

ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE

2020
ANNUAL REPORT
& 2021
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, 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 **45 Member Organisations** that are the nationally representative professional associations and / or registration bodies 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. 560,000 architects.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ACE acknowledges all who have contributed to our work during the past year and helped us to realise our objectives, in particular:

2020 Board Members:

President: georg pendl; Vice-President: Selma Harrington; Treasurer: Fulgencio Aviles Ingles; Area Coordinators: Ruth Schagemann, Diego Zoppi and Eugen Panescu; Vice-Coordinators: Carl Bäckstrand, Borys Czarakczew, Ferenc Makovenyi, Pavel Martinek, Jacques Timmerman.

2020 ACE Work Group Chairs:

Olga Mihalkova, Kathryn Meghen, Sybille Bucher/Michal Fišer, Lars Emil Kragh, Ian Pritchard, Peter Hyttel Sørensen, Ursula Faix, Eugen Panescu, Judit Kimpián, Andreas Rumpfhuber.

2021 Board Members:

georg pendl (Austria) / President
Fulgencio Aviles Ingles (Spain)
Carl Bäckstrand (Sweden)
Borysław Czarakczew (Poland)
Selma Harrington (Ireland)
Ferenc Makovenyi (Hungary)
Pavel Martinek (Czech Republic)
Eugen Panescu (Romania)
Ruth Schagemann (Germany)
Jacques Timmerman (Belgium)
Diego Zoppi (Italy)

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ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

Photo cover:
ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL CENTRE
Ljubljana, Slovenia
Architect: Bevk Perović arhitekti
Photo: David Schreyer

ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT & 2021 OUTLOOK

ACE BY NUMBERS

45



Number of Member Organisations in ACE

1.875



followers on Twitter

6.961



Facebook followers

46.420



website visits
(+ 10,22 % in comparison with 42.052 in 2019)

45



Number of issues ACE is actively monitoring

2.265



views on ACE YouTube Channel

10



Number of ACE Expert Work Groups

34 %



of architects under 40

19.14



Size of the architectural market (in bn €)

13 %



of practices entering Architectural Design Competitions

20



average number of hours/year of CPD per person

42 %



of women in the profession

560.000



Number of architects in the EU

11



Number of EU-funded projects in which ACE is participating

LASVIT NEW HEADQUARTERS
Nový Bor, Czech Republic

Architect: OV-A architecture studio
(Ing. arch. Jiří Opočenský, Ing. arch. Štěpán Valouch)
Co-worker: Ing. arch. David Balajka Ing. arch. Anna Schneiderová
Photo: BoysPlayNice



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MELOPEE SCHOOL
Ghent, Belgium
Architect: XDGA – Xaveer De Geyter Architects
Photo: Maxime Delvaux

WHAT THE ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE DID FOR YOU IN 2020

ADVOCACY

- **RESPONDED** to the new European Bauhaus initiative and brought together representatives from other organisations to develop a common statement and offer support
- **CONTRIBUTED** to the work of the Council's expert group on "High-quality architecture and built environment for everyone" and the Commission's expert group on Cultural Heritage
- **CO-SIGNED** the Europe Day Manifesto conveying a strong message of solidarity, hope and unity to Europe's leaders and citizens in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic
- **CALLED** on the EU Commission to take action for the sector with long-term initiatives to allow the sector to respond adequately to the impact of the COVID-19
- **PREPARED** for the next review of the Professional Qualifications Directive developing an ACE position on Mixed Qualifications and a standardised certificate to accompany registration applications
- **CONTINUED** to respond to the Legislative Package on Services and successfully opposed proposals to introduce a Services e-Card and new Notifications procedure
- **PARTICIPATED** in the development of the Smart Readiness Indicator and supported the launch of the Level(s) scheme
- **PARTICIPATED** in the Voices of Culture structured dialogue on "Culture and the Sustainable Development Goals: challenges and opportunities"
- **ENGAGED** with MEPs; following up ACE priorities and those of the new Commission
- **RESPONDED** to European Commission's SME Strategy
- **RESPONDED** to several Commission's public consultations, notably on the Renovation Wave strategy and future EU research funding programmes
- **RESPONDED** to the ITRE report "Maximising the energy efficiency potential of the EU building stock"
- **RESPONDED** to the EMPL report "Access to decent and affordable housing for all"
- **RESPONDED** to the IMCO report on "Strengthening the Single Market: the future of free movement of services"
- **DISSEMINATED** the call from the European Commission (DG RTD) to build COVID-19 clinics or support hospitals with 3D printing via its Member Organisations, plus ECCREDI and ECTP
- **DEVELOPED** a Gender Quality Policy Statement

EVENTS

- **ORGANISED** two online General Assemblies
- **PARTICIPATED** in the Urban Maestro workshop
- **ARRANGED** a virtual workshop on "Co-designing new forms of urban living" during the EU Regions and Cities Week
- **PARTICIPATED** in the Young Talent Architecture Award day and talk on Education and first steps in Architecture
- **TOOK** part in the World Architecture Day Webinar
- **PARTICIPATED** in AIA Virtual conference "Catalyzing change"
- **TRAINED** 22 CPD trainers on nZEB within RenoZEB
- **RAN** a webinar on BIM as a learning tool within BIMplement
- **CONTRIBUTED** to the development of 12 learning units within BIMzeED
- **TOOK** part in the "Sustainable Places" online conference with 5 EU funded projects

STUDIES & PUBLICATIONS

- **LAUNCHED** the ACE Observatory, an online repository for statistical information on the architectural profession and market
- **CONDUCTED** questionnaire for 2020 edition of the ACE Sector Study
- **PUBLISHED** second phase of the Value of Architecture study
- **INITIATED** a study on Quality in architecture
- **PUBLISHED** an architect-client checklist
- **PUBLISHED** a checklist for "International collaboration between architects"
- **CONDUCTED** two surveys on the impact of COVID-19
- **CONDUCTED** a correspondents' survey to assess the impact of ACE communications
- **PUBLISHED** a catalogue of good practices as part of the Cultural Heritage in Action project
- **INITIATED** a study on the economic impact of regulation
- **CO-PUBLISHED** the European catalogue of good practices in the framework of Cultural Heritage in Action
- **PUBLISHED** a Scientific Paper at PLEA – A Coruña 2020 "Teaching the value of architecture" within the TripleA-reno project

WORK GROUPS

- **CONTINUED** to support new work groups (internationalisation, women in architecture, housing); established a new Brexit task-force, a new Practice Committee and a Communications panel
- **SUBMITTED** a recommendation for a MRA to the EU-Canada MRA Committee established under terms of the CETA
- **INITIATED** work on an ACE Gender Equality toolkit
- **DISSEMINATED** progress reports on ACE involvement in EU-funded projects
- **TEAMED** up with EUROCITIES, ERRIN, KEA and Europa Nostra to work on Cultural Heritage in Action, a peer-learning initiative for cities and regions funded by the European Union's Creative Europe programme
- **CONCLUDED** the BIMplement project. Continued work on 9 EU-funded projects (H2020 and ERASMUS+)

DEVELOPMENT

- **STARTED** a new strategic development exercise aimed at producing a new ACE Strategy for 2021 - 2025
- **HELD** a workshop to develop a Communications Strategy and Plan
- **STARTED** to develop a proposal for the future 4-year Creative Europe programme (2021 – 2025)
- **INITIATED** a review of Governance
- **CONDUCTED** a review of EU-funded projects



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

georg pendl – April 2021

Disruption

2020 was dominated by the first worldwide threat in 70 years and many of us have been thrown out of our usual comfortable lives. Many say this isn't a single event, but the start of an era of pandemics. We all hope it isn't, but we all have to contribute to the necessary changes to avoid such threats, as well as the other main threat we are facing: climate change. Both are connected and it might be that the pandemic is just a precursor for what is to come. The expansionist attitude of humanity, conquering more and more parts of the globe to its very last corners, together with deforestation, demolition of the last natural areas, decreasing in parallel the worlds of all other species, this attitude is a reason why such pandemics may increase. This is clearly related to the main reasons for man-made climate change. Both impact on our fields, the way we work and how and what we design.

The terms sustainability, future-orientation, holistic approach, responsibility have been with us for many years, in a way still somewhat on the fringes of society as well as of the work of the ACE. They are placed in the so-called area 3, after area 1 (access

to profession), area 2 (practice of the profession). In my view the reason for an organisation like The ACE is to promote every effort to improve the quality of the built environment, within which architecture plays a major role and is even going to be recognised as being "of common good" (Council Work Programme for Culture 2019-22). It is to show the opportunities, chances, and perspectives that quality architecture can offer to the public and the society. Through this, one doesn't need to underline the importance of the profession itself in the traditional way that professional representative organisations do and which always contains the bias of self-interest. If architecture does well, architects do well.

