

2023  
Annual Report  
& Outlook for  
2024

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Architects' Council of Europe  
Conseil des Architectes d'Europe

2023 Annual Report &  
Outlook for 2024

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**Architects' Council of Europe  
Conseil des Architectes d'Europe**

ACE is made up of 46 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, for over 30 years the ACE has represented the interests of c. 620,00 architects.

**Acknowledgements**

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

**2023 Board Members:**

**President:** Ruth Schagemann;

**Vice-President:** Fulgencio Avilés Inglés;

**Treasurer:** Borys Czarakcziew;

**Vice-chair Finance Committee:** Paul Jeppesen;

**Area Coordinators:** Dubravko Bačić, Diego Zoppi, Carl Bäckstrand; Selma Harrington;

**Think Tank Members:** Christos Christodoulou, Daniel Fügenschuh, Rūta Leitanaitė.

**2023 ACE Work Group and Task Force Chairs:**

Olga Mihalikova, Cornelia Hammerschlag, Kathryn Meghen, Carla Lima Vieira; Pavel Martinek, Benoît Gunsley, Katarina O'Cofoigh, Kathrin Rapp, Angela Baldellou, Peter Hyttel Sørensen, Ian Pritchard, Ursula Faix, Judit Kimpian, Peter Andreas Sattrup, Eugen Panescu, Jacques Timmerman, Marjan Hessamfar, Dominik Banaszak, Selma Harrington, Rūta Leitanaitė.

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**Architects' Council of Europe**  
Conseil des Architectes d'Europe

**2023 Annual Report &  
Outlook for 2024**



**ACE's Mission is to**

- build consensus on professional matters and identify best practice, in order to demonstrate the contribution architects make to the quality of life and the common good, and to this end, to influence EU legislation impacting on architects' work.

**ACE's Vision is to**

- achieve greater recognition of the value of architecture – through engagement, outreach, research and advocacy – the cultural legacy of architecture and its contribution to the quality of life of citizens.

**ACE aims to**

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

**To this end, ACE applies its Core Value sets, with the aim of being;**

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

Our mission is to demonstrate the role of architects in creating a truly competitive, enriching and sustainable Europe.

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## What ACE did for you in 2023

# 2023

### Advocacy

- Met the President of the EU Commission, Ms Ursula von der Leyen, and the Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Ms Elisa Ferreira, at a New European Bauhaus (NEB) event in Venice
- Continued to promote the NEB, including NEB Labs, the NEBinar initiative and adopted a NEB Manifesto
- Supported the Commission's proposal to create a new Horizon Mission dedicated to the NEB
- Became a Founding Member of the *Davos Baukultur Alliance* and joined its Steering Committee
- Contributed to the 2023 European Year of Skills with a Statement on *Upskilling to deliver high-quality architecture for a beautiful, sustainable and inclusive environment*
- Co-signed a letter inviting EU Member States to reconsider proposed cuts to the 2024 Creative Europe budget
- Answered the Commission's public consultation on an EU Roadmap to reduce whole life carbon emissions in the building sector
- Continued to contribute to the #BuildingLife campaign to tackle the whole-life environmental impacts of the building and construction sector
- Continued to call for an ambitious and swift adoption of a revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)
- Co-signed a set of Recommendations for the Future Reconstruction of Ukraine
- Contributed to the professional mobility and public procurement task-forces of the *Fit for Future Platform*
- Responded to the COM's call for evidence on the rationalisation of reporting requirements stemming from EU legislation
- Co-signed a letter of complaint to Autodesk

- Pursued Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) negotiations with FCARM (Mexico) & NCARB (USA)
- Pursued passage of UK MRA through the TCA MRA Committee
- Prepared for the next up-date of the Professional Qualifications Directive
- Prepared for the next up-date of the Public Procurement Directive
- Released a statement in response to the earthquakes in Turkey and disseminated the Earthquake Detection and Evaluation Report
- Initiated work for an ACE Manifesto for the 2024 European Parliament elections

### Events

- Co-organised, with the EAAE, a public conference on *New European Bauhaus: Upskilling x (Education + Practice)*
- Hosted an Energy Day during the European Sustainable Energy Week on *Architecture for a just transition*
- Organised a workshop on *High-quality architecture and built environment: a political goal* and displayed the ACE exhibition '20 Architectural Projects Against Climate Change' at the UIA World Architecture Congress in Copenhagen
- Co-organised a session at the EU Week of Regions and Cities on A.I. and language tools for better cross-border partnerships
- Co-organised with the CSCAE and the COAC a public conference on Decarbonising Architecture

### Development

- Continued the Accession Countries' EU alignment programme (Montenegro, R.N. Macedonia, Ukraine)

- Continued the implementation of the NET-ARCH project, co-funded by the Creative Europe programme
- Continued the "Getting closer to Member Organisations" programme, including a Presidents' Round Table and an online workshop with the ACE correspondents
- Undertook the development phase of the new ACE website and the kick off phase for new mobile app

### Publications

- Published the 2022 ACE Sector Study
- Co-published, with UIA, a booklet on *High-quality architecture and built environment: a political goal*
- Published 3 sub-studies on digitalisation, public procurement and gender pay gap
- Published ACE recommendations on *Architectural Design Competition and Master Brief*
- Published the A/B/C a toolkit on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the architectural profession

### Workgroups

- Continued to support new Work Groups and Task-Forces: International task-force; Ukraine task-force; EU-Projects Work Group; NEB Work Group
- Set up a new Disaster Relief task-force to share experience of natural and man-made disasters
- Organised two meetings of the Peer-learning Group on Architecture Awards

### EU-Funded Projects

- Delivered together with Eurocities a catalogue of good examples of cities and regions driving high-quality architecture, as part of the Living Spaces project
- Management of 10 projects: launched ARCH-E and CiD and completed DRIVE 0 and SOAR
- Held 3 BUSGoCircular 'Train the trainers' sessions on circularity and mentoring programmes
- Organised a national training on circularity in Italy as part of the DRIVE 0 project
- Implemented 6 Climate Positive Circular Communities around Europe as part of the Green Deal ARV project
- Built 4 Positive Energy Buildings taking into account climate and cultural factors in the design process in the framework of the Cultural-E project
- Released the New European Bauhaus handbook with clear examples of how to apply NEB principles in design projects as part of the NEBULA project
- Held the SOAR Final Conference on Security by Design of Places of Worship with a touring exhibition and a related publication
- Organised the Drive 0 Final Symposium in Brussels, strengthening the relationship with CINEA and other umbrella organisations involved in the construction sector
- Disseminated the survey results on the future of the digitalisation of the building permit with ACE Member Organisations
- Supported and disseminated the UREHERIT activities

8,611

360

46

5,535

30

62011



**ACE by Numbers**

- 46 Member Organisations from 30 countries in Europe
- 5 Observer Members
- Representing the interests of over 620,000 architects

**Linkedin**

- 5,535 followers

**Twitter**

- @Ace\_Cae 2.542 followers in 2022

**Facebook**

- @ArchitectsEU 8.600 followers

**YouTube channel**

- 3,000 views and 462.9 hours watched
- In 2023, we gained 86 new subscribers

**1 International conference**

- (360 participants (online/offline); viewed 883 times on the ACE YouTube channel
- Management of 10 EU-funded projects
- 2 EU-funded projects completed
- Started 2 new EU-funded projects





1 **Executive Reports**  
President's report  
Secretary General's report  
Treasurer's report





## President's Report

Ruth Schagemann



### Architecture, a matter of public interest

The way we inhabit our planet is undoubtedly a driver of the unfolding climate and biodiversity crisis. The living environment we have created, and the way we manage it, consumes vast quantities of land, raw materials and fossil fuel energies and generates significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions and waste. All too often in our cities, we are witnessing a loss of quality in our built environment, evident in the trivialisation of construction, the lack of design values and the deterioration of historic fabric. Urgent and significant actions are needed at all governance levels and in the construction sector. We must act now to change the way our living environment is designed, built, maintained, renovated, managed and regulated. We need to adopt an attitude that favours the common good and quality of life and puts people and nature at the core of all spatial and urban developments.

Architects are agents of change who have the knowledge, expertise and experience to bring about this paradigm shift and achieve a fair transition towards more beautiful, sustainable and inclusive living environments.

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) has two main strands of activity, which are inextricably linked, and which are consistent with its overall strategy.

First, the EU's expectations of the innovative power and ingenuity of architects are described in the canon of values of the Davos Alliance for Building Culture and the New European Bauhaus (NEB) - Beautiful - Sustainable - Inclusive - and flanked by significant EU funding. In order to meet these expectations fully, legislative changes are needed.

After the last decade of major efforts in the new building sector, with cheap money and cheap energy, the task now is to make the huge building stock fit for the future. It alone is responsible for about 47% of all CO2 emissions worldwide and it substantially exceeds the transport sector.

Second, this transformation must aim at a high-quality built environment for all European citizens. Architecture is now centre of attention as part of the solution to climate change and its mitigation. To achieve a high-quality transformation of the existing building stock, legislation needs to be adapted.

