and every building. Dynamic purchasing systems are designed for commonly used purchases the characteristics of which are widely available on the market. Consequently, the application of these instruments would not be useful or appropriate for the procurement of architectural services.

The PP Directives provide that contracting authorities shall base the award of public contracts on the Most Economically Advantageous Tender, which is identified on the basis of the price or cost, using a cost-effectiveness approach such as Life-Cycle Costing and may include the best price-quality ratio assessed on the basis of qualitative, environmental and/or social aspects linked to the subject matter of the contract. Member States may also provide that contracting authorities may not use price/cost only as the sole award criterion or restrict their use.

Award criteria for architectural services must be based on quality (including technical merit, aesthetic and functional characteristics, accessibility, design for all users, social, environmental and innovative characteristics). Price as the sole criterion should be excluded. New awarding criteria under the Directive, e.g. the organisation, qualification and experience of staff involved, must not be misused to exclude small firms or young professionals from the market. Groups of economic operators (including temporary associations) must be encouraged to participate in order to comply with exceptionally strict requirements.

3. ACE recommends the organisation of Architectural Design Contests (ADC) as the best way of commissioning architectural services

As the awarding of contracts for architectural services must focus on the quality of the service and the technical offer, the ADC is one of the best means of providing solutions which are beneficial to the client.

The ADC is a quality-based and project-orientated selection procedure. 'DC' means those procedures, mainly in the fields of architecture and engineering, urban and landscape planning, which enable the contracting authority to acquire a plan or design selected by a jury after being put out to competition with or without the award of prizes.

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ADCs challenge architects to compare their own creative power with that of others in a fair and targeted procedure. They are consequently the perfect source for innovative, economic and sustainable solutions, for everyday planning tasks as well as for particularly complex projects.

Due to the anonymity of participants, the design contest offers an ideal way of awarding planning contracts in a retraceable manner, based solely on quality criteria published in advance. It provides an unique possibility to benefit from competition by exploiting the large quantity of know-how in the market.

During the consultations of an independent and qualified jury, the best design concepts can be selected in a concentrated and transparent procedure, which provides a basis for further decisions by the organiser. Thus, the design contest provides a means of meeting the economic, social and aesthetical aims of the builder / the awarding entity and simultaneously boost quality of the built environment.

Consequently, the Architects' Council of Europe promotes the ADC as a procedure perfectly tailored to the awarding of architects' services. To help exploit its full potential and facilitate its application as a procedure, it is proposed to use the following 9 rules:

1. Equal opportunity for all participants: the same level of information must be provided to all participants at the same time.

2. Transparency of the procedure: the summary of the jury's discussion and the decision making process has to be drawn up in a report. There shall be an exhibition of all entries and there should be a digital publication.

3. Independence of the jury: the jury shall be autonomous in its decisions or opinions. Where a particular professional qualification is required from participants, according to the Directive at least one third of the members of the jury shall hold that qualification at a high standard, and must be independent from the client.

4. The brief: the Design Contest brief must be clear and unambiguous. Design Contest requirements must be clearly specified. There must be a clear distinction between requirements and non-binding guidelines. Requirements shall be restricted to the minimum necessary.

5. Anonymity: anonymity must be observed until the jury has reached its opinion or decision.

6. Prize money and remuneration: the prizes, the prize money or remuneration has to be fixed and announced in the competition brief. For the calculation of the prize money or the remuneration, there must be an adequate relationship between the required performance of the participants and the honoraria normally calculated for that task.

7. Copyright: the copyright for a competition entry remains the property of the author.

8. Dispute resolution: any disputes concerning competition procedures shall be examined by the relevant national professional organisation before any recourse to legal procedures.

9. Public participation: the public may be involved in the preparation of Design Contests, especially in the field of town planning and urban development. The public opinion may be considered by the jury during its decision making process.

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ANNEXES

– ACE Manifesto on Quality-based Public Procurement
– ACE Publication on Good Practices in Architectural Design Contests (to be published in March 2018
– ACE Recommendations and Guidelines for Transposition of the Public Procurement Directive into National Law (April 2014)
– ACE Recommendations for Design Contests (9 Rules)
– ACE Recommendation about public participation in one or two phase of Architectural Design Contests (ADCs)
– Vienna Declaration on Architectural Design Contests (ADC)
– Master Brief