Looking to the statutes of the ACE I read and recall the initial intentions: the objects are to:

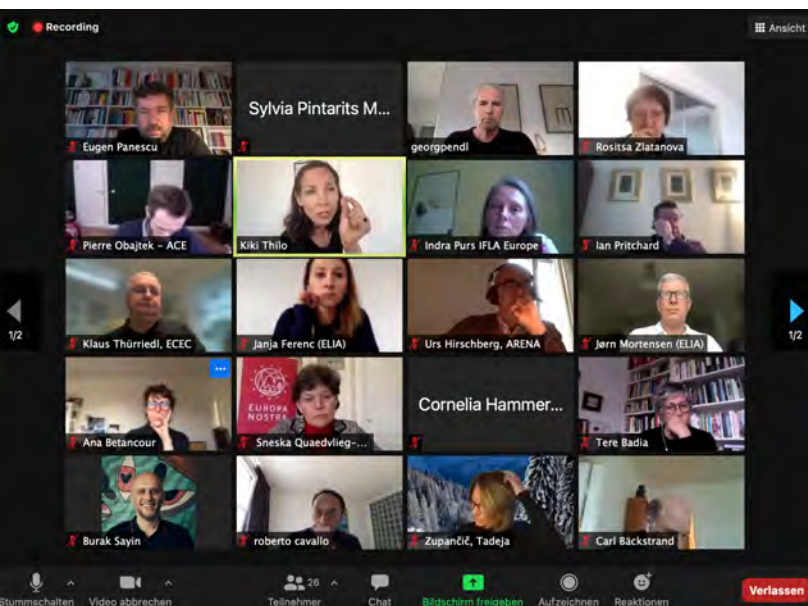
- *devote itself to a better understanding of architectural and cultural values, and beyond this, promote quality in the living environment,*
- *promote higher levels of education, training and practice of architecture.*

Since then, the focus has changed and the "architectural and cultural values" have moved to Area three, while protection of the profession and the wish to control and regulate both access and practice has become dominant. A revision of this focus would be needed; as President, I strongly invite an discussion on this.

Even in a decision of the European Court of Justice concerning a different matter – the HOAI case – many arguments coming from the field of baukultur – the term itself is mentioned several times – have been recognised and have been part of the courts' verdict. This shows that "soft" issues can have impact in the so called "hard"-legislative field. Another reason to follow this path.

This is not yet in the forefront of the organisation, and the disruption, expressed by the last elections in Barcelona have shown this fact. While criticism was not clearly expressed against this, let's call it "cultural policy", silent opposition could be noticed. This absence of open arguments actually hinders debate and the clarification of roles of the organisation as well as of the relevant persons.





NEBC

New European Bauhaus Collective

These disruptions have been dominating the work of ACE. Certain issues and external works have continued online, the OMC group on high quality architecture, whose first meeting I was still able to attend "live" and the expert group on cultural heritage, which had 2 web-conferences. We can follow the OMC group's work closely; there shall be a final document in 2021 and a final conference organised by the Austrian Ministry together with the Slovenian government at the end of October. The paper produced may serve as a Council Conclusion indicating next steps. This could lead to a first "architectural policy" at European level.



SOUTH HARBOR SCHOOL
Copenhagen, Denmark
Architect: JJW Arkitekter
Photo: Maurizio Tami

Concerning the Mies van der Rohe Architecture Prize, where the ACE has always been a constitutional part, I tried to have a more active role. It is the major European architectural prize and has undergone great development during recent periods. Both of the last winners have been projects for "every day" uses – housing – and have reflected the spirit of re-use and renovation of existing building stocks.

Xander Vermeulen Windsant with his project in Kleiburg (XVW architecture) and Lacaton/Vassal with their housing project in Bordeaux have been the winners of the last 2 issues. This shows a shift from what I call "Sunday architecture", opera houses, theatres, museums, etc – all needed and all need excellence – to architecture which has impact on the everyday life of citizens, having in mind high quality as well as issues like social cohesion and affordability.

A new topic, in line with those previously mentioned, was raised by the President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen herself through her speech at the EU Parliament in mid September. She expressed her intention to make the renovation Wave, one part of the financial recovery plan not only an economic but a cultural project and for this she wants to set up a new European Bauhaus.

Quote: "This is why we will set up a new European Bauhaus – a co-creation space where architects, artists, students, engineers, designers work together to make that happen."

What more could we wish for than to hear or read this?

As a result, we wrote to the President, congratulating her on her speech and expressing our readiness to assist, in response to which we were invited to an on-line meeting. At the same time, I invited our European sister organisations to join forces. We received excellent feedback and the group has met every fortnight since then. At the beginning we were 10 organisations, interior and landscape architects, urbanists and space planners, the European architecture schools and the European arts schools, **creating a statement**. (Actually for this the habit of online meetings which has been established was helpful and eased a first coming together.)

In the meantime we have grown to 13 signatory organisations. The group has given itself the working title "new European Bauhaus collective" and we are preparing a conference at the end of April. There have already been 2 meetings with the JRC (Joint Research Centre, the entity in charge of the future development of the NEB). Through all this we have become official partners of the NEB, both, through the Collective and ACE in its own right. By these actions we try to influence the building up of the European Bauhaus, using this great window of opportunity to change European policy concerning the built environment - away from the solely quantitative "bean counting" approaches, which have dominated this far, to an holistic, inclusive, co-creative way of working. In a recent web meeting with Ruth Reichstein Deputy Head of IDEA 2, we were asked to deliver proposals designed to allow the NEB to have impact on directives. It is intended not only to have texts, declarations and theory as a result of this movement but also to have impact at ground level where decisions concerning the built environment are taken, at regional and communal levels on the one hand, but also at European level where the legal frameworks concerning public procurement, energy consumption etc. are developed. Once again, this shows the impact of policy in "soft fields", be they called "baukultur" or "new European Bauhaus". The essential element is to place high quality architecture at the core of the public and common interest and to be influential in the development of such moves.

In this respect the recent years, with the Davos Declaration, the Councils' work plan for culture with the OMC group on high quality architecture and now with the new European Bauhaus have been filled with good progress for quality architecture. And this is what we want to make.



A R E N A asom



European Association for Architectural Education
Association Européenne pour l'Enseignement de l'Architecture



IFLA EUROPE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



The New European Bauhaus

Making the Renovation Wave a Cultural Project

STATEMENT

We, the representative European organisations of architects, spatial planners, landscape architects, interior architects, engineers, designers, artists, cultural workers, educators and researchers of the built environment, and more broadly of the cultural and creative sectors enthusiastically welcome the *New European Bauhaus* initiative put forward by the President of the European Commission as part of the Renovation Wave strategy.

With this initiative, the European Commission complements the economic, social and environmental measures of the Renovation Wave strategy with an essential *cultural dimension*. By making the Renovation Wave a *cultural project*, including all stakeholders, and by including *architectural quality* and *design quality* as key principles to steer it, the Commission initiates a fundamental shift. This can be a game-changer in the transition to a more sustainable economy and society and will bring the Green Deal closer to citizens for their well-being.

It opens the door to a more *holistic approach* to our built environment, seeking to enhance, at the same time, economic, social, environmental and cultural values, as well as access to culture and cultural participation. Thus, it builds on the 2018 Davos Declaration *Towards a high-quality Baukultur* and principles included in the New Leipzig Charter and, in its implementation, will help to reach the UN Sustainable Development goals.

In this holistic approach, the *cultural dimension* is central. It goes far beyond aesthetic considerations and is the main driver for *quality planning processes* and *quality projects*, as well as a source of inspiration and innovation for the other pillars of sustainability, given that arts are providers of crucial twenty-first century competencies, such as critical thinking and problem solving.

The holistic thinking and cultural approach that underpin the New European Bauhaus initiative must lie at the heart of the Renovation Wave strategy and inspire all its measures to raise the full potential of the strategy and achieve a 'quality renovation wave', making a difference in people's minds and quality of life, and achieving Europe's climate neutrality objective.

This holistic approach is needed at all spatial scales, whatever the size of the project – from landscape architecture to town planning, neighbourhood development, infrastructure, buildings and interior architecture and design. We very much welcome the ambition of the European Commission to facilitate exchanges across disciplines, as we share the view that it is the best way to spur creativity and innovation. It reflects well how our professions work, every day, on the ground.

Through our respective networks, we are ready to support the development of this initiative, notably by:

- **acting as an information platform**, able to reach a large audience via its member organisations;
- **assisting the implementation of the key principles of the strategy** in the education, as well as the research agendas of schools and institutes;
- **identifying and collecting best practice examples and innovative projects**;
- **enabling contact with renowned professionals and experts**, who would be able to give greater visibility to the initiative;
- **offering a knowledge and expertise hub**, to help the European Commission to further design the initiative and ensure that its process delivers the desired outcomes;
- **facilitating initiatives to upskills professionals** in the targeted sectors;
- **obtaining inputs from public authorities and decision-makers**, with whom we are in regular contact in our daily professional practice at all governance levels;
- **acting as a partner for co-organising consultations, co-creation initiatives, and awareness-raising events** targeting professionals, students and citizens.

We are very much looking forward to collaborating with the European Commission and all stakeholders to make this initiative a success.

This statement is endorsed by the following pan-European organisations:



The [Architects' Council of Europe \(ACE\)](#) is the representative organisation for the architectural profession at European level. Its membership consists of 43 Member Organisations, which are the regulatory and professional representative bodies in all EU Member States, UK, Switzerland and Norway. Through them, the ACE represents the interests of 562.000 architects from 31 countries in Europe.



The [Architectural Research European Network Association \(ARENA\)](#) is an open, inclusive and comprehensive network for architectural researchers across Europe. Founded in 2013, ARENA at present consists of 38 research centre representatives from 35 institutions in 15 different European countries.