To achieve this, ACE is constantly striving to:

- **Strengthen the cohesion of Member Organisations so they may learn from each other and provide support.**
- **Lead by example, to develop strong and impactful advocacy at European and National Level.**
- **Build up international ties so that we do not act only within European boundaries.**

The end of the Ukraine war is not yet in sight and therefore ACE continues to address the challenges facing Ukrainian architects through advocacy, legislative support and capacity building, reflecting a commitment to quality architecture and sustainable post-conflict reconstruction.

ACE addresses EU economic, social, and environmental directives. It highlights key areas such as Taxonomy, the new Circular Economy Action Plan and the Transition Pathway for Construction, underscoring the urgency for the construction sector to innovate and embrace circularity to address waste and CO2 emissions.

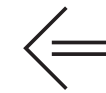
ACE's initiatives range from fostering competitiveness, enhancing skills, establishing supportive frameworks and pushing for research, technology and finance improvements towards a sustainable, inclusive, and beautiful built environment.

ACE also emphasises professional development for architects, including digital innovation, the use of AI in architecture, and the adoption of Building Information Modelling (BIM), particularly focusing on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). As Quality needs Qualification.

In the realm of high-quality architecture and built environment, ACE has actively participated in EU policy making, notably in the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Construction Products Regulation. Public Procurement is an important tool to achieve high quality in our built environment and forms an important part of ACE core activity. The organisation champions architecture's role in the green transition, leveraging initiatives like the New European Bauhaus and the European Green Deal. Gender equality in the profession is also an area of active engagement to be able to achieve an inclusive and high-quality living environment.

Research and development form a cornerstone of ACE's strategy, aiming to integrate architectural practice with EU projects, the New European Bauhaus, and external relations. ACE is involved in various EU-funded projects that align with its thematic areas, focusing on digitalisation, sustainable and inclusive design and circular economy principles.

In a Europe characterised by a rapid urbanisation process, climate change and social change, ACE sees itself as a driving force for sustainable and liveable cities and regions. Architecture must be an integral part of the European agenda.



Space for solidarity, pilot project Bucharest, Romania  
Architects: Atelier Ad Hoc Arhitectura, arh. George Marinescu, arh. Maria Daria Oancea  
Photo: Atelier Ad Hoc



## Secretary General's Report

Ian Pritchard



### 2022 - 2025 Strategy

Work was initiated on the implementation of the new ACE Strategy. Critical Themes include:

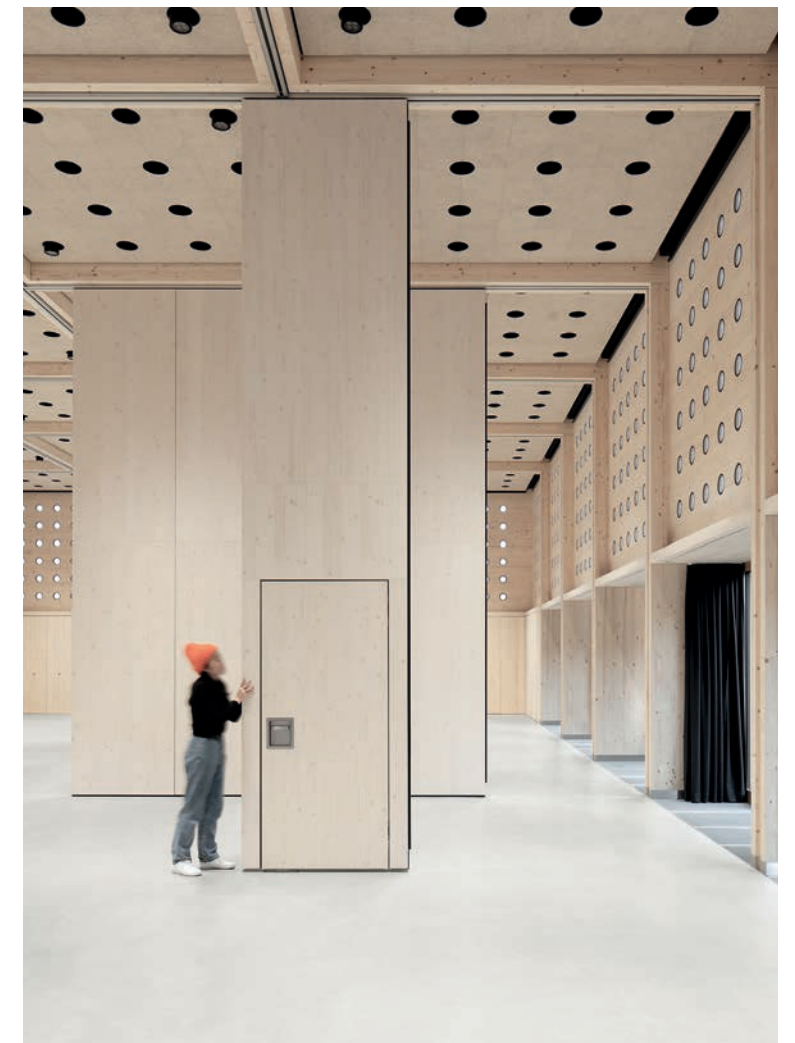
- **Green Deal; Quality of Public Space; Affordable Housing;**
  - **Mobility/internationalisation; Regulation; value of Architecture;**
  - **Practice; Digitalisation; Procurement.**
- NET-ARCH programme (2022-2024)**
- The ACE programme of funded activity is designed to
- **develop participation in culture (audience development);**
  - **build capacity to be active at international level;**
  - **advocate for sustainable/environmentally - friendly practices;**
  - **promote new technologies to enhance competitiveness;**
  - **develop initiatives to optimise networking, upskilling, advocacy, data collection/ dissemination.**
- **Electronic Certificate** - a template has been finalised for use in submitting documentation to accompany cross-border registration applications. Towards the end of last year, a firm was appointed to develop the necessary functionality to allow for this accompanying certificate to be used electronically.
- **Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)** - ACE's MRA with the architects of Canada was approved by the European Council and a recommendation was submitted under the EU-UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement for an ACE-ARB mutual recognition agreement. Talks continue with the architects of Mexico and two meetings were held with NCARB (USA).

- **Artificial Intelligence Study** - following the A.I. Conference in late 2022, ACE commissioned a series of studies in 2023, the findings of which were reported to the ACE General Assembly in November 2023 and will be published early in 2024.
- **Public Procurement & Competitions** - the 'ACE Master Brief & Nine Rules' was published, to optimise the organisation of Architectural Design Contests. ACE also published a procurement sub-study drawing on information collected via the Sector Study survey.
- **Insurance** - ACE continued to up-date the national insurance country sheets to assist cross-border service provision.
- **Export** - meetings of the Internationalisation & New Business Models group were organised to undertake work on defining how architects may gain a greater share of the value chain. An interim report was presented to the November Assembly and the finished product will be published in Spring 2024. In parallel, work was undertaken to up-date the international section of the ACE website.
- **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion** - the Women in Architecture task-force published its A/B/C/ toolkit on how to achieve a better gender balance, diversity and inclusion in the architectural profession. A sub-study (on the gender pay gap) was also published, drawing on the findings of the ACE Sector Study.
- **Peer-learning Group on Architecture Awards** - a peer-learning group was established to develop best practice in the organisation of architecture awards at national level.
- **Conference: "Education & the New European Bauhaus (NEB)"** - ACE organised a joint event with the EAAE (schools) as part of the European Year of Skills.
- **NEB workshop at the World Congress of Architects (Copenhagen)** - ACE organised a workshop on achieving quality in the built environment - as part of an initiative aimed at promoting the NEB internationally.
- **Touring Exhibition** - ACE showed its climate change exhibition at the UIA World Congress in Denmark in July 2023.
- **Study on the impact of Architecture Policies** - a study was commissioned to evaluate the impact of architecture policies over the past 10 years (for publication in Spring 2024).
- **ACE Sector Study** - the 2022 edition of the ACE Study of the Architectural Profession was published in February 2023. Further work was carried out to improve the questionnaire on which each edition is based and achieve closer alignment with national surveys.
- **Accession Countries' programme** - following the admission of Ukraine and Montenegro to membership in 2022, steps were taken to admit the Republic of North Macedonia, Moldova and Kosovo in 2023.

## Advocacy

While the major activity was centred around following the passage of the Energy Performance of Buildings through the co-decision process, ACE also

- responded to the publication of the Proportionality Test Guidance;
- made recommendations for the proposed 25% reduction in Member States' reporting requirements (suggesting that the Proportionality Test Directive be rescinded as it duplicates existing provisions of the Professional Qualifications Directive and Services in the Internal Market Directive;
- noted that the Single Market at 30 report will attempt to revisit the issue of Notifications;
- proposed action to work for a coherent response to the Commission's proposal to recognise third country diplomas;
- contributed to the Fit for Future Platform (former REFIT programme) in relation to Public Procurement (advocating for better SME access, a discrete chapter for intellectual professions and innovative approaches including architectural design competitions) and Professional Mobility (mixed qualifications, Regulatory Restrictiveness Indicator and voluntary convergence issues - EU-wide Codes of Conduct, Quality Charters and recognition of Professional Indemnity Insurance);
- responded to the SME Relief package.