The [Alliance for Solar Mobility \(ASOM\)](#) aims to become the cooperative European platform to establish and foster Solar Mobility. We share a vision of solar powered, eco-positive electric transport, a passion for functional and beautiful products and multi-disciplinary engineering and design. ASOM's members are research institutes, companies, universities and design schools.



[Culture Action Europe \(CAE\)](#) is the major European network of cultural networks, organisations, artists, activists, academics and policymakers. It is the first port of call for informed opinion and debate about arts and cultural policy in the EU. As the only intersectoral network, it brings together all practices in culture, from the performing arts to literature, the visual arts, design and cross-arts initiatives, to community centres and activist groups. CAE believes in the value and values of culture and its contribution to the development of sustainable and inclusive societies.



The [European Association for Architectural Education \(EAAE\)](#) is the network for architectural and planning schools in Europe. The purpose of the Associations is to advance the quality of education and research in all areas of the built environment and thus to promote the quality of architecture and urban landscape in Europe. The EAAE promotes the interests of 135 member schools as institutions and academic environments, lobbies for common goals and connects globally.



The [European Council of Engineers Chambers \(ECEC\)](#) is the umbrella organisation of European Engineers Chambers. It represents the professional interest of Chartered Engineers on European level. Its members are national Chambers or other legally established public bodies representing authorized Chartered Engineers. Currently the ECEC represents 16 Chambers and over 300.000 highly qualified European Chartered Engineers who are members in these Chambers.



The [European Council of Interior Architects \(ECIA\)](#) is the representative body for the professional organizations in Interior Architecture and Design. Founded in 1992, ECIA currently represents 17 European Member – National Organizations and through them, the interests of over 14.000 professional Interior Architects/Designers.

Creating our futures



The [European Council of Spatial Planners \(ECTP\)](#) brings together 28 professional spatial planning associations and institutes from 24 European countries as well as corresponding members. It is an umbrella association providing its members with a common framework to promote the visibility, recognition of the important societal role and practice of planning and urban development in Europe.



[ELIA](#) is a globally connected European network that provides a dynamic platform for exchange and development in higher arts education. It represents 260 member institutions in 48 countries, with over 300.000 students across all art disciplines. By placing emphasis on the value of arts education and artistic research, ELIA is dedicated to enhancing the conditions in which higher arts education can flourish, both nationally and internationally.



[Europa Nostra](#) is the European Voice of Civil Society committed to Cultural Heritage. For over 50 years, we have celebrated, protected and advocated for Europe's natural and cultural heritage. Europa Nostra is today recognised as the largest and most representative heritage network in Europe, with 350 member and associate organisations and over 1,000 individual members from over 40 countries in Europe and beyond. We are forceful advocates of heritage – with its multiple benefits for our economy, society, culture and the environment – towards policy-makers at all levels of governance: local, regional, national and European. We campaign to save Europe's most endangered heritage sites and promote best practices in the heritage field across Europe.



[ICLEI](#) - Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. ICLEI Europe provides its members with a voice on the European and international stage, a platform to connect with peers and tools to drive positive environmental, economic and social change. ICLEI Europe works closely with an extended network of local and regional governments and partners on a broad range of topics.



[IFLA Europe](#) is the European Region of the International Federation of Landscape Architects formed by 34 professional Landscape Architects' Associations with 20.000 landscape architects across Europe. It aims not only to promote the landscape architecture profession, recognising excellence in educational courses and promoting the best practice operations, but also striving to enhance the quality of landscape planning, monitoring and management, provide nature-based solutions in climate change mitigation and adaptation and ensure transformational changes in landscape, urban and rural areas.



[Trans Europe Halles \(TEH\)](#) is a network of grassroots cultural centres with members in 38 European countries. With 131 members, TEH is one of the oldest and most dynamic cultural networks in Europe. We have been at the forefront of repurposing abandoned buildings for arts, culture and activism since 1983. Our three founding pillars are: People, Arts and Buildings.

This statement was developed with inputs from, and is supported by:



The [German Academy for Urban and Regional Spatial Planning \(DASL\)](#) aims to support urban and regional spatial planning in theory and practice. The Academy also provides a forum in which people from a wide range of interests across the economy and society can pursue their shared interest in territorial development in discussion with planning professionals.



The [Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects \(SIA\)](#) is Switzerland's leading professional association for construction, technology and environment specialists. With over 16,000 members from the fields of engineering and architecture, the SIA is a highly professional and interdisciplinary network whose central aim is to promote sustainable and high-quality design of the built environment in Switzerland.

Key References Documents

- [2018 Davos Declaration Towards a high-quality Baukultur for Europe](#)
- [Urban Agenda for the EU](#)
- [New Urban Agenda](#)
- [Urban Agenda Platform](#)
- [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Council Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022](#)
- [New Leipzig Charter - The transformative power of cities for the common good](#)
- [ACE key policy positions in the area of sustainability and building performance](#)
- [ACE booklet 20 Architectural Projects Against Climate Change](#)
- [ACE 2019 Innsbruck Declaration Achieving Quality in the Built Environment](#)
- [ACE 2019 Statement Design for a Circular Economy](#)
- [ACE 2018 Leeuwarden Declaration on the Adaptive Re-use of Built Heritage](#)
- [An Architecture Guide to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [IFLA Europe Exhibition Project](#)
- [IFLA Europe - From Green Infrastructure to Landscape Structures through Scale](#)
- [New European Bauhaus Idea in line with Green Deal Portugal](#)
- [A nature-based future for the Netherlands in 2120](#)
- [2050 - An Energetic Odyssey H+N+S Landscape Architects](#)
- [IFLA Europe 2020 Resolution Footprints on Earth](#)
- [IFLA Europe 2018 Resolution on Climate Challenges](#)
- [IFLA Europe 2016 Resolution on Urban Landscapes](#)
- [IFLA Europe 2014 Resolution Learning from Landscapes](#)
- [European Charter on Participatory Democracy](#)
- [Charter of European Planning](#)
- [ECTP-CEU position paper on The New Leipzig Charter](#)



SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

Ian Pritchard

CREATIVE EUROPE AND "CONNECT-ARCH" PROGRAMME

Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework support programme designed to help the cultural and creative sectors avail of 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 in the last year of its 4-year "CONNECT-ARCH" programme which aims to assist the sector towards recovery and help architects to respond to current challenges: intra-EU mobility, increased extra-EU competition and up-skilling to adapt to digital and other new technologies. To reinforce the sector's capacity, ACE is pursuing the following global objectives:



Organisational Development – strengthen our network and increase collaboration among Member Organisations (MOs)

- Build organisational capacity through knowledge-sharing and peer-to-peer learning activities;
- Enhance Members' engagement through workshops / conferences;
- Develop mutually beneficial schemes;
- Build capacity and leverage MOs' positions at national / EU level through collective actions; provide opportunities for ACE MOs to participate in EU policy/law-making.

Improving the transnational mobility of European architects – help them to access new markets

- Identify opportunities and partnerships in the EU and beyond;
- Negotiate Mutual Recognition Agreements with architects outside the EU.

Professional Capacity Building – help EU architects to develop their professional / business skills

- Help EU 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.

2020 was a challenging year as events and activities involving public gatherings (conferences, touring exhibition) could not be pursued. However, we were still able to publish a **checklist for International collaboration between architects** (joint ventures) and **architect-client relations**, re-issue the *20 Architectural Projects against Climate Change* booklet and conduct the **7th edition of the Sector Study**. We launched the **ACE Observatory** containing past editions of the Sector Study and a search engine to allow these to be interrogated and data compared or extracted.

Read more about Connect-Arch

NEW CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME 2021 - 2027

DG EAC is looking to achieve a closer alignment between policy (new European Agenda for Culture, Council Work Plan for Culture) and the Creative Europe programme.

The New Agenda for Culture has three main objectives: Social (the power of culture for social cohesion and well-being); Economic (culture-based creativity, education, innovation and its impact on Jobs & Growth); External – international cultural relations.

The Creative Europe programme for 2021 – 2027 is likely to focus on competitiveness; cultural diversity; fragmentation of markets; concentration of the market and increased competition; digitalisation; and access to funding. ACE recommended that the next programme support actions to achieve the ambitions set out in the Davos Declaration and to promote high quality architecture and Baukultur in Europe.

It is expected that DG EAC will continue to support networks (such as ACE) with similar aims (upskilling in response to digitalisation; sustainability; and promoting mobility and internationalisation of careers) and following successful sectorial approaches in other sectors, DG EAC envisages a number of structured dialogues with other sectors – including architecture.





ACCESS TO THE PROFESSION

Advancing highest professional standards

Coordinator: Ruth Schagemann

Work is categorised into three areas: advocating legislative developments; promoting voluntary convergence; and developing economic studies.

REGULATORY QUESTIONS & ISSUES (RQI) WORK GROUP

chair: Kathryn Meghan

Deregulation will not solve current economic problems in Europe – on the contrary, a strong and knowledgeable profession is needed to achieve this environmental task, particularly to maintain the quality of services and consumer protection. The group continued to monitor and respond to legislation and regulatory actions from the Commission. It engaged with Commissioner Breton on single market issues as well as the response to the COVID pandemic.