Kunstraum Kassel, Germany  
Architects: Innauer Matt  
Photo: Nicolas Wefers



**Financial out-turn for 2023**

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>€</b>
Staff costs	44,77	622.233
Projects	1971	273.930
Activities & other	0,84	11.688
Premises	4,11	57.159
Other operating expenses	0,42	5.839
Professional fees	4,02	55.829
Executive Board expenses	4,62	64.219
ACE meeting expenses	3,75	52.143
Motor vehicle expenses	0,96	13.293
Communications	0,89	12.340
Insurance	0,58	8.034
Depreciation	-1,70	-23.660
Maintenance	0,55	7.598
Office supplies & services	0,24	3.315
Financial expenses	-0,36	-5.061
Transfer to the reserve	16,62	230.962
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>1.389.861</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>€</b>
Members subscriptions	52,22	725.757
Activities	46,40	644.863
Recovered expenses	1,15	15.939
Financial income	0,24	3.302
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>1.389.861</b>







Reconstruction, completion and modernisation of the area of the Slovak National Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia  
Architects: Architekti BKPS, Martin II. Kusy, Pavol Panak, Martin III. Kusy, Maria Michalic-Kusa, Jana Panakova, Vladimír Dedecek - 1960s-1970s  
Photo: Matej Hakar

**Professional Issues**

Access to the Profession

Practice of the Profession

High Quality Architecture & Built Environment (*Baukultur*)

Research & Development

“Blue Box” Think Tank





**Professional Qualifications Directive - Professional Practice Experience - Continuing Professional Development (PQD-PPE-CPD) work group:**

Co-chairs: Olga Mihalikova (SK)/Cornelia Hammerschlag (AT)

In 2023, work areas were divided into four parts (each led by a different work group member), in order to give adequate attention to all areas:

- **PQD – under the leadership of Cornelia Hammerschlag (AT);**
- **PPE – Aneleen de Jong (interim) (NL);**
- **European Professional Card – to be extended to cover more professions;**
- **CPD – under the leadership of Joni Tyler (UK);**
- **MRAs – under the leadership of Ian Pritchard (ACE)/ Olga Mihalikova (SK).**

They are expected to consult others, as necessary, in the interval between meetings of the main group, in order to take work forward and report back as necessary.

Two hybrid/meetings were held in 2023 (in March and September) - well prepared and attended; notes of the meetings were circulated subsequently by the Secretariat.

2023 focus topics included: **Accompanying Certificate** (developed with ENACA), finalisation of "Access to the profession" survey results (for new website), preparations for the next review of the **PQD** (mixed qualifications), development of a common understanding of **PPE** and its impact on migration, development of a common standard for traineeships, awareness raising campaign towards **Schools** re: notification of diplomas to the EU COM, review of **CPD** guidelines, register and ACE website pages), response to **Fit for Future** initiative (barriers to professional mobility) and ACE **MRAs** follow-ups.

Regarding the **recognition of professional qualifications of third country** nationals, the EU Commission has announced that it will propose a package to maximise the potential of talent mobility that will include a legislative proposal on establishing an EU Talent Pool and an initiative to work with Member States to facilitate the faster recognition of professional qualifications of third country nationals, including through partnerships with third countries, to improve recruitment and job matching.



**Regulatory Questions and Issues (RQI) work group;**  
Chair: Carla Lima Vieira (PT)

Four (4) hybrid or online meetings were held in 2023 (February, May, June and September) - well prepared and attended. Notes of the meetings were circulated subsequently by the Secretariat.

2023 focus topics included: exploitation of the findings of the Economic Study and development of a summary of key points; Spanish Law on Quality in Architecture; development of a proposal for a Planning Directive; professional regulation developments (proportionality test directive, reform recommendations on professional regulation, monitoring of Member States' infringements; analysis and development of a position on the Regulatory Restrictiveness Indicator; identification of administrative barriers and enablers) and ACE contribution to the Commission's **Fit for Future** Platform.

Proposals were submitted to the ACE General Assembly regarding the Planning Directive initiative and Economic Study summary.

**Schools Programme;** Dubravko Bačić  
(ACE Executive Board)

Continuous cooperation with the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE), including the development of activities or participation in the following events:

- **2023 ACE-EAAE Conference on Skills, Brussels, in conjunction with the ACE's April General Assembly;**
- **NEBinar! (Wrocław University of Science and Technology): a series of webinar presentations with participation of the ACE Executive Board members**
- **2023 EU Young Talent Award Ceremony, with Mies van der Rohe Foundation (Barcelona), EU Commission (DG EAC) and the EAAE, at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia (Palazzo Michiel-Mora, Venice, 29 June 2023)**
- **2023 ACSA-EAAE Teachers' Conference "Educating the Cosmopolitan Architect" (Reykjavik, June 2023)**
- **2023 EAAE Annual Conference and Assembly, "Seeds of Architecture" (Torino, August/September 2023)**
- **digiNEB (Digital Ecosystems for the New European Bauhaus), "Digital Built Environment: Tools, Projects, and Future Directions in Practice, Research, and Education" Workshop (Zagreb, 20 Sept 2023)**
- **EAAE-ACE Pedagogy Award for innovation & excellence in teaching (under development)**

**Trade In Services (MRAs);** Chairs: Ian Pritchard (ACE), Olga Mihalikova (SK)

The ACE-ROAC mutual recognition agreement, submitted under the EU-Canada Free Trade Agreement (CETA) was approved in the Council and undergoing final ratification by the Canadian Provinces & Territories. The Secretary General was invited by DG TRADE to participate in the development of a webinar on the subject (publication deferred to 2024).

ACE and ARB have submitted a recommendation for a mutual recognition arrangement under the EU-UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement. Additional information is being provided to amplify the economic rationale and compatibility statement in support of the recommendation.

R. Schagemann met with the US National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) in San Francisco in June and again, with D Bačić, in Copenhagen on 2 July in the margins of the UIA Congress.

**EU-funded projects**

**BUSGoCircular**

This EU-funded project delivered training material on circularity in the built environment. The material targets SMEs that would like to upskill themselves, trainers that would like to implement training for design and construction professionals and all professionals seeking to upskill. The training material is available on the BUSGoCircular website.

**ARISE**

This EU-funded project pilots an e-learning platform on BIM and Energy efficiency.

**ACCORD**

This EU-funded project will develop training materials on the tools and methodologies for the digitalisation of the building permits in municipalities.





The Terms of references include:

- the **Renovation Wave**,
- the **proposed Emissions Trading System for Buildings (and Road Transport)**,
- the **New European Bauhaus**,
- the **Climate Adaptation Strategy**,
- **proposals to revise key legislation such as the Construction Products Regulation and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.**

However, this large ecosystem also faces numerous challenges. These include current crises such as the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as the climate emergency, rapid digital transformation and the transition from a linear to a circular economy.

The transition path is organised by way of six Building blocks:

- **Competitiveness**
- **Skills and Talents**
- **Enabling Framework**
- **R&I, Technology**
- **Finance**
- **A Safe and fair built environment**

In a nutshell, the expected effects of the Transition are a new commercial organisation of the construction supply chain (Competitiveness), new roles and new skills for operators such as workers, developers, consultants, professionals (Skills & Talents); a new regulation of the administrative framework, as well as new labels for materials; a new public procurement system, organised to ensure the best final effects; research and efforts to obtain new materials, less waste, fewer carbon emissions, more digital aids for each stage of the construction chain, more efficiency, new systems of financing, and results oriented towards the social well-being of citizens and end users of the process.

**ACE Policy for the profession of architects**

Continuing the activities already undertaken in previous years and addressing the challenges described in the documents summarised above, ACE work groups were very active, participating in many events, seminars and activities including the EU Glossary event during the EU Cities Week in Brussels and Circular Economy kick off in Venice, participation in Nebinar organised by the University of Wroclaw (PL) and the International Public Space Biennale (IT).