Work over the past few years on the Legislative Services Package has borne fruit. Although we were unable to resist the Proportionality Test Directive which received the support of the Member States, we were pleased to see that proposals for a Services e-Card and a Notifications Directive ran into opposition and have been dropped from the COM work plan. We also succeeded in securing a number of welcome changes to the Løkkegaard report “**Strengthening the Single Market: the future of free movement of services**”

SME Strategy

ACE welcomed the Commission’s new SME Strategy, in particular the appointment of an EU SME Envoy and group of Strategic Entrepreneurship Ambassadors. However, it underlined the importance of measuring necessary regulation against general interest objectives, underlined the importance of including an SME Test in impact assessments relating to new legislation and called for public procurement to be quality-driven and project-oriented to improve SME access. ACE also welcomed moves to improve SME access to finance and innovation programmes, but warned against the proliferation of standardisation.

A new area of work was initiated: a study on the positive economic impact of professional regulation – the brief for which was approved by the EB at the end of the year.

Read the ACE position on SME strategy.

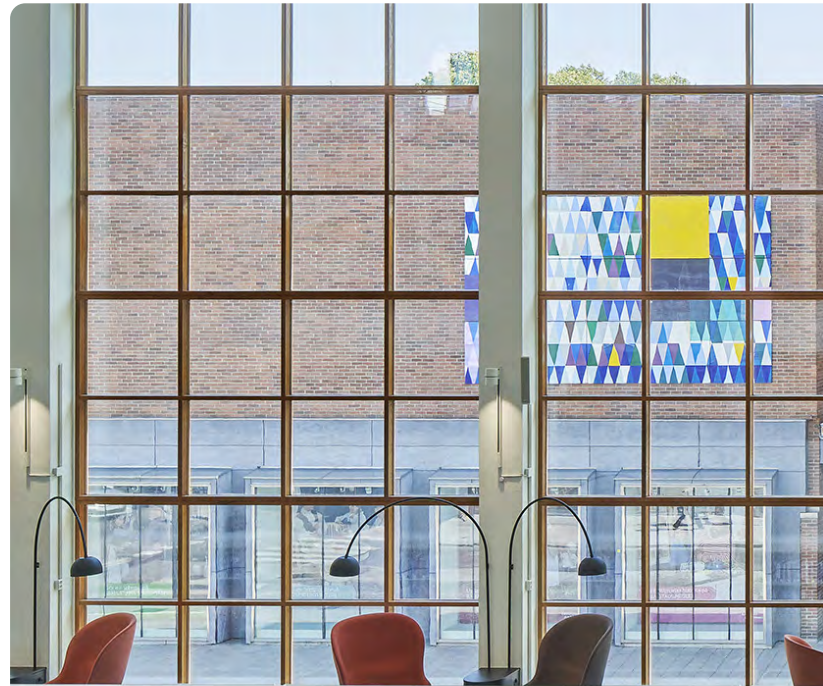
PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE, TRAINEESHIP & CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PQD-PPE-CPD) WORK GROUP

chair: Olga Mihalikova

As a voluntary convergence measure, in cooperation with the competent authorities (through ENACA) and in particular the RIAI, a universal version for an accompanying certificate for the Automatic Recognition process was finalised. Though not binding, this offers a solution to Competent Authorities to use a standardised “European Certificate”. This unified wording will increase, in the future, the transparency of the system of recognition and constitute good practice. It will also assist the process of negotiating further mutual recognition agreements.

ACCESS TO THE PROFESSION DATABASE

A new area of work was initiated towards the end of the year: the creation of a new “Access to the profession” database, bringing together the results of numerous individual studies (on traineeship, CPD etc.) into a single repository and as a additional information to the Sector Study.



VALUE OF ARCHITECTURE

Phase II of the Value of Architecture study was completed, with particular emphasis on creating value through feedback (or post occupancy evaluation).

Read the ACE phase II Value of Architecture study

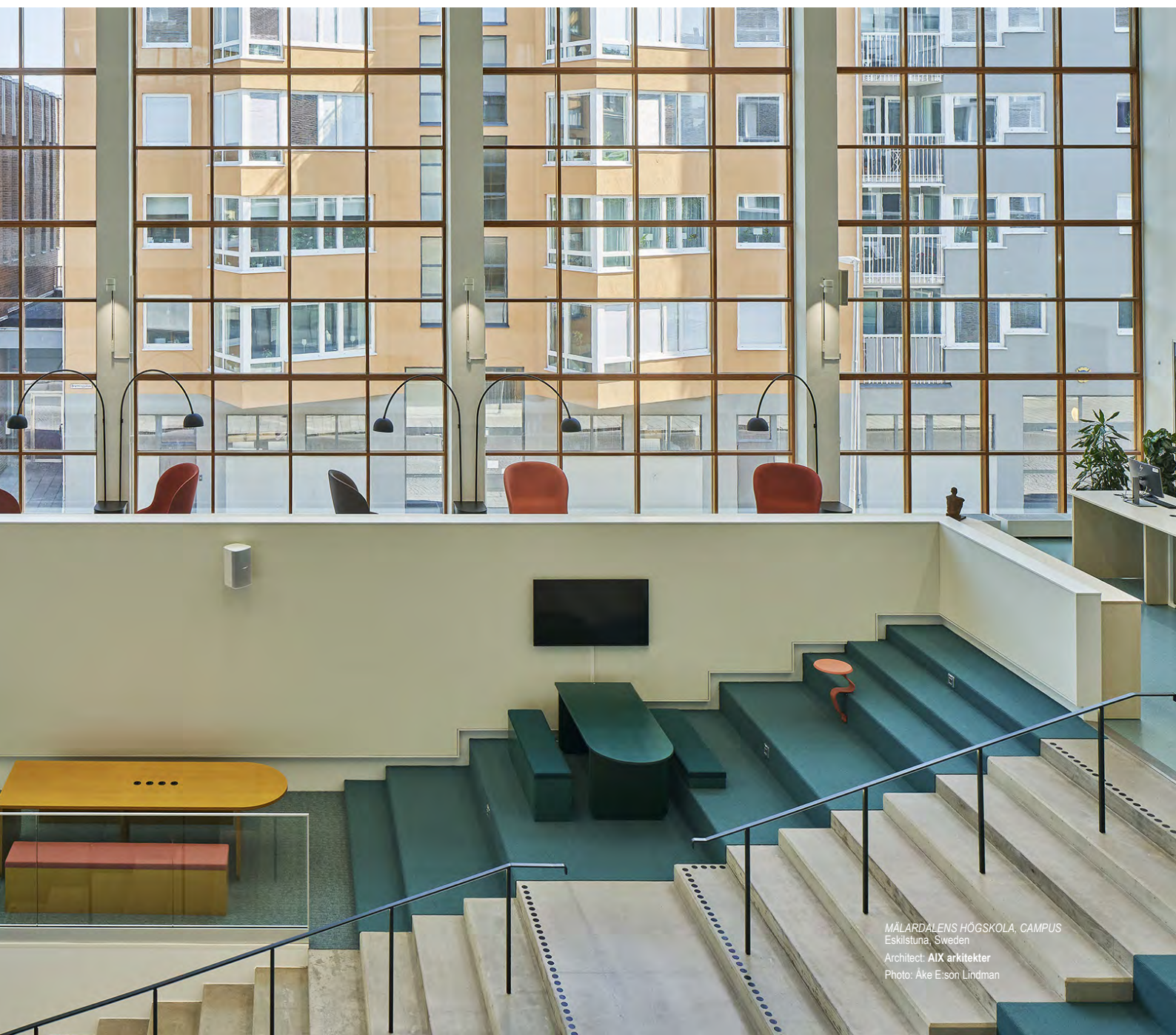
BREXIT TASK-FORCE

chair: Olga Mihalikova

The UK left the EU on 31.01.20, though EU rules continued to apply until the end of the transition period (31.12.20). As the PQD no longer applies to the UK from 1 January 2021 onwards, ACE established a Brexit task-force to consider future arrangements for mutual recognition.

Much of last year was spent tracking EU-UK trade negotiations and making representations to ensure that professional services were not overlooked. As the year advanced and the prospect of not reaching an agreement became more real, emphasis was placed on planning for a “no deal” scenario. ACE encouraged UK architects seeking registration in EU27 (and vice-versa) to do so before the end of the year in order to benefit from current arrangements. This had a positive impact on the number of applications.

However, on 24 December, the negotiators reached an agreement (to be ratified by the British and European Parliaments). Of course, compromises had to be made and while it would have been more convenient to continue with the current arrangements, the agreement contains no surprises, including provisions based on the text of the withdrawal agreement and guidelines for the recognition of professional qualifications based on the annex to the CETA agreement. In short, the agreement provides for professions to make a joint recommendation for a MRA to the “Partnership Council” – for evaluation and implementation (cf. CETA). There should be no difficulty demonstrating the compatibility of the two regimes, though we would also have to demonstrate the economic value of such an arrangement.





PRACTICE OF THE PROFESSION & TRADE IN SERVICES

Coordinator: Diego Zoppi

Vice-coordinator: Pavel Martinek

With a view to optimising connectivity between issues, the EB created a Practice Committee to coordinate the work of the various groups – scope of service, liability & insurance, procurement, competitions, compensation, export, BIM/digitalisation and women in architecture. Terms of reference were agreed in the autumn and MOs invited to nominate experts for 2021. The Committee will complement – rather than replace – existing work groups.

In 2020 ACE surveyed its MOs on procurement issues (see below). Regarding design contests, the situation is not optimal in Europe. Although colleagues acknowledge that they guarantee best quality results, they complain of excessive risk, high participation costs and lack of security for the winner to realise the project. If competitions are to become more common, they should be organised in two phases (a light first stage with reimbursement for all admitted to the second phase), with an obligation to provide the design project to the winner. The winner's fee should be specified beforehand and it is vital to have a competent jury.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT / ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN CONTESTS

S Bucher / M Fišer

ACE surveyed MOs to assess the impact of the Public Procurement Directive (and the more recent Public Procurement Package). While views on the Directive were mixed, most respondents felt that the impact of the 2017 package had been limited. Design & Build was a growing trend and SME access still needed to be improved (past experience was a barrier; division of contracts into lots was helpful but views were mixed on the utility of the European Code of Best Practice).

Although e-procurement was positively evaluated, the European Single Procurement Document was difficult to use, while the E-Certis repository for certificates and the Procurement Passport were not well known. Regarding awarding criteria, while MEAT was welcomed many awards were still made on the basis of lowest cost and life-cycle costing was not frequently used.

As for the Public Procurement Package, few national procurement strategies were reported, so there was little coordination of national / regional procurement, little sharing of best practice, few national support centres and little centralised purchasing or cross-border procurement.

In 2021, the group aims to develop a common glossary, conduct detailed research into the number / type of design contests, advocate for improved SME access, references covering a longer period and simplification of the ESPD. It will also advocate for the inclusion of quality in assessment / awarding criteria, develop further guidance

on procurement rules, develop complaints competence for MOs, create an online procurement observatory and support moves to professionalise commissioning authorities.

TRADE IN SERVICES

Ian Pritchard

ACE worked with DG TRADE to finalise a recommendation for a Mutual Recognition Agreement with the Canadian Architectural Licensing Authority. This has been submitted to the MRA Committee established under CETA. ACE also issued a briefing to EU competent authorities to guide their response to a Commission consultation and to respond to queries from the Canadian Trade Ministry. We expect a positive outcome in 2021 – the agreement has already been cited in the Brexit negotiations on professional services as a good practice model.

The global pandemic has impacted on work in this area. ACE was to meet with the Koreans and the Japanese at the architects' world congress in Rio de Janeiro in July 2020 (postponed to July 2021). ACE was also due to meet with Mexican architects (to coincide with an EU-Mexico cultural exchange), but this has not yet happened.

INTERNATIONALISATION & NEW BUSINESS MODELS

Lars Emil Kragh

The work group published a **checklist** of key principles and guidelines for architect – client collaborations – and has started working on New Business Models in order to determine how we might help architects to describe or define a business model that makes it easier to make a decent income. The aim is to develop an online module, a handbook or a tool-box to help members better understand how their companies can build an economically sustainable business model. This work could also cover areas of data collection and analysis that could be helpful for future interactions with the European Commission.

BUILDING INFORMATION MODELLING

Lars Jarle Nore / Peter Hyttel Sørensen

ACE started working with EFCA on the development of a position on software manufacturer market dominance. Concerns include the non-EU origin of suppliers and the lack of autonomy in software capability in the EU. The importance of contracting authorities observing software neutrality and promoting open standards was also underlined.

ACE is represented at CEN Technical Committee 442 (TC/442) which is developing a European standard for BIM.

WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE

Ursula Faix

In 2020, the Women in Architecture task-force developed and ACE adopted a **Gender Policy Statement** to illustrate that diversity increases the value of our profession and our built environment, and equal opportunity is an essential component for a healthy architectural profession. The statement sets down the benefits of a diverse and equality-driven profession and defines key EDI Principles (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion). It also identifies high level principles, objectives and audiences, and makes a number of recommendations for future work.

In 2021, the group plans to publish a Gender Equality toolkit which will serve as a guide to implement the policy (with case studies featuring offices of all sizes).



→
rue SAINT-PIERRE
accès
bureaux T000 à T003
salles de conférence

↑
rue CANAL
accès
bureaux T000 à T003
accès
salles de conférence

RdC
rue GARONNE

TOULOUSE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
Toulouse, France
Architect: Grafton Architects
Photo: Denis Gilbert



ACHIEVING QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

(Baukultur)

Coordinator: Eugen Panescu

2020 has seen a growing convergence between the cultural and environmental discourse in sustainable architecture. The global pandemic has revealed a hunger for a much greater synergy with the natural world, while high quality architecture and public realm are increasingly seen as crucial to health and wellbeing. These previously intangible 'human' factors have become as important to rethinking the built environment as energy use. How we design for the interaction between people and their environment, is essential to achieve the massive reductions in carbon needed to avoid catastrophic changes in our climate.

A life-cycle approach now underpins the European Green Deal and the Renovation Wave and there is a chance for public and private sector investment in the built environment to put greater emphasis on long-term value creation and resilience. The next years will be critical to ensure that this transformation enables architectural design and architects to re-imagine the built environment. Central to ACE's advocacy has been its emphasis on the importance of feedback – both qualitative and quantitative – to make the link between high quality architecture and well-being tangible and to introduce greater accountability for its delivery. Creativity is essential to accelerate innovation.

Finding new ways to strengthen ACE's impact on future legislation and investment while growing the reach of its Member Organisations in Member States will be a key challenge for 2021 and beyond.

CULTURAL HERITAGE IN ACTION: PEER-LEARNING SCHEME ON CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR CITIES AND REGIONS

ACE is proud to be a partner of the Creative Europe project called 'Cultural Heritage in Action', which aims to develop a peer-learning scheme on cultural heritage for cities and regions.

In 2020, the consortium published a catalogue of 32 good practices implemented by local/regional authorities in the areas of Participatory governance of cultural heritage; Adaptive reuse of built heritage; Quality of interventions on cultural heritage.

In 2021, the consortium will organise 12 peer-learning visits and webinars in partnership with cities/ regions featured in the catalogue of good practices, for representatives of local and regional authorities and professionals from the sector to learn from each other.

Learn more on the project website.

EU COMMISSION'S CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACTION PLAN

In March 2020, the EU Commission published a Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), aiming to ensure that materials and resources are kept in the economy for as long as possible. It has identified the construction and buildings sector as having high potential for circularity. In 2021 the Commission will revise the Construction Product Regulation (CPR) and will develop a Strategy for a Sustainably Built Environment in order to promote circularity principles in the sector.

Developing circular economy principles in the built environment is fundamentally about changing the way we design our buildings. The architectural project makes things tangible and concrete and constitutes the right moment for bringing together all project stakeholders to discuss circular economy challenges and agree on the best strategies to create the greatest possible value out of minimum resources for the longest possible time.

Learn more on the CEAP on the Commission website.

Read the ACE Statement on Designing for a Circular Economy.

EU WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES: JOINT WORKSHOP ON "CO-DESIGN FOR NEW FORMS OF URBAN LIVING" IN OCTOBER 2020, DURING THE EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES, ACE, THE FEDERAL

In October 2020, during the European Week of Regions and Cities, ACE, the Federal Chamber of German Architects (BAK), the European Council of Town Planners (ECTP) and the Slovenian Institute for Spatial Policies (IPoP) organised a workshop on "Co-design for new forms of urban living".

The session focused on challenges inherent in participatory design approaches, through the presentation of concrete projects and good practice examples of how civil society can organise itself to influence the design of the built environment.

By putting people at the heart of the design process, citizens are empowered to participate in the creation and regeneration of the urban fabric. They help decision-makers to understand communities' needs and thus to achieve socially and economically sustainable projects.

Watch the recording of the event.

RENOVATION WAVE STRATEGY

In October 2020, the EU Commission presented a strategy aiming to trigger a "renovation wave" in Europe, with the ambition to "at least double the annual energy renovation rate of residential and non-residential buildings by 2030 and to foster deep energy renovations". The strategy will be based on 7 key principles, including *Life-cycle thinking and circularity; High health and environmental standards; and Respect for aesthetics and architectural quality*. As part of this strategy, the EU Commission announced a long list of initiatives, including a revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and proposals for Building Renovation Passports, a 2050 whole life-cycle performance roadmap; and a unified EU Framework for digital permitting.

Learn more about the Renovation Wave strategy on the Commission website.

Read the ACE key messages in the area of building performance and sustainability.



REBUILDING OF KULTURHUSET
Stockholm, Sweden
Architect: Ahrbom & Partner
Photo: Jonas Malmström

NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS INITIATIVE

In her State of the Union address, the President of the EU Commission underlined that the Renovation Wave strategy should not be “just an environmental or economic project: it needs to be a new cultural project for Europe”. For this purpose, Ursula von der Leyen launched a new European Bauhaus initiative as “an incubator for innovation and creativity to drive sustainable design” that will “network practitioners from across disciplines and mobilise creative minds to re-imagine how sustainable living could and should be in the future”.

ACE very much welcomes this initiative. Together with other pan-European organisations representing spatial planners, landscape architects, interior architects, engineers, designers, artists, educators and researchers of the built environment, ACE published a joint statement to express support for this initiative.

Learn more about the New European Bauhaus initiative.