ACE professional policies tend to align architects with the most advanced EU economic, social and environmental policies. Two recent EU Commission documents are useful to understand these policies:

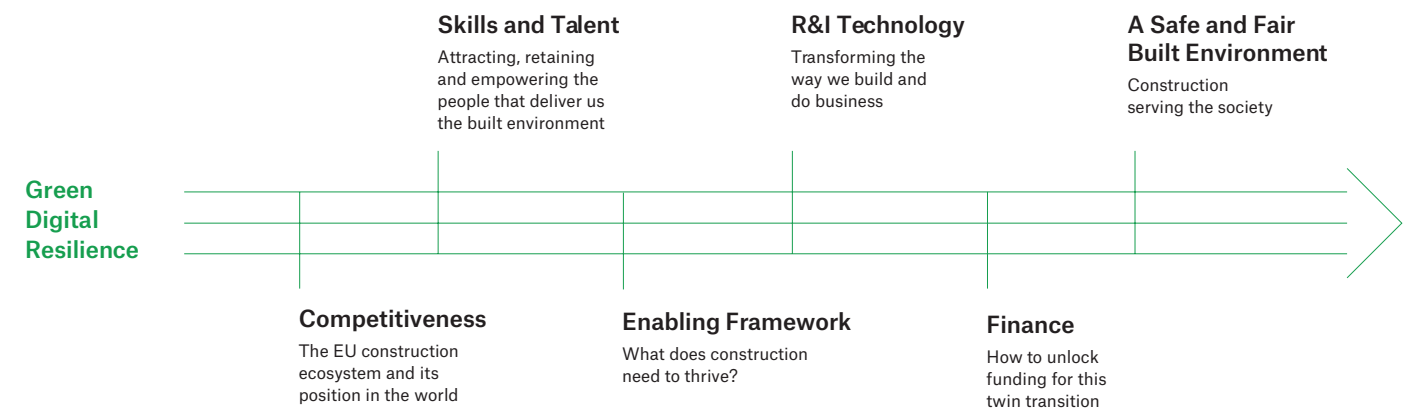
- **A new Circular Economy Action Plan (March 2020, updated in 2022)**
- **Transition Pathway for Construction (March 2023)**

**A new Circular Economy Action Plan (March 2020 as updated 2022)**

The document says that, despite efforts for a cleaner and more competitive Europe, annual waste generation is projected to increase by 70% by 2050". The Construction Sector is the first industrial ecosystem for waste production and CO2 production in Europe and will have to profoundly revise its supply chain, techniques and materials to reduce this impact. The Commission will launch a new comprehensive Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment, ensuring coherence across the relevant policy areas such as climate, energy and resource efficiency, management of construction and demolition waste, accessibility, digitalisation and skills. It will promote circularity principles throughout the lifecycle of buildings.

**Transition Pathway for Construction (March 2023)**

The document, starting from the need to evolve the construction sector, describes the EU strategy until 2030. The updated EU Industrial Strategy emphasises a swift green and digital transition of EU industry and its ecosystems. Construction is the second largest industrial ecosystem in the EU in economic terms, employing around 25 million people and generating almost 10% of global EU GDP: it offers enormous potential to contribute to the European Green Deal and the Digital Decade.



**Internationalisation & New Business Models**

Chair: Angela Baldellou (ES)

In 2023, an important piece of work was done to develop a new definition of the Value Chain. In any transformation process of the Built Environment, there has traditionally been a focus on the creation of real estate value. New environmental and social sensitivities, and above all a market more attentive to the quality of the project and more focused on the creation of "value" not only from an economic point of view, require a more complex business model. The new model has a lot of potential for the role of the architect who can exert his influence not only in the initial phase of transformation (design) but during the life and end of life of buildings and infrastructures. This new set-up leads us to define new skills for architects that will be approached in 2024.

**Practice of the Profession**

Chair: Pavel Martinek (CZ)

Priority was given to digital innovation in the profession. Activity related to the use of AI in architecture led to the call for the best research and applications being conducted in the EU. Three pieces of research emerged that were co-funded by ACE, the results of which were presented in the November General Assembly. In 2024, the three pieces of research will be published, demonstrating their extremely broad fields of application (one is investigating and creating new tools for defining spatial relationships between objects, the second is dedicated to new tools that relate urban and building parameters to facilitate design, and the third is creating a new tool for learning and communicating to children on the topic of urban space. In 2024, activities are planned to promote the Digital Building Permit through AI.

ACE will also publish a Manifesto for Digitalisation in the Architectural Profession and a Manifesto on the proper use of AI.

**BIM**

Chair: Peter Sørensen (DK)

In addition to the development of the use of BIM applications, the activity kept the focus on the topic of the dominant positions of large companies and the consequentially limited possibilities for SMEs to use innovative tools. In 2024, actions are planned on the use of BIM for SMEs and within the framework of public procurement.

**Public Procurement & Architectural Design Contests WG (PP & ADC WG)**

Chairs: Katarina O’Cofaigh (SE), Kathrin Rapp (DE), Benoît Gunsley.

During 2023, guidelines were published for Member Organisations on procedures for the organisation of architectural design contests and preparatory work was undertaken for the next update of the Public Procurement Directive continues.

**Women in Architecture Task Force (WiA TF)**

Chair: Ursula Faix

In 2023, the Women in Architecture task-force explored the conditions necessary for gender equality to become a general and real condition and not an abstract slogan, and the 'A/B/C for Gender balance, diversity & inclusion in architecture' was published. In 2024, further initiatives are expected to strengthen and accelerate the path to equal opportunities.

**EU-funded project**

**ARCH-E**

ACE also supported the preparation and launch of the New European Platform ARCH-E proposed by the BKZT (Austria). Today, the new Platform is operational and is also supported by other Member Organisations. During 2024, it is expected that other Member States will join ARCH-E and that its use will become more widespread and constitute a tool providing knowledge of EU good practice.

**High Quality Architecture  
& Built Environment (Baukultur)**  
Carl Bäckstrand, Coordinator



In 2023, we saw a shift in environmental politics in many European countries, which could slow down the green transition in the economy and in the construction sector in particular.

**Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive**

At EU level, the top priority of the year was the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), a legislative marathon that already started in 2022. Following the adoption of the Council's general approach in October 2022, the Parliament adopted its position in March 2023. In Spring 2023, the co-legislators entered Trilogue negotiations with the EU Commission. After several months of negotiations, they reached a provisional agreement in December, under the Spanish Presidency. This agreement is now meant to be formally endorsed by both the Council and the Parliament in the beginning of 2024.

ACE, under the leadership of Judit Kimpian and the ESA WG and in partnership with the World Green Building Council (WGBC) and other NGOs, closely followed the negotiations and campaigned for a swift and ambitious adoption of the EPBD. ACE provided its Member Organisations with an Advocacy Toolkit to help them defend the position of the profession towards Ministers and Members of the EU Parliament from their countries. It's quite possible to believe that everyone's hard work, locally in Member States and centrally in Brussels, had an impact on maintaining a high level of ambition and securing improvements to the text. Inspired by this outcome, we will continue to promote architecture as an enabler for the green transition, especially during the upcoming EU Parliament elections.

**Revised Construction Product Regulation**

In 2023, the Council and the Parliament also finalised the negotiations for a revised Construction Product Regulation (CPR). Furthermore, the implementation of the EU Taxonomy has started. We believe that it is in architects' interest to be well informed on these topics. The implications for the quality of the built environment, as well as the business opportunities connected with Taxonomy, are significant. Besides green taxonomy, planning for a social taxonomy has started. Criteria and targets for a number of social values should be identified. The tight relation between social and environmental targets is becoming more and more obvious.

**EU Sustainable Energy Week**

In June, as part of the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), ACE hosted a seminar with the participation of Greta Tresserra (CSCAE), who introduced the Spanish Law on Architectural Quality and underlined the importance of collecting building performance data, and Scott McAulay from the Anthropocene Architecture School, who gave a keynote speech on the role of young people and how they shape architecture. It was a very much appreciated event where DG CLIMA and DG EAC were present in the audience and active in the following Q&A.

I would like to thank Judit Kimpian and Eugen Panescu for chairing the work groups and extraordinary engagement together with Pierre Obajtek and all members in the ESA WG.

**EU Projects**

**SONATA**

The EU-funded project SONATA is developing adaptive architectural solutions for well-being in the workspace.

**HeriTACE**

The EU-funded project HeriTACE aims to optimise the comfort and energy performance in heritage buildings.

**Cultural-E**

The EU-funded project Cultural-E is building Plus Energy Buildings taking into account climate and cultural factors.

**DRIVE 0**

The EU-funded project DRIVE 0 has conducted seven renovations of buildings with circularity principles.

**ARV**

The EU-funded project ARV aims at creating climate-positive circular communities in Europe and increasing the building renovation rate in the continent.

**Research & Development**

Dr Selma Harrington, Coordinator



The fourth pillar of the ACE's working structure, Research and Development was primarily designed to capitalise on the ACE's involvement in the EU projects in alignment with the ACE Strategy and core activities, following a three-pronged approach:

- **ENGAGING transversally with other ACE policy work and overcoming a silo approach;**
- **COORDINATING internally among the Executive Board members and Project Officers, facilitating collaboration with ACE work groups and engaging the expertise from Member Organisations;**
- **OPTIMISING SYNERGIES for working with ACE members in external networks such as European Construction Technology Platform - ECTP, Built4People- B4P and European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation - ECCREDI.**

The EU project calls attract various players from the field of consultancy, education, industry and NGO's which typically form consortia to submit a project proposal. ACE is usually invited by others to provide dissemination, communication, training and other tasks but there is also an emerging trend of the ACE Member Organisations in taking on leading partner roles.<sup>1</sup>

To deliver on the stated ambitious goals, three work groups we formed 'EU Projects, New European Bauhaus and External Relations. The structure provides a solid operational and management tool with clear roles for the ACE Staff and its voluntary framework. The ACE President, Executive Board and staff have developed a better decision-making procedures (plus financial/resource monitoring), increasing the understanding and transparency across the ACE's working areas, which will further develop.