Read the ACE Statement “Making the Renovation Wave a cultural project”.

VOICES OF CULTURE - CULTURE AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

In May 2020, the Council of the EU added a new priority on “Culture as a driver of sustainable development” to the Council’s Work Plan

for Culture. In November, ACE was selected to take part in an expert group on Culture and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set up as part of “Voices of Culture”, the platform for dialogue between the EU Commission and the Cultural Sector. The objective of this new group is to contribute to the reflections of the Commission on the relationships between culture and SDGs. A first brainstorming meeting took place in December 2020; the work will continue in 2021.

Learn more about the Voices of Culture’s expert group.

OMC EXPERT GROUP ON ‘HIGH-QUALITY ARCHITECTURE & BUILT ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE’

The Council’s Work Plan for Culture for the period 2019-2022 set up an expert group on High-quality architecture and built environment for everyone. This group, made up of experts designated by Member States, focuses on “architecture as a discipline that encompasses the right balance between cultural, social, economic, environmental and technical aspects for the common good”. In February 2020, the ACE President was invited to participate in the first meeting of the group. Four other meetings will follow until mid-2021. The planned outcome is a handbook with relevant case studies and policy recommendations (2021).

Read the ACE Statement on Achieving Quality in the Built Environment



EU-FUNDED PROJECTS

www.ace-cae.eu/activities/eu-funded-projects/on-going-projects/

Veronika Schröpfer

The challenging year of 2020 has proved that changes are needed in the way we design, build and live. The European Commission's Renovation Wave Strategy and the new European Bauhaus initiative set a clear direction for this change; double the annual energy renovation rate in Europe while also considering the cultural aspects of the building environment. Through research and innovation, European projects are working in providing the best methods, tools, framework, to accelerate the renovation of the European building stock and deliver the targets for 2030. By being involved in EU-funded projects the Architects' Council of Europe is promoting the architects' role in these developments, influencing cutting edge research and making it more applicable to European architects. We harvest the knowledge to underpin our policy positions and spread it amongst our Member Organisations and their members by offering training and awareness raising events.

The designated EB Research Practice Review Panel is undertaking an analysis of the existing procedures and practices of the ACE's participation as a partner in various consortia for the EU funded projects. This includes the review of the decision-making criteria related to the project themes, participation, resources and benefits to the organisation and its members, aiming to develop a clear understanding of this area of work within the ACE's strategic planning, and to formulate the position and principles for future engagement, partnerships and resources.

Member Organisations in activities related to the EU research projects.

Such activities range from participation in training events and webinars (e.g: RenoZEB train the trainers, TripleA-reno Combined Labelling Scheme Webinar, Are architects ready for digitalisation? Digiplace webinar) to opportunities for direct involvement (e.g: Open invitation for the submission of demo buildings under the Green Deal Call, Building designers' interviews in the context of Cultural-E project, BIM-Speed EU BIM for renovation competition and nomination of jury members, participation in the Expert Board in BIMzeED project).

BIMplement

(September 2017 - February 2020)

www.bimplement-project.eu



Training on air tightness and ventilation using BIM.

The overall aim is to achieve improved quality for nZEB construction and renovation by way of Continuous Professional Development training and BIM-enhanced qualification schemes. These address the entire value chain in a cross-trades and cross-level multidisciplinary approach, strengthened with hands-on and BIM enhanced workplace learning tools. The project has two main areas of focus: air tightness and ventilation; and five participating countries: France, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain.

This project finished in 2020. Among many activities, ACE has delivered a workshop at the 2019 European Sustainable Week "upskilling the AEC industry to deliver high-quality, energy efficient retrofitted buildings with BIM learning tools" and two webinars "Are we ready for BIM in construction sites? A reality check: Experiences from the ground" and "How can BIMplement be implemented in other European countries?"

RenoZEB

(October 2017 - March 2021)

www.renozeb.eu



Plug and play facades for deep nZEB renovation.

RenoZEB is developing cost-effective 'plug and play' solutions for large-scale deep nZEB renovation. The real (Estonia, Spain) and virtual (Bulgaria, Greece, Italy) demonstration cases will show and ensure the replicability of the approach to different building types and climates. The technical tools will monitor the buildings before and after the nZEB renovation. The testing and validation period is now finished and the renovation works are underway in both demonstration cases.

In October, ACE ran a training session with architects to present the façade system and tools developed, and to collect feedback. The training session can be found on **RenoZEB YouTube channel**.



RENOVATION OF THE MAIN SQUARE IN NOVÓ MESTO
Novo mesto, Slovenia

Arhitekt: ATELIERarhitekti

Photo: Peter Zunic Fabjancic, Bostjan Pucelj



TripleA-reno
(May 2019 - April 2021)
www.triplea-reno.eu



Focus on the building user.

TripleA-reno seeks to change the paradigm that buildings use energy; in fact it is people who use energy, for their comfort at home and work. The project is developing gamified support tools, which help occupants to make informed and economically wise decisions regarding the renovations of their homes. The benefits of the proposed solutions are tested and demonstrated in real buildings (Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Spain) whereas the results are rolled-out on a wider EU scale through the TripleA-reno Road Show.

Due to the Covid-19 emergency, the TripleA-reno Road Show around the EU couldn't take place in 2020. The project team came up with a contingency plan, switching from a Road Show to a "Home Show". ACE has produced and run the "Home Show" activities, comprised of a series of interviews of experts, videos showcasing the 6 demonstration buildings, as well as other videos presenting key exploitable results of the project.

ACE also coordinated the development of two new videos for the project and a webinar about the Triple A-reno Combined Labelling Scheme. The videos and recorded webinar, as well as the episodes of the "Home Show" activities can be found at [Triple A-reno YouTube channel](#).

BIMSpeed
(November 2019 - October 2022)
www.bim-speed.eu



Speeding up the renovation

BIM-SPEED is about accelerating building renovation using Building Information Model (BIM), which will be the catalyst for a smarter, more efficient method of deep renovation for the residential building sector. BIM-SPEED aims to enable all stakeholders to adopt BIM. The interoperability of a full range of BIM tools for renovation will be accommodated on the innovative BIM cloud platform KROQI. Throughout the 4-years, BIM-SPEED will demonstrate the holistic solution in 13 real demonstration cases in eight different countries (Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain).

ACE chaired the 2020 Industry Day webinar about the BIMSpeed EU Building Renovation Competition that will be launched in June 2021. This year, ACE will continue to work on the organisation of the competition and will coordinate the development of the training material by the partners.

BIMzeED
(November 2019 - October 2021)
www.bimzeed.eu



Updating architectural education

A three-year Erasmus+ project on BIM in higher and vocational education. This project supports the construction industry, through education and training to up-skill in the area of technical innovation and digitalisation. BIMzeED is developing and piloting 12-16 Learning Units as Open Educational Resources (OERs), and is training and upskilling 120 educators at European Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Vocational Education and Trainings (VETs).

In 2020, ACE contributed to the development of the first learning Units. ACE also worked with External Advisory Board members to collect their feedback in order to improve the Learning Units.

ICARO
(December 2018 - December 2020)
www.icaroproject.eu



Who is the construction site technician?

ICARO is working on the redefinition of the profiles and training of construction site technicians. ICARO assumes a crucial role in relation to the revitalisation of the construction industry, which needs a generational replacement, orientating the young and unemployed towards qualified professions. As a result, the project will have a beneficial impact on the employability of young people, reducing unemployment at EU level, promoting actions that facilitate quality training that is attractive and relevant to the employment market. The impact of the project will be particularly relevant in the 3 countries taking part in the project: Lithuania, Spain and Italy.

In 2020 the skill requirements were assessed for Italy, Lithuania and Spain. By March 2021 this project will finish with an online event hosted by ACE.

BIM4EEB
(January 2019 - June 2022)
www.bim4eeb-project.eu



Interoperable BIM tools

BIM4EEB is developing an innovative, common BIMMS (BIM management system) with linked data and a set of five tools:

1. BIM4EEB Fast Mapping toolkit;
2. BIM4EEB BIMeaser;
3. BIM4EEB BIM4Occupants;
4. BIM4EEB BIMCPD;
5. BIM4EEB AUTERAS;
6. BIM4EEB BIMplanner.

Overall, BIM4EEB targets reductions of least 20% of renovation time, 15% of the average renovation cost, 10% of net primary energy used for a typical residential apartment and a reduction from 1.5 to 3 working days required for a deep energy audit.

ACE was involved in the organisation of the Interim Conference - part of the Sustainable Places 2020 online event. The Conference was an opportunity to present the newly developed BIMMS and related tools and receive feedback. Due to the pandemic outbreak, ACE has shifted the dissemination and communication actions to the virtual environment. Short videos, infographics and a digital format leaflet were developed to explain the tools' functionalities and use.

DigiPLACE
(September 2019 - February 2021)
www.digiplaceproject.eu



A European digital platform for construction

DigiPLACE is conducting a feasibility study for the development of a European Industrial Digital Construction Platform in order to modernise the European construction industry and ensure its global competitiveness in the 21st century. The project is developing the framework for a platform, which is to be developed in a future EU tender. In order to pave the way for a strong digital network environment, DigiPLACE is engaging with a large stakeholder community, in which ACE represents the architects' point of view.