The Executive Board is responsible for final partnering decisions based on the preparatory work by ACE Staff and the Work Group. The ACE Staff (1) Prepares and Implements project, (2) Monitors and reports on the Financial Feasibility / Resourcing and, (3) Coordinates Work Package(s) content and provision of external expertise, in consultation and with support by the Work Group and Executive Board Coordinator(s).

**The EU Projects work group** is composed of the representative peer experts who debate and advise the EB on what, why and how to decide on participation in the EU projects. The Group reviews project proposals and makes recommendations to Executive Board whether to accept proposals or not.

Invitations are initially evaluated based on broad criteria:

- **Thematic alignment with the ACE Strategy, core activities and work areas;**
- **Interest to practice of architecture and architects;**
- **Networking potential for the architectural profession;**
- **Human and financial capacity of the ACE to undertake the project.**

The selection of on-going projects below demonstrates the alignment with the ACE's four thematic areas and relevance to the profession and practice or architecture:

**ARISE** (completion in October 2024) is developing a CPD package as part of an e-learning platform concerning digitalisation applied to energy efficiency in buildings: of interest to the Area 1 (Education and Access) and Area 2 (Practice).

**ACCORD** (completion in August 2025) is analysing the Building Permit process and Digitalisation: relates mostly to the Area 2 (Practice).

**NEBULA** (completion in March 2025) is developing comprehensive Guidelines for understanding the New European Bauhaus concept: of relevance to the Area 4 (Research and Development) and Area 3 (Quality in Built Environment) (<https://build-up.ec.europa.eu/en/resources-and-tools/links/nebula-project-connecting-innovation-clusters>); this project has delivered the publication "New European Bauhaus: a handbook" with clear examples on how to apply NEB principles in design projects.

**CiD** (completion in August 2026) develops innovation in Circular Design education by fostering entrepreneurship in academia, with an accelerator programme for students' start-ups and continuing education courses to upskill in the emerging labour market. This Circular Design Innovation Ecosystem will boost the turn towards a circular construction and design economy: of interest to all four thematic areas.





## New European Bauhaus

Since its launch in 2021, this initiative has been enthusiastically embraced and supported by ACE at different levels - events<sup>2</sup>, conferences<sup>3</sup>, seminars<sup>4</sup>, training programmes, best practice examples, new networks<sup>5</sup> and projects<sup>6</sup>. ACE and its Board made a significant effort to promote the NEB principles and help the formation of new NEB communities and networks across Europe. This continues with an event during the NEB Festival in April 2024 in Brussels on the internationalisation of architectural practice.

Through NEB, ACE has developed excellent relations with the EU Join Research Centre and its NEB team. Its new Head, Alina Stephania Ujupan, addressed the ACE General Assembly in November '23, referring to the evolution of the EU Research Agenda and the role of creative professions. ACE has promoted the NEB Dashboard, "a dynamic interactive map showing information on NEB projects and key actors across Europe and beyond...[which] evolves the NEB community continues to grow"<sup>7</sup>. We have also underlined the relevance of the NEB Compass, as a self- assessment tool and "[a] guiding framework for decision and project makers wishing to apply the NEB principles and criteria to their activities"<sup>8</sup>. In consultation with the ACE Member organisations, we continue to campaign in favour of the new 6th Mission on the NEB within the Horizon funding mechanism.

## The ACE NEB work group

The work group has completed the *ACE Manifesto* on the NEB, which complements the ACE + UIA publication *High -quality Architecture and Built Environment: A Political Goal (2023)*<sup>9</sup>. The *Manifesto* sets out the political action programme for the architectural profession to further ambitions in line with NEB principles and UN Sustainable Development Goals and calls on architects to take their place in the NEB movement.

## Ukraine Task Force

What Ukrainian Architects expect from ACE:

- **Advocacy and support for quality architecture at political level (EU + governmental/Ukraine);**
- **Help with legislative basis (examples, expertise);**
- **Advice and help with housing policy;**
- **Help in capacity building (professionals and officers).**

### — Advocacy and support for quality architecture at political level

Rūta Leitanaitė was selected (as ACE representative) from 26 experts, to the European Commission sub-group "Safeguarding Heritage in Ukraine". The group will advise the European Commission on strategies to support the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage in Ukraine. In 2023, two meetings took place (online and in Brussels) and the first Draft of Recommendations were presented to the EC Cultural Heritage Expert Group.

In the summer, the Davos Alliance established new working groups. ACE is represented by Rūta Leitanaitė at the "Rebuilding Ukraine" WG. The aim is to foster collaborations, projects and policies that would bring administrative bodies, communities and business together to rebuild Ukraine under Bauhaus quality criteria. The first meeting took place online in November 2023.

ACE was represented by Rūta Leitanaitė at the EC conference "Ukraine green recovery" in Vilnius. She participated in the panel discussion at a session: "Sustainable, beautiful and inclusive reconstruction – New European Bauhaus".

### — Help with legislative basis (examples, expertise)

Rūta Leitanaitė took part in a webinar series "New Urban Code for Ukraine", organised by the Ukrainian MP Hanna Bondar.

### — Collaboration and advice in the field of architectural competitions

Launched in 2023, the "Future School for Ukraine" (organised by Architects Association of Lithuania and Lithuanian Projects Management Agency) aims to get the best adaptive design for a new school in Ukraine. To respond to Ukrainian specificities and needs, a collaboration between Ukrainian and Lithuanian specialists and communities is planned from the outset. The initiative has 2 stages: a workshop to discuss the vision of a new school for Ukraine (Vilnius, October 2023) and an open international architectural competition (to be announced in January 2024).

In the spirit of the initiative, a NEB Laboratory "Public infrastructure for Ukraine" is being created, aiming to share experience and good practice of transparent, inclusive and quality oriented procedures of European + Ukrainian architects' collaboration when designing public buildings for Ukraine. ACE is one of the founding partners.

## — Help in capacity building

**UREHERIT.** Architects for heritage in Ukraine: recreating identity and memory. (see Blue Box)  
In 2023, a kick-off event - the first public conference - took place in Lviv, Ukraine, with 150 attendees in person and more than 300 online. During the conference, a high-level discussion was moderated by project Coordinator Rūta Leitanaitė, with the participation of Ukrainian ministries, cities, national and international heritage protection institutions and ACE President Ruth Schagemann. The conference participants presented different future activities of the Project, with the reflection on relevant topics by Ukrainian experts.

**NEB LAB** "Actions for Ukraine" webinars last Spring, a series of capacity building webinars for Ukrainian cities authorities was launched through the NEB Academy. Rūta Leitanaitė, as a representative of ACE in the Lab, was given a task to advise on the programme and proposed which experts to invite. The webinars took place in March-July 2023.

## Other external and cross-disciplinary synergies

In line with the ambition to showcase high-quality architecture, ACE is engaged in "Peer-learning Activities on High Quality Architecture for Cities and Regions," an 18-month collaboration project with EUROCITIES funded by DG EAC. The project has thus far identified and catalogued good practices and will organise peer learning through site visits of the selected projects in 12 cities (commencing in January 2024). The peer-learning visits are opened to ACE delegates upon a successful application.

In parallel, ACE continues to support the pan-European platform Voices of Culture commissioned by the EU to prepare the topical Brainstorming Reports at regular intervals, as one of the ways for a cross-sectoral knowledge exchange and policy formulation on the matters of culture and the green transition faced with challenges of energy crisis.<sup>10</sup>

## Looking to the future

It can be concluded that the Thematic Area 'Research and Development' provides a framework to engage in existing and novel tasks which transcend the boundaries of education and practice. Building on the experience and study on the Value of Architecture,<sup>11</sup> further work is needed to articulate the role and character of research in architecture, bridging gaps between theory and practice, education, application, and policy; and pointing the way to advance and capitalise on CPD as part of the evolving nature and scope of what it means to be an architect. At practical level, this sets out a task for ACE to develop its Research Agenda and Policy in the coming period, within the parameters and opportunities created through the European Research Policy Agenda and the relevant funding schemes.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>1</sup> More recently, the ArchE project, European Platform for Architectural Contests, BKZT (Austria), and, the U-Re-Herit project, Architects for heritage in Ukraine. Recreating identity and memory, led by the Lithuanian Architects' Association

<sup>2</sup> ACE Energy Day (EU Sustainable Energy Week), Brussels, April 2023; with J. Timmerman's discussing NEB values and ambitions

<sup>3</sup> Two conferences: (1) "Upskilling the profession in the context of the NEB", Brussels, April 2023; co-organized by the ACE and EAAE ([https://www.ace-cae.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ACE-EAAE\\_skills\\_Statement.pdf](https://www.ace-cae.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/ACE-EAAE_skills_Statement.pdf)); (2) "Skills of the Architects for Skills of the Cities", Rome, May 2023, co-organised by the CNAPPC, ACE, UIA, UN Habitat, AssoBiSP and Università Roma 3; with keynotes by ACE President and Board members (Ruth Schagemann, Fulgencio Aviles Ingles, Dubravko Bacic, Carl Backstrand, Borys Charackziew, Selma Harrington, Diego Zoppi). (<http://www.biennalepaziopubblico.it/2023/05/skills-of-the-architects-for-skills-of-the-cities/>)

<sup>4</sup> ACE Workshop at the UIA Congress, Copenhagen, July 2023; (<https://www.ace-cae.eu/activities/events/2023/uiaworldcongressofarchitects-aceuia-workshop-high-quality-architecture-and-built-environment-a-political-goal/>)

<sup>5</sup> NEBINAR(s). NEB Initiative for Young Architects, online, March to June 2023- co-organised by the University of Wrocław and ACE (<https://nebinar.pwr.edu.pl/>)

<sup>6</sup> NEB Forum BiH, A creative cluster in the Western Balkans region; online, in Sarajevo and Mostar, May 2021-ongoing (<https://www.ace-cae.eu/activities/new-european-bauhaus-forum-bih/>)

<sup>7</sup> [www.new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/dashboard\\_en](http://www.new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/dashboard_en)

<sup>8</sup> [www.new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/NEB\\_Compact\\_V.4.pdf](http://www.new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/NEB_Compact_V.4.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [www.ace-cae.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Ace\\_UIA\\_Book\\_En\\_Screen.pdf](http://www.ace-cae.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Ace_UIA_Book_En_Screen.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Voices of Culture, September 2023. "Culture & Creative Sectors & Industries driving Green Transition and facing the Energy Crisis". The ACE representation: Aet Ader (Estonia), Final report Peer review Selma Harrington (Ireland) (<https://voicesofculture.eu/2023/09/28/brainstorming-report-culture-and-creative-sectors-and-industries-driving-green-transition-and-facing-the-energy-crisis-now-available/>)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ace-cae.eu/activities/publications/the-value-of-architecture-ii>

<sup>12</sup> ERA 2022-2024, [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-11/ec\\_rtd\\_era-policy-agenda-2021.pdf](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-11/ec_rtd_era-policy-agenda-2021.pdf)



## 'Blue Box' Think Tank

### Blue Box Experiences

The Blue Box is an important "tool" to look at the different ACE working topics and results from different angles. It is a place to develop new approaches and ideas that are based on the manifold work outcomes and ongoing activities of the ACE, but also to look at ways to interconnect different results and relate them to the ACE policy aims more tangible.

This approach can be explained very well by the example of the inter-relation with the ACE policy aims of two current European projects that are professionally relevant, include ACE as a (cooperation) partner, are led by ACE Member Organisations and came directly out of discussions in the Blue Box:

One of them is **ARCH-E**, a Creative Europe project with the main objective to promote high-quality architectural solutions for the built environment by increasing the use of architectural design competitions (ADC) in Europe and overcoming cross border market barriers in the market for architectural services.

The other one is **UREHERIT**, a Creative Europe project with Ukrainian partners with the aim of building competence in heritage protection, regeneration of culturally meaningful plans and projects and empowering local communities as a tool for building the new, democratic, and sustainable Ukraine. Both projects are directly based on ACE policy aims and thus on the needs of the profession in Europe. Arch-E is working towards the aims of the ACE in several thematic areas:

It is directly interlinked with the work of the ACE Public Procurement Working Group and can build on its work results and experiences; at the same time the broad research done in the project, about the situation of ADCs in the partner countries, can be used by the ACE working group. The project also considerably raises the awareness of the role and importance of ADC / quality procedures in public procurement in many target groups including within the European Commission.

Additionally, the project with its knowledge transfer between countries and its ADC network contributes to enhancing cross border cooperation and access to ADCs. It is an active step by the profession to overcome barriers in the cross-border provision of architectural services. While the European Commission has so far tried rather unsuccessfully to achieve this through deregulation, the project represents a proactive, positive approach and is thus an important argument in the ongoing deregulation discussion with the European Commission. So, there is also a direct and very important interlink to the work of Thematic Area 1 as regards access to the profession and regulatory issues. Finally, the project promotes the ACE as an efficient tool for the implementation of the Davos Declaration and NEB quality architecture aims throughout Europe.

**UREHERIT** was a direct reaction to ACE's wish and need to show support to the Ukraine after the Russian attacks on the level of architecture. At the same time, it is of course a way to connect EU and Ukrainian architects and thus open the Ukrainian market to EU architects and contributes to market access topics. For this the two projects ARCH-E and UREHERIT also cooperate, for example in efficiently using the same IT structure for building up a professional network. At the same time, it promotes the aims of the ACE regarding quality architecture and public procurement in a similar way, as described above. Due to the current situation in the Ukraine the project gets a lot of public awareness and support also at a political level in the EU and the Ukraine.

As the projects considerably enhance the aims of the ACE and address challenges of the profession in manifold ways, they are a good example for the inter-connecting outcomes of the Blue Box discussion.

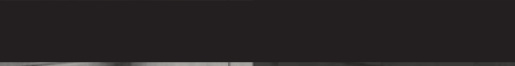






Study Pavilion, Campus of the Technical University  
of Braunschweig, Germany  
Architects: Gustav Düsing and Max Hacke  
Photo: Iwan Baan

- 3 **Other Activities & Outlook**
  - Communications
  - Strategic alliances and networks
  - 2024 Political context







### ACE Website

#### ace-cae.eu

By providing regularly updated content, relevant tools and live streamed events, the ACE website is becoming a point of reference of the architectural profession in Europe.

#### New website

In 2023, the ACE Executive Board and Secretariat started internal workshops to reflect on the architecture of the future website. Red&Grey, the designer of the ACE new visual identity has shared its artistic direction and comments with the website's developer. Work is underway and the ACE website will be launched in 2024.

#### ACE mobile application - Selection of the app developer

As part of the Creative Europe programme, ACE will be developing a mobile application this year. This future application will strengthen links, share knowledge and develop European architectural cooperation. The ACE application will connect the European architectural community to share best practice, assist in the development of cross-border European projects and provide cultural opportunities. Following the publication of the brief we received 7 proposals. The selection committee chose to work with the Greek company 'Eworks', which has expertise in matchmaking applications and has developed the Erasmus + application.

### Social Media

#### LinkedIn - Architects' Council of Europe (ACE-CAE)

Our LinkedIn community experienced the biggest growth. We now have 5,535 followers vs 4,179 followers in 2022. (+32.45 %)

#### Twitter @Ace\_Cae

On Twitter, the ACE audience remains engaged. In 2023, we count 2,542 followers (+ 5 %). Besides our campaigns to promote our activities, we also use this channel to monitor, follow up and engage with MEPs.

#### Facebook @ArchitectsEU

Our Facebook community also remains engaged with 8,600 followers in 2023 (+ 12%). The most popular contents are the posts regarding ACE conferences, news about our publications and events from our Member Organisations.

#### Youtube - Architects' Council of Europe (ACE-CAE)

This year the ACE YouTube channel counted 3,000 views and 462.9 hours watched. In 2022, we gained 86 new subscribers. Viewers are mainly aged between 25 and 34 and come mainly from Lithuania, Poland and Romania. The ACE - EAAE public conference was the most watched video.

### Workshop with ACE Correspondents

The workshop took place online in March 2023 with the participation of over 20 correspondents. This was designed to enable them to contribute and share their experience regarding their role and mission, enhance networking, peer learning and exchange good practices. The workshop was opened by the ACE President, and offered an opportunity to present the ACE strategy, the current political background and calls for contributions.

#### ACE/ EAAE Conference - NEB: Upskilling X (Education + Practice)

On 20 April 2023, ACE and EAAE decided to seize the opportunity of the 2023 European Year of Skills to organise a conference in Brussels that aimed to promote a mindset of re-skilling and upskilling within the profession and explore innovative training and upskilling strategies. The conference was attended by c. 100 people on site and 260 people online. After the event, the conference has been viewed 883 times on the ACE YouTube channel.

#### ACE Climate Change exhibition

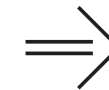
As part of the UIA World Congress of Architects, taking place on 2-6 July 2023 in Copenhagen, the Architects' Council of Europe displayed the Climate Change exhibition '20 architectural projects against climate change'.

#### Estimation of visitors:

**c. 6,000 visitors of the UIA Congress**



Pre-school 140, Santa Cruz de Villacuri  
"Barrio Chino", Ica, Peru.  
Architects: Atelier Ander Bados (Ander Bados Sesma), Estudio Copla (Betsaida Curto Reyes)  
Photo: Eleazar Cuadros



Social Housing Aspern H4, Vienna, Austria  
Architects: WUP architektur, Bernhard Weinberger (1966 Austria); Andreas Gabriel (1974 Austria); Helmut Wimmer (1947 Austria); Raphaela Leu (1992 Germany)  
Photo: Luiza Puiu



## ACE Sector Study Insights

The ACE Sector Study is a biennial survey commissioned by the Architects' Council of Europe and co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, that collects and analyses statistical, sociological and economic data on European architects, the architectural market and architectural practices.

Based on responses from 30 700 architects in 26 European countries, the 2022 edition of the Study has been enriched with new research areas, making it, without doubt, the most comprehensive study on the architectural profession in Europe and an essential reference tool for all those interested in the architectural profession and the built environment.

### Sector Study 2022 edition

— EN language - 1461 reads; 262 downloads

— FR language - 117 reads; 32 downloads

### Digitalisation sub-study

— 658 reads; 120 downloads

### Public Procurement sub-study

— 468 reads; 84 downloads

## ACE Observatory

The ACE Observatory is the new platform dedicated to the architectural profession. The purpose is to provide a single-entry point through which users can search, access and compare a multitude of statistical information regarding European Architects, the architectural market and practices in Europe.

### ACE Observatory in 2023

— 1176 users; 1921 sessions; 15085 page views

### Emailing campaigns

This year we sent out 64 mailings including ACE newsletters, ACE news about our policy advocacy, events and publications with a good opening rate of c. 30%.

### They Speak about us!

Media coverage of ACE is stable with approximately 25 articles in the European media, in the magazines of ACE Member Organisations and in architectural and political magazines. In 2023, the ACE President was invited to contribute to podcasts (Foundations/ Beyond Architecture) and events/congresses.

## 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.

### — Industry bodies

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

### — 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* (YTAA).

### — Built4People

Built4People (B4P) is a European partnership under Horizon Europe from 2021 to 2027. The partnership aims to catalyse the transition to a people-centric, climate-neutral, sustainable, and smart built environment. Over its 7-year span, B4P will channel nearly €400 millions of EU funding to innovation in the sector and leverage an equivalent amount of private investment. The innovation catalysed will help to ensure that the built environment plays a key role in delivering the European Green Deal, sustaining the ambitious objectives of the Renovation Wave and aligning with the bold aims of the NEB. B4P is a co-programmed partnership in Horizon Europe's Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy and Mobility) and brings together the European Commission and two leading associations, ECTP and the WorldGBC, who together represent thousands of stakeholders and perspectives across the built environment – including the ACE.

## — ECCREDI

ACE has been a member of the European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation since its foundation in 1995. Through ECCREDI, ACE gives feedback on funding calls, representing a key stakeholder in research in the future of the built environment of Europe. Its members are European federations representing the various construction value chain stakeholders; thus, the collaboration enhances the advocacy impact of ACE. ECCREDI evolves its work around six strategic themes concerning (1) zero footprint construction, (2) low maintenance and adaptable buildings, (3) safe and healthy construction, (4) digital construction and industrialisation, (5) education / well-being of our workforce and attracting new talent to the sector, and (6) competitiveness of the sector inside and outside of Europe.

## — European Construction, built environment and energy efficient building Technology Platform

ACE is also a member of the European Construction, built environment and energy efficient building Technology Platform (ECTP). The platform brings together more than 140 Member Organisations from across the construction sector and other sectors from the whole supply chain of the Built Environment. Through ECTP, ACE participates in and supports research agendas and roadmaps used to influence the European Commission agenda. The platform also provides a connection with companies, research institutes and universities across Europe involved in or willing to be involved in European funded projects on research and innovation.







## Political context for 2024

### Council of the EU

In the first half of 2024, Belgium will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU, succeeding Spain. From July 2024, the baton will be passed to Hungary. This trio of Presidencies agreed a common programme, which focuses on:

- *reinforcing the EU's global competitiveness by strengthening the industrial base in line with the accelerated twin green and digital transitions;*
- *ensuring the twin transitions are fair, just and inclusive* by enhancing the social dimension of Europe;
- *strengthening international partnerships, multilateral cooperation and security*, as well as building up an ambitious and balanced trade policy, whilst at the same time defending EU interests more assertively.

[Read the Trio programme.](#)

### Commission's 2024 Work Programme

Just a few months before the 2024 European elections, the new initiatives outlined in the Commission's Work Programme 2024 are limited to those still needed to deliver on the commitments the Commission made when it took office in 2019.

The Commission's priorities for 2024 remain aligned with its Political Guidelines for 2019-2024 and include, among other things:

- *A European Green Deal: launch the process to establish a 2040 climate target, to keep the EU on course towards climate neutrality by 2050;*
- *A Europe Fit for the Digital Age: roll out the SME Relief package (including revision of the late payments Directive); finalise pending proposals on artificial intelligence (AI);*
- *An economy that works for people: advance the proposal to improve business taxation (BEFIT); work with businesses and trade unions to make our labour market more future proof;*
- *A stronger Europe in the world: finalise trade agreements with Australia, Mexico and MERCOSUR; push forward negotiations with India, Indonesia, Singapore and South Korea;*
- *Promoting the European Way of Life: present a blueprint for the future joint European degree, as well as recommendations on quality assurance in higher education;*
- *A new push for European Democracy: implements the Women on Boards Directive, which obliges companies to meet clear targets for director positions by mid-2026.*

[Read the Commission's Work Programme 2024.](#)

## European elections

From 6 to 9 June 2024, the next European elections will take place, leading to the renewal of the European Parliament (705 Members) and the appointment of new Commissioners.

ACE will develop a Manifesto to approach candidates before the elections and incoming MEPs after the elections, as well as new Commissioners and their cabinets. It will underline the importance of:

- **Promoting high-quality architecture and living environment for all;**
- **Advance the highest standards in education and ensure the up-skilling of professionals;**
- **Establish a SME-friendly regulatory framework and support innovation in the sector;**
- **Favour architectural and planning solutions in the built environment.**





### ACE Governance

The Architects' Council of Europe is an International Not-for-Profit Association. It is composed of a General Assembly, an Executive Board and a permanent Secretariat based in Brussels. The General Assembly is composed of a delegation for each Member Organisation.

It is the supreme body and meets twice a year to formulate and adopt the ACE policies and budget. The function of the Executive Board is to execute the policies established by the General Assembly and to ensure the proper administration of the ACE. It is composed of 11 members.

The primary function of the ACE Secretariat is to support the structure of the ACE governance and to be the permanent interlocutor with the European Institutions for the representation of the interests of the ACE.

### ACE Secretariat

- **Ian Pritchard**  
Secretary General
- **Catalina Olteanu**  
Office Manager
- **Pierre Obajtek**  
Senior Policy Officer
- **Julie Deutschmann**  
Head of Communications
- **Dr Veronika Schröpfer**  
Head of EU-funded projects
- **Larissa de Rosso**  
EU-funded Projects Officer
- **Gloria Oddo**  
EU-funded Projects Officer

### Executive Board Members 2022-2023

- **Ruth Schagemann**  
President
- **Fulgencio Avilés Inglés**  
Vice-President
- **Borystaw Czarakczew**  
Treasurer
- **Paul Jeppesen**  
Vice-chair, Finance Committee
- **Dubravko Bačić**  
Coordinator, Access to the Profession
- **Diego Zoppi**  
Coordinator, Practice of the Profession
- **Carl Bäckstrand**  
Coordinator, Achieving Quality in Architecture /Baukultur
- **Selma Harrington**  
Coordinator, Research, Development & Innovation
- **Christos Christodoulou**  
Coordinator, EB Think Tank
- **Daniel Fügenschuh**  
Coordinator, EB Think Tank
- **Rūta Leitanaite**  
Coordinator, EB Think Tank





## What ACE will do for you in 2024

# 2024

### Advocacy

- Publish, in the run up of the next European Parliament elections, a Manifesto to promote *Architecture as a matter of public interest and driver of common good*
- Start to engage with the newly elected MEPs and designated Commissioners
- Contribute to the development of the New European Bauhaus (NEB), calling for greater synergies with the Davos process; support the creation of a new Horizon Mission dedicated to the NEB
- Contribute to the work of the *Davos Baukultur Alliance*
- Feed into the Commission's work for the development of an EU Roadmap to reduce whole life carbon emissions in the building sector
- Support an ambitious transposition of the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) into national law
- Contribute to the EU Commission's work on the rationalisation of reporting requirements stemming from EU legislation
- Monitor developments relating to the SME Relief Package
- Advocate for the development of an EU Directive on the provision of planning services
- Pursue the Mutual Recognition Agreement negotiations (MRA) with FCARM (Mexico)
- Pursue the passage of UK MRA through the TCA MRA Committee
- Prepare for the next up-date of the Professional Qualifications Directive
- Prepare for the next up-date of the Public Procurement Directive

### Events

- Organise a public conference on the Internationalisation of the profession (Spring)
- Organise a public conference on cultural heritage, together with Europa Nostra (Autumn)
- Host an Energy Day during the European Sustainable Energy Week (June)

### Studies / Publications

- Publish a study on Artificial Intelligence
- Publish a study on how architects can occupy more of the value chain
- Produce an up-date of the 2011 study on Architecture Policies in the Europe
- Publish the final report of the ACE Peer Learning Group on Architecture Awards
- Launch the survey for the next edition of the ACE Sector Study

### Development

- Continue Accession Countries' EU alignment programme (Serbia, Montenegro, R.N.Macedonia, Ukraine, Moldova and Kosovo)
- Submit an application for the next Creative Europe Networks programme
- Continue the "Getting closer to Member Organisations" programme, including through the organisation of Presidents' Round Tables
- Launch the new ACE website and develop the mobile app

### Workgroups

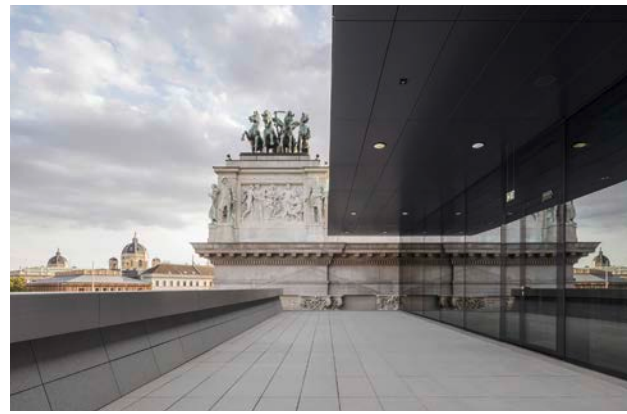
- Continue to support recently created Work Groups and Task-Forces (International task-force; Ukraine task-force; Disaster Relief task-force; EU-Projects Work Group; NEB WorkGroup)
- Maintain meetings of IBM expert task-force

### EU-Funded Projects

- Organise – together with Eurocities – 12 peer learning visits in cities and regions driving high-quality architecture, as part of the Living Spaces project
- Hold CPD Ukraine trainings on Sustainable Development with Heritage (UREHERIT project)
- Release 7 circularity training packs in Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Dutch, English, Hungarian, and Spanish on the BusGoCircular website
- Develop the ARISE e-learning platform including microlearning in BIM and energy efficiency
- Start 2 new projects: SONATA for adaptive architecture for well-being in the work space and HeriTACE for optimising comfort and energy performance in heritage buildings
- Develop ACCORD training material on digital building permits
- Develop CPD, mentoring and educational programme on Circular Design as part of the CiDproject
- Host 6 peer-learning NEBULA webinars on the New European Bauhaus and engage the NEB Advisors community
- Release the Cultural-E guidelines booklet on the design of Plus Energy Buildings
- Host 8 awareness-raising events involving the ARV Climate Positive Circular Communities in Europe
- Contribute to the ARCH-E platform and develop the ARCH-E network of EU architects



**Austrian Parliament, Vienna, Austria**  
Architects: Jabornegg & Pálffy Architects  
Photo: Parlamentsdirektion/Hertha Hurnau



**Parlement autrichien, Vienne, Autriche**  
Architectes : Jabornegg & Pálffy Architects  
Photo : Parlamentsdirektion / Hertha Hurnau

**Amal Amjahid - community facility along the canal in Molenbeek, Brussels, Belgium**  
Architects: &bogdan  
Photo: Corentin Haubruge



**Amal Amjahid - installation communautaire le long du canal à Molenbeek, Bruxelles, Belgique**  
Architectes : &bogdan  
Photo : Corentin Haubruge

**Kloboucka Lesni Headquarters, Brumov-Bylnice, Czechia**  
Architect: Mjolk architekti; Jan Mach, Jan Vondrák, Filip Cerha  
Photo: BoysPlayNice



**Siège de Kloboucka Lesni, Brumov-Bylnice, Tchèque**  
Architectes : Mjolk architekti; Jan Mach, Jan Vondrák, Filip Cerha  
Photo : BoysPlayNice

**Vannkunsten (The Art of Water), Oslo, Norway**  
Architects: Vandkunsten  
Photo: Rasmus Hjortshøy



**Vannkunsten (L'art de l'eau), Oslo, Norvège**  
Architectes : Vandkunsten  
Photo : Rasmus Hjortshøy

**Martta Wendelin Day Care Centre, Tuusula, Finland**  
Architects: AFKS Architects  
Photo: Hannu Rytty



**Centre de jour Martta Wendelin, Tuusula, Finlande**  
Architectes : AFKS Architects  
Photo : Hannu Rytty

**Departmental space of solidarity, Apt, France**  
Architects: APACHE Architectes, PHM Architectes  
Photo: Adria Goula



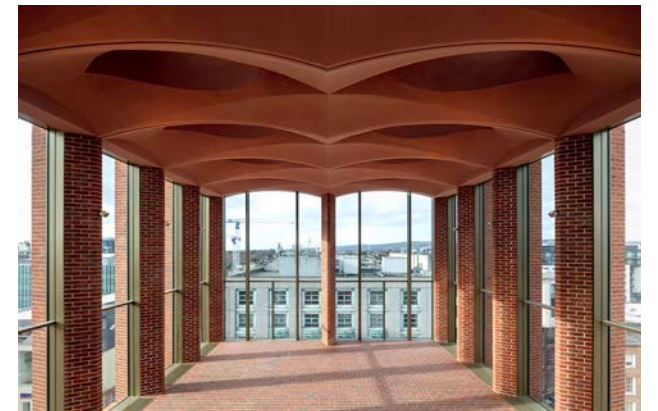
**Espace départemental des solidarités, Apt, France**  
Architectes : APACHE Architectes, PHM Architectes  
Photo : Adria Goula

**Kornversuchsspeicher, Berlin, Germany**  
Architects: AFF Architects  
Photo: Tjark Spille



**Grenier d'expérimentation, Berlin, Allemagne**  
Architectes : AFF Architects  
Photo : Tjark Spille

**The International Rugby Experience, Limerick, Ireland**  
Architects: Niall McLaughlin Architects  
Photo: Nick Kane



**L'expérience internationale du rugby, Limerick, Irlande**  
Architecte : Niall McLaughlin Architects  
Photo : Nick Kane

**Daile Theatre square, Riga, Latvia**  
Architects: MADE arhitekti-Mikēlis Putrāms, Linda Krūmiņa, Māra Starka, Mārtiņš Vaskis, Kristis Lūkins, Liēna Šiliņa, Jēkabs Slava, in cooperation with Evelīna Ozola  
Photo: Ansis Starks



**Place du théâtre Daile, Riga, Lettonie**  
Architectes : MADE arhitekti-Mikēlis Putrāms, Linda Krūmiņa, Māra Starka, Mārtiņš Vaskis, Kristis Lūkins, Liēna Šiliņa, Jēkabs Slava, en collaboration avec Evelīna Ozola  
Photo : Ansis Starks

**Multifunctional hall on lake Zarasai island, Zarasai, Lithuania**  
Architects: Šarūno Kiaunės projektavimo studio  
Photo: Gintarė Marozaitė



**Salle multifonctionnelle sur l'île du lac Zarasai, Zarasai, Lituanie**  
Architectes : Šarūno Kiaunės projektavimo studio  
Photo : Gintarė Marozaitė

## List of Member Organisations



– **Austria**  
Federal Chamber of Civil Engineers BKZT



– **Belgium**  
National Council of the Order of Architects CNOA  
Royal Federation of Belgian Architectural Societies 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

– **Czechia**  
Czech Chamber of Architects CCA



– **Denmark**  
The Architect's Association of Denmark AA  
Danish Association of Architectural Firms DA



– **Estonia**  
Estonian Association of Architects EAL



– **Finland**  
Finnish Association of Architects SAFA  
Association of Finnish Architects' Offices ATL

– **France**  
National Council of the Order of Architects CNOA  
Architectural Union SA  
National Union of French Architects UNSFA



– **Germany**  
Federal Chamber of Architects BAK  
Association of German Architects BDA  
Association of German Master Builders BDB  
Association of Freelance Architects of Germany VFA

– **Greece**  
Association of Qualified Architects SADAS-PEA  
Technical Chamber of Greece TCG



– **Hungary**  
Chamber of Hungarian Architects MEK



– **Ireland**  
Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland RIAI

– **Italy**  
National Council of Architects, Planners,  
Landscape Architects and Conservators CNAPPC

### – Observer Members

Rep of N. Macedonia  
Chamber of Certified Architects  
and Certified Engineers  
**Montenegro**  
Professional Chamber of Architects  
Montenegro IKCG



– **Latvia**  
The Latvia Association of Architects LAA

– **Lithuania**  
Architects Association of Lithuania AAL  
Architects Chamber of Lithuania ACL

– **Luxembourg**  
Order of Architects and Consultant Engineers of the  
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg – Architects Section OAI



– **Malta**  
Malta Chamber of Architects & Civil Engineers, KTP



– **Netherlands**  
Royal Institute of Dutch Architects, BNA  
Bureau Architectenregister, BA

– **Norway**  
Association of Consulting Architects in Norway ACA  
Norwegian Association of Architects NAL  
Norwegian Union of Architects AFAG



– **Poland**  
Polish Chamber of Architects IARP

– **Portugal**  
Order of Architects Portugal OA



– **Romania**  
Architects' Order of Romania OAR



– **Slovakia**  
Slovak Chamber of Architects SKA

– **Slovenia**  
Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning  
of Slovenia ZAPS

– **Spain**  
High Council of the Colleges of Architects  
of Spain CSCAE

– **Sweden**  
Architects Sweden SA  
Federation of Swedish Innovation Companies FSIC

– **Switzerland**  
Swiss Conference of Architects CSA



– **United Kingdom**  
Architects' Registration Board ARB  
Royal Institute of British Architects RIBA

**Serbia**  
Union of Architects of Serbia UAS  
**Turkey**  
Chamber of Architects of Turkey CAT  
**Ukraine**  
National Union of Architects of Ukraine NUAU



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