Peter Hyttel Sørensen, the chair of the ACE BIM WG, is a member of the Advisory Board.

ACE also organised the webinar 'Are architects ready for digitalisation' in September 2020. In the webinar, the DigiPLACE team presented a European state-of-the-art analysis, examining how digitalised the construction industry already is, and which are the possible points of knowledge transfer. Furthermore, experts in the field of architecture and digitalisation highlighted the necessity of architects' involvement in the 4.0 revolution.

Cultural-E
(October 2019 - September 2024)
www.cultural-e.eu



Plus Energy Buildings

Cultural-E goes a step beyond Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (nZEBs) towards the future of Plus Energy Buildings (PEB). The team is approaching this topic by looking at climate and cultural differences in the use of residential buildings around Europe. By the end of the five years, the project will have built four new Plus Energy Houses in France, Germany, Italy and Norway. Cultural-E will also produce design tools, smart technologies, methodologies and policy recommendations for Plus Energy Buildings.

The affordable solutions will guarantee a plus energy balance, a deep reduction in GHG emissions, as well as healthy and comfortable indoor environments, provided by climate-resilient technologies. The team will also look at related benefits, such as health and community impact.

In 2020, in collaboration with ACE, the project coordinator EURAC conducted a survey, addressed to architects and designers, aiming to identify the principal decision-making issues and performance indicators for Plus Energy buildings. The project team will take the survey results into account to develop an easy-to-understand and informative data visualisation tool for energy simulations, in order to support the design of the demonstration buildings.

DRIVE 0
(October 2019 - September 2023)
www.drive0.eu



Circular building renovation

DRIVE 0 aims to contribute to the decarbonisation of the European building stock by developing a consumer-centred, circular building renovation process in order to make deep building renovation more attractive for consumers and investors, environmentally friendly and cost effective.

The project will provide solutions not only for renewable technologies, but also for recycling and reusing locally available resources and building materials from the existing building stock. The solutions will be tested and validated in seven demonstration cases in Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain.

In October 2019, the project kicked-off with a symposium on circular construction near Maastricht, NL. In 2020, the project was invited to speak at COP25 in Madrid; furthermore, it was highlighted as an example of an EU-funded project that aims to industrialise building renovation processes in the EC Renovation Wave Strategy.



COMMUNICATIONS

Julie Deutschmann

WEBSITE www.ace-cae.eu

By providing regularly updated content, relevant tools and live streamed events, the ACE website is becoming a point of reference. In 2020, the ACE website was visited by 46,420 people in comparison with 42,052 in 2019 (+10.22 %). The audience is balanced with 50.12% female users and 49.88% male users. This year we notice a growing interest from younger users aged between 18-24 years (+20.78%) , and users aged between 55-64 (+45.47%).

The most visited webpages are the **ACE homepage** with the latest news (#1), **Access to the profession / How to become an architect** (#2), **Architects in Europe** (#3), **ACE Sector Study** (#4) and **International/ Jobs in Europe** (#5).

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook @ArchitectsEU

Our Facebook community continues to grow with 6 961 followers in 2020 vs 5,889 followers in 2019 (+18,20%). The most popular contents are the posts regarding the New European Bauhaus, the launch of the ACE Observatory, ACE interviews with European architects and ACE publications or online events with the participation of the ACE President.



Twitter @Ace_Cae

On Twitter, the ACE follower audience size grew from 1,572 in 2019 to 1,875 Followers in 2020 (+19,27%). For our events and conferences, this channel remains key. We also follow up and engage with MEPs on this social media.

LinkedIn Architects' Council of Europe (ACE-CAE)

Our LinkedIn community on LinkedIn had the biggest growth. We now have 1,977 followers vs 1,410 in 2019. (+40,21 %).

Youtube

This year the ACE YouTube channel counted 2,265 views vs 3.4K views in 2019 (down by 33,38 % views during the previous period and 135,1 hours watched). This can be explained by the fact that the ACE was unable to organise live streamed conferences in 2019 due to the pandemic. However, we gained 22 new followers and gained 26.1K impressions (+26,1%).

WORKSHOP- ACE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The communications workshop took place on 17-18 January 2020 in ACE offices in Brussels. The session was designed to take the first steps towards a strategic reflection and to provide a forum for ACE to reflect on existing challenges and priorities on a communications level. The participants were the members of the new Executive Board and the ACE Secretariat.

EUROPEAN CALL FOR A NEW VISUAL IDENTITY

A Communications work group has been set up to continue the strategic reflection initiated in January 2020 and to analyse the priorities relating to communications. In December 2020, the ACE launched an European call for a new encompassing visual identity in order to find the right partners, encourage innovative and holistic thinking and promote quality design contests in Europe. The selection of visual identity will be based on the following criteria: Quality, Innovation, Uniqueness, Creativity and Practicability.

Communications work group members are: georg pendl, ACE President, Selma Harrington, ACE Vice-President and Pavel Martinek, EB member.

The Jury's experts for the new visual identity: Walter Bohatsch, Martin Gaffney, and Jan Kosatko.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

In 2020, the ACE hosted its first online General Assembly.

In the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities, the Architects' Council of Europe, the Federal Chamber of German Architects' (BAK), the European Council of Town Planners (ECTP) and the Institute for Spatial Policies (IPoP) held a **joint virtual workshop on co-design for new forms of urban living** with over 50 attendees.

ACE participated in the **Young Talent Architecture Awards (YTAA) Day** and the talk on "Education and first steps in Architecture" and the AIA virtual conference on '**Catalyzing Change**'.

PUBLICATIONS

This year, we launched the **ACE Observatory**, an online repository for statistical information on the architectural profession and market, conducted the questionnaire for the 2020 edition of the ACE Sector Study, published the second phase of the Value of Architecture study, initiated a study on Quality in architecture, published **an architect-client checklist**, published **a checklist for International collaboration between architects**, published a catalogue of good practices as part of the Cultural Heritage in Action project, initiated a study on the economic impact of regulation and co-published the European catalogue of good practices in the framework of Cultural Heritage in Action.

SURVEYS

The Architects' Council of Europe has been conducting two surveys among its **Member Organisations** to understand how they are dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, evaluate its initial impact on the architectural profession and market, and collect information about measures put in place to help SMEs and the self-employed to weather the crisis.

ACE also launched a correspondent's survey to assess the impact of ACE communications

STATEMENTS

The "**New European Bauhaus: Making the Renovation Wave a Cultural Project**" was widely shared by ACE Member Organisations and sister organisations.

INTERVIEWS

In 2020 we conducted **8 interviews with internationally renowned architects**: ACE interviews reflect on the future of architecture and the quality of the built environment.

NEWSLETTERS

Last year we sent out 5 editions of ACE INFO, the ACE newsletter targeting our external audience (subscribers: circa 10k) and 4 editions of MOIS, the Member Organisations Info Sheet.



VILKAVIŠKIS BUS STATION
Vilkaviškis, Lithuania
Architect: Gintaras Balčytis
Photo: Norbert Tukaj

GARE MARITIME BRUSSELS
Brussels, Belgium,
Architects: Neutelings Riedijk Architects
Photo: Filip Dujardin





STRATEGIC ALLIANCES & NETWORKS

ACE has developed relationships with other networks to strengthen the voice of the profession in the EU.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION (EAAE)

ACE and EAAE continue to work together on ERASMUS+ projects and the Young Talent Architecture Award.

EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR ARCHITECTURAL COMPETENT AUTHORITIES (ENACA)

ACE and ENACA work together to address current mobility issues such as mixed qualifications and have developed a standardised template for the presentation of certificates to accompany registration requests.

INDUSTRY BODIES

ACE continues to work closely with other pan-European organisations in the construction industry including EFCA, FIEC, EHF and others.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS (UIA)

ACE was invited at the UIA Webinar, World Architecture Day 2020: "Toward a Better Urban Future"

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

While ACE advocates common positions to the European Commission and Parliamentary Committees, we rely on Member Organisations to present these to their own MEPs, Council of Ministers, National Representations and National Coordinators.

With the overall objective of maximising the benefits for architects and in order to effectively communicate the research outputs, there is a constant effort to regularly inform and to actively involve ACE

MIES VAN DER ROHE FOUNDATION

Collaboration continued, following the merger of the ACE / EAAE Best Diploma Prize with Mies van der Rohe Young Talent Architects Award, the 2020 edition of which was launched at the ACE Conference in Barcelona though had to be deferred to next year on account of the pandemic.

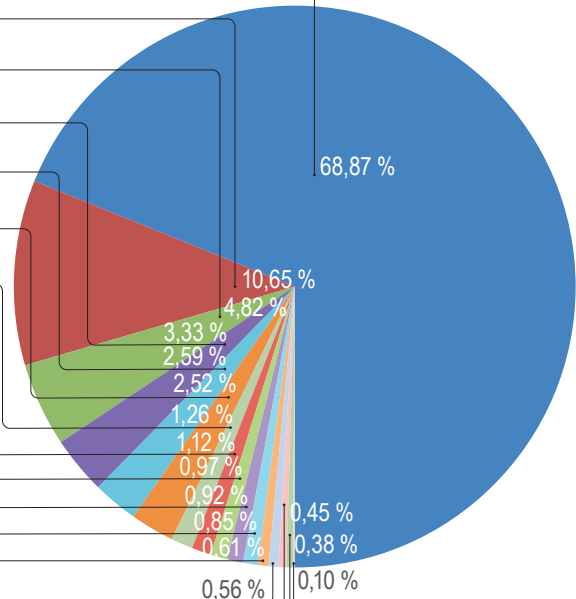


TREASURER'S REPORT & FINANCIAL OUT-TURN FOR 2020

Fulgencio Aviles Ingles

EXPENSES

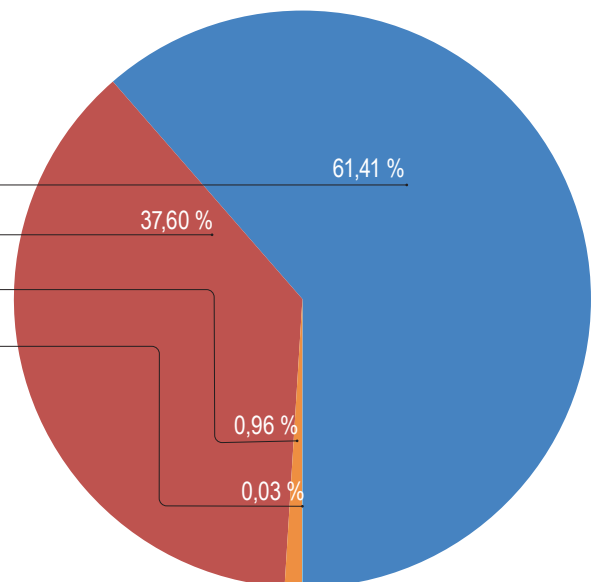
Staff costs	€ 654.651
Projects	€ 101.196
Premises	€ 45.836
Executive Board expenses	€ 31.609
Professional fees	€ 24.649
Other operating expenses	€ 23.979
Motor vehicle expenses	€ 12.020
ACE meeting expenses	€ 10.612
Insurance	€ 9.231
Communications	€ 8.730
Depreciation	€ 8.072
Activities	€ 5.804
Maintenance	€ 5.332
Office supplies & services	€ 4.310
Membership fees	€ 3.580
Financial expenses	€ 920
Transfer to the reserve fund	€ 195.972



TOTAL EXPENSES € 1.146.503

INCOME

Members subscriptions	€ 704.052
ACE activities	€ 431.126
Recovered expenses	€ 11.033
Financial income	€ 292



TOTAL INCOME € 1.146.503

NECKER HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
Paris, France
Architect: Philippe Gazeau architect
Photo: Philippe Ruault



ACE STRUCTURE (governance, membership)

The Architects' Council of Europe is an international, not-for-profit association consisting 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 approved 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 and to act as the permanent interlocutor of the EU institutions in furtherance of ACE's advocacy work.

2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

georg pendl President		Selma Harrington Vice-President
Fulgencio Aviles Ingles Treasurer	Jacques Timmerman Vice-Treasurer	Ruth Schagemann Coordinator, Access to the Profession
Borysław Czarakczew Vice-Coordinator, Access	Ferenc Makovenyi Vice-Coordinator, Access (schools)	Diego Zoppi Coordinator, Practice
Pavel Martinek Vice-Coordinator, Practice	Eugen Panescu Coordinator, Quality in the Built Environment	Carl Bäckstrand Vice-Coordinator, Responsible Architecture

PUBLIC LIBRARY
DORNBIRN
Dornbirn, Austria
Architects:
Dietrich Untermyer
and Christian Schmoetz
Photo: Maurizio Tami

STAFF

Ian Pritchard



Secretary General

Caroline André



Head of Administration

Pierre Obajtek



Policy Officer

Julie Deutschmann



Communications Officer

Catalina Olteanu



Administrative Assistant

Veronika Schröpfer



Head of EU Projects

Elena Goni



Interim Head of EU Projects

Larissa de Rosso



Assistant Project Officer

Gloria Oddo



Assistant Project Officer



POLITICAL CONTEXT AND PRIORITIES FOR 2021

NEW STRATEGIC AGENDA 2019 – 2024

In 2019, the European Council agreed 'A new strategic agenda 2019-2024' to steer the work of the European Council and provide guidance for the other EU institutions. It prioritises: protecting citizens and freedoms; developing a strong and vibrant economic base; building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe; and promoting European interests and values on the global stage.

A strong economic base is of key importance for Europe's competitiveness, prosperity and role on the global stage and for the creation of jobs. Of relevance to ACE is the ambition to deepen and strengthen the Single Market, particularly in the area of Services, digital transformation and fostering entrepreneurship, innovation and research.

The EU will also promote a level playing field in the area of trade, ensuring fair competition within the EU and on the global stage. Climate transition will afford the opportunity to modernise and become a global leader in the green economy. Architects can help to improve the environment in our cities and countryside. The EU will also invest in culture and cultural heritage, following the Council Resolution on the cultural dimension of sustainable development.

TRIO PROGRAMME

The 18 month Council Programme (the "trio programme" Germany, Portugal, Slovenia) began in July 2020, focusing very much on recovery to include overcoming the Coronavirus; a stronger more innovative Europe; a fairer Europe; a sustainable Europe; a Europe of security and common values; and a strong Europe in the world.

A UNION THAT STRIVES FOR MORE – POLITICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE NEXT EU COMMISSION

The EU Commission will focus on six priorities during U. von der Leyen's term (2019-2024):

- A European Green Deal
- An economy that works for people
- A Europe fit for the digital age
- Protecting our European way of life
- A stronger Europe in the world
- A new push for European democracy

Policy objectives of particular relevance to ACE include: initiatives deriving from the EU Green Deal (European Climate Law and Pact; Commission's contribution to COP26 and new Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change; Renovation Wave; Circular Economy Action Plan); Industrial Strategy, Single Market Barriers report & Enforcement Action Plan and SME Strategy; and a European Gender Equality Strategy.

SINGLE-FAMILY PASSIVE HOUSE
Luxembourg
Architect: Arttek
Photo: Steve Troes

WHAT THE ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE PLANS TO DO IN 2021

ADVOCACY

- **MEET** with the President of the EU Commission as part of our contribution to the development and promotion of the new European Bauhaus initiative
- **PREPARE** proposals for EU27-UK mutual recognition, post-Brexit
- **RESUME** MRA discussion with Mexico and respond to overtures from Australia
- **CONTRIBUTE** to the further work of the Expert group on 'High-quality architecture and built environment for everyone' as part of the Council's Work Plan for Culture
- **RESPOND** to the development of initiatives announced in the Circular Economy action Plan (NB. the revision of the Construction Product Regulation (CPR) and the development of digital logbooks for buildings)
- **RESPOND** to the development of initiatives announced in the Renovation Wave strategy, in particular the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the development of a 2050 whole life-cycle performance roadmap
- **DEVELOP** recommendations to achieve better quality outcomes in public procurement
- **FOLLOW UP** the implementation of the New Leipzig Charter
- **SUPPORT** the #BuildingLife campaign led by the World Green Building Council
- **CONTINUE** to share input to the "Voices of Culture" structured dialogue on "Culture and the Sustainable Development Goals: challenges and opportunities"
- **CONTINUE** to engage with relevant Members of the EU Parliament and representatives from the Commission to strengthen the understanding of the impact EU legislation on the profession.

EVENTS

- **HOLD** a web-streamed Conference on Climate Change & Built Heritage
- **ORGANISE** a web-streamed Conference on the new European Bauhaus initiative
- **CO-ORGANISE** a panel discussion on the Renovation Wave during the EESC Civil Society Days (March)
- **ORGANISE** workshops during the EU Sustainable Energy Week (June) and EU Week of Regions and Cities (October)
- **SEND** the exhibition "20 Architectural Projects Against Climate Change" to several European countries and offer it to be displayed at COP 26 in Glasgow
- **SUPPORT** the organisation of the next edition of the Young Talent Architecture Award
- **ARRANGE** a webinar for the launch of the 7th edition of the Sector Study

STUDIES & PUBLICATIONS

- **PUBLISH** the 7th edition of the Sector Study
- **PUBLISH** a study on architectural quality
- **CONCLUDE** phase 3 of the Value Study
- **PUBLISH** the "Next urban level brochure"
- **COMMISSION** study on the positive economic impact of regulation
- **PUBLISH** Gender Equality toolkit
- **PUBLISH** booklet on new business models
- **UP-DATE** insurance country sheets
- **PRODUCE** the ACE "Architects' in EU Research" podcast

DEVELOPMENT

- **FINALISE** ACE 2021 – 2025 Strategy
- **ORGANISE** a online workshop with ACE correspondents
- **MONITOR** the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the architectural profession and market
- **SUBMIT** a proposal for the future Creative Europe programme, for the continuation of the "CONNECT-ARCH" programme
- **COMPLETE** review of Governance
- **FINALISE** review of EU-funded projects



LIST OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

AUSTRIA	Bundeskammer der Ziviltechnikerinnen 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	Estonian Association of Architects EAL
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	Romanian Order of Architects 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	Architects Sweden SA Federation of Swedish Innovation Companies FSIC
SWITZERLAND	Conférence Suisse des Architectes CSA
UNITED KINGDOM	Architects Registration Board ARB Royal Institute of British Architects RIBA
Observer Members	
SERBIA	Union of Architects of Serbia UAS



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE