

Architects' Council of Europe



2012 Annual Report & 2013 Outlook

The Architects' Council of Europe

Photo cover:
SECONDARY SCHOOL.
Rattenberg, Autriche.
Architect: Daniel Fügenschuh.
Photo: Christian Flatscher.

The **Architects' Council of Europe (ACE)** is the representative organisation for the architectural profession at European level.

Founded in Treviso, Italy in May 1990, **ACE** celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2010.

ACE's goal is to influence EU legislation and policies that impact on architectural practice, as well as the overall quality and sustainability of the building environment. Its key objectives are

- to promote the importance of Architecture throughout the EU;
- to advance architectural quality in the built environment;
- to support the sustainable development of the built environment;
- to safeguard the highest standards of qualification for architects;
- to advocate quality in architectural practice;
- to foster cross-border co-operation and facilitate European practice;
- to act as the single voice for architects in Europe

ACE's membership comprises member organisations which are nationally representative regulatory and professional bodies in the EU Member States, the Accession Countries and other European countries that enjoy a special status. Through them, the **ACE** represents the interests of around 545,000 architects.

The working structure of **ACE** has been developed in such a way as to maintain a high level of effectiveness within the realm of European architectural and professional policy-making.

OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL.
Romania.
Architect: Tofan Bogdan.
Photo: Serban Mestecaneanu.

Acknowledgements

The **ACE** acknowledges all the persons who have worked so hard these last two years and contributed to establish contacts, which allow the **ACE** to progress and realize its working objectives. Those persons include the current President, Selma Harrington, the Members of the Executive Board for 2010-2011 who were Lionel Dunet, Wolfgang Haack, Konstantinos Belibassakis, Pawel Kobylanski, Pierre-Henri Schmutz, Nicholas Galabov, Mauro Latini, Christos Savva and Michel de Keyser, as well as all the Chairs of the **ACE** Work Group who were Ferenc Makovenyi, Toal O'Muiré, Michel Procès, John Graby, Thomas Maibaum, Philip Ridgway, Thomas Haas, Antonio Borghi, Teresa Taboas and the chairs who are also members of the EB and who have already been mentioned.

2012 Annual Report & 2013 Outlook

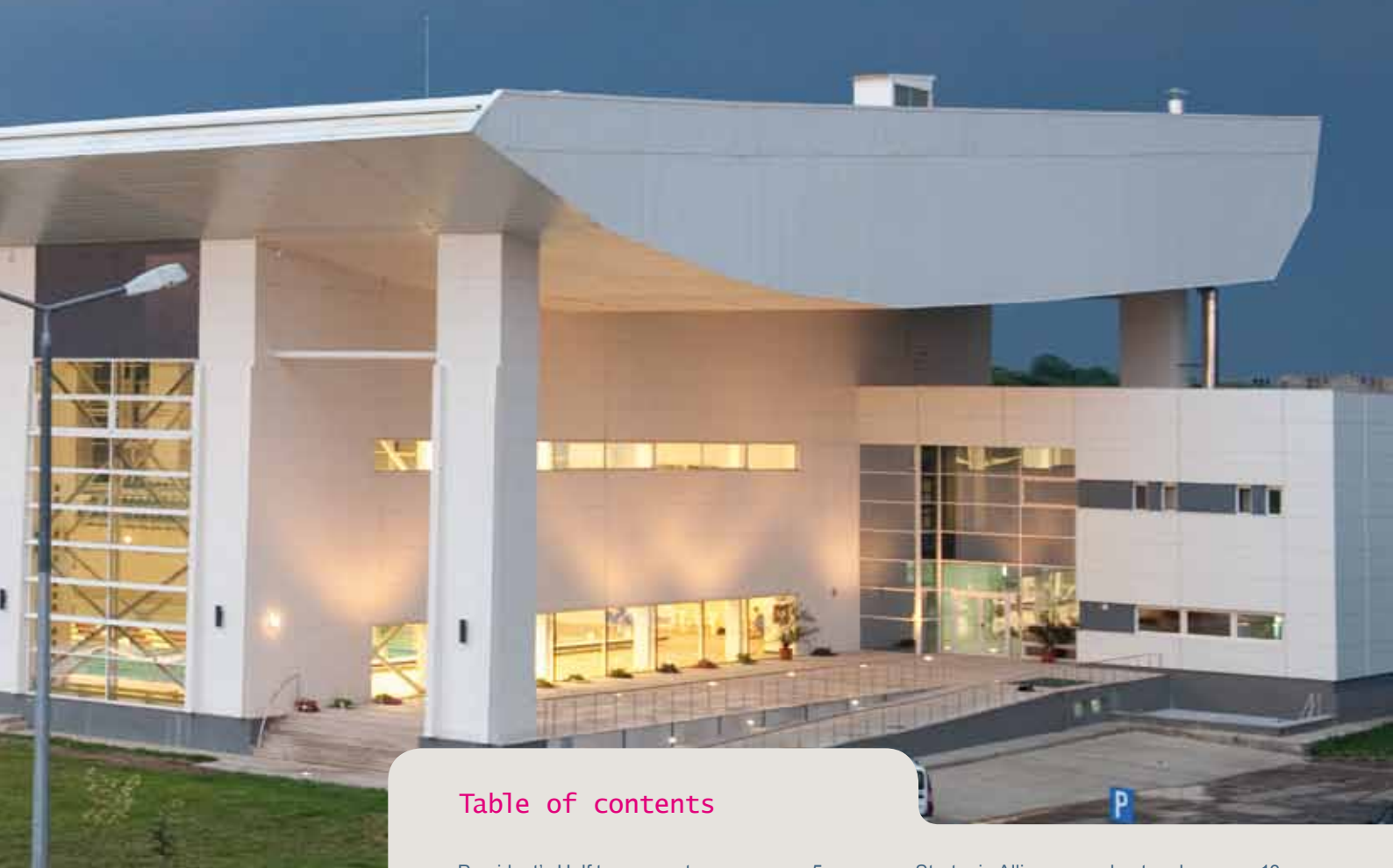


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PASSERELLE VALMY LA DÉFENSE.
Paris, France.

Architect and photo:
Dietmar Feichtinger Architectes.





President's Half-term report

Selma Harrington *MRIAI Hon AIA*

In pursuit of the aims of my “Review, Resource, Re-imagine” manifesto, in 2012 I focused on:

EU Partnership working – I worked closely with DG Environment to develop the 12th European Forum on Eco-Innovation – “Scaling-up sustainable construction through value-chain innovation” in Amsterdam, in conjunction with the April General Assembly. Subsequent recommendations called for: the creation of an EU Roundtable for Responsible Building; sustainable procurement based on life-cycle assessment of buildings; optimal use of resources; information from manufacturers on the environmental performance of products; mechanisms to reduce the risks of eco-innovation and informing the public how to value their buildings.

Later in the year, we worked with DG Enterprise and held a Colloquium in reaction to their Construction 2020 Strategy which led to an invitation to join the High-level tri-partite group overseeing the implementation of the Action plan and the opportunity to nominate representatives to the five thematic groups that will develop different aspects of the strategy.

Strategic development – we held a facilitated workshop in Sofia for our Thematic Area 3 work groups – Environment & Sustainable Architecture, Urban Issues and Housing, followed by a facilitated Communications workshop in Dublin. We also commissioned the third edition of the Sector Study.

Networks – we reviewed a number of our external networks (EAAE, ECIA, EFAP), renewing commitment but simplifying interactions and support structures where possible.

International representation – I represented ACE at a number of international meetings e.g. in Tangiers where I signed a joint declaration with representatives of FPAA, ARCASIA and AUA. I also attended the international Presidents’ meeting at the AIA Convention in Washington, the Venice Biennale and an international practice conference hosted by the Russian Union of Architects in Moscow.

Membership & working structure – to maintain membership levels we continue to operate modestly to avoid budget increases, assisting those in difficulty through the Solidarity fund. We have made greater use of telephone conferences to reduce travel costs and have rationalised Work Group meetings where feasible.

Closer engagement with Member Organisations – we have sought closer involvement of our Member Organisations in certain aspects of lobbying. We try to accept invitations to attend meetings in MOs where possible and are developing a schedule of visits by President, Board Members and the Secretary General.

In response to the initiative to give more voice to the members, the ACE will provide a dedicated platform to national delegates to share experiences and exchange views at our Spring 2013 General Assembly which is coinciding with the Irish Presidency of the EU. We are also planning to introduce meetings of national Presidents.

Externally funded projects – a number of these have come to fruition recently and the EB intends to review these before deciding whether to support others.

As I reach the half way point, I realize there is still much more to be done, and notwithstanding the enduring economic pressures, I hope very much that members will continue to actively support the work of the ACE structure, giving advice and contributing to the advancement of our profession at EU level.

HOUSING.
Paris, France.
Architect:
Dietmar Feichtinger Architectes.
Photo: David Bourau.





Report of the Secretary General

Ian Pritchard

I have been asked to :

- provide information to Executive Board/work groups to formulate policy proposals;
- develop relations with Member Organisations and their representatives;
- identify other sources of information e.g. through external networks;
- organise cycle of statutory meetings: Board, Co-ordination, General Assembly;
- provide monthly oversight of accounts, manage the budget and sign off payments;
- lead, motivate, manage & supervise the team of staff;
- undertake additional projects e.g. Annual Report, Business Plan

Legislative programme

The Single Market Act II marked the 20th anniversary of the European Single Market. Four Directives directly affecting the architectural profession are undergoing modernisation or review: the Professional Qualifications Directive and the Public Procurement Directive, were major items on our agenda in 2012 and will be concluded during the first half of 2013. The Energy Efficiency Directive was adopted in the autumn of 2012 and our focus will move to the implementation phase running to mid-2014. Finally, the evaluation of the impact of the Services Directive will require on-going monitoring in 2013.

Advocacy

ACE facilitates the development of common positions by its Member Organisations and promotes these to European Commission officials, Parliamentary rapporteurs etc. But it is vital that Members provide timely support for our advocacy by lobbying those with whom they may have privileged relations e.g. their own MEPs (particularly those who are members of the Internal Market Committee, IMCO), Permanent Representations and National Coordinators.

Support for work groups

In spite of limited human resources, we have prioritised support for our expert work groups. The Secretary General (or other staff member when not available) attends all meetings and assists with documentation, minutes, surveys, and reports and recommendations.

Networking

ACE works closely, on policy matters, with Club Profile, the Sectoral Professions, European Construction Forum and European Services Forum and with other consortia on EU projects.

International Relations

The Secretary General attended the UIA Region I Presidents' meeting (Strasbourg) and the UIA Work Group Directors meeting (Paris) in support of rationalising our work groups and avoiding duplication. He also attended the UIA Professional Practice Commission (Tangiers) and hosted a meeting with a Canadian delegation on MRA talks likely to conclude in 2013.

Relations with Member Organisations

In 2012, the Secretary General visited half of the EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the UK) – some several times. It is hoped to get around others in 2013.

Construction 2020

Following the publication of the Commission's Construction 2020 strategy, ACE began a reflection on this subject, linking its objectives to the future of our own profession (Architect 2020), paving the way for closer engagement with DG Enterprise.

URBAN VILLAS.
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.
Malmö, Sweden.

Architects:
Cord Sigel, Pontus Aqvist.

Photo: UrbanaVillor.





Access to the profession (Thematic Area 1):

Coordinator: Wolfgang Haack

Professional Qualifications Directive (Toal O'Muiré/Wolfgang Haack)

The PQD is a cornerstone of the architectural profession's regulation in Europe and sets the conditions under which migrating professionals have their qualifications recognised in other EU Member States. Maintaining automatic recognition of qualifications and revising the minimum training requirements are ACE's key objectives in this area.

Following publication of the Rapporteur's report in July, ACE had frequent meetings with the Commission to discuss a possible change in the COM policy proposal, to reflect opposition to the introduction of practical training requirements by Denmark, Finland, Spain and Sweden (with support from Greece and Hungary, a blocking minority). The result of this would be to change the duration of the education/training options from 5 years + 1 year/or 4 years + 2 years – to 5+0 or 4+2, with the Commission apparently failing to understand that practical training is not designed to compensate for shorter periods of academic education (but is additional/complementary). To assist comprehension, ACE submitted a paper on practical training. However, Commission officials have indicated that if agreement is not reached on the practical training, then the idea may be dropped altogether.

While the Commission is keen that practical training should be supervised (though seems to have dropped earlier insistence that it should be remunerated), ACE has stressed that a harmonised curriculum is not feasible and that the training should be defined at national level. Although ACE has given examples of the likely negative consequences of introducing Partial Access, the Commission is not convinced that architects should be exempted.

Although ACE has contacted Rapporteur Vergnaud, and Shadow-Rapporteurs Le Grip, Turunen and Busoi directly, it needs to be able to count on the Member Organisations to contact their own Parlia-

mentarians/members of IMCO, in order to advance ACE's position – and also with regard to the EU Council, which is not within its immediate sphere of influence. Here, the Member States are the actors and ACE's role is to alert MOs to the issues/risks and furnish them with suitable arguments and materials with which to lobby.

Work groups

The legislative proposal described above gave rise to a need to re-instate two new work groups in 2012 – on **Professional Practical Experience (PPE+2)** and **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** (chairman, Michel Procès) - to develop work in these areas. Initial work on developing a definition of PPE provided the basis for extracting a short political paper to append to our response to the modernisation of the PQD. The CPD group has been working with UIA to define common guidelines for national CPD systems,

The **Regulatory Questions & Issues group** (chairman, John Graby) continued to assess the deregulatory impact of cases of the European Court of Justice on the architectural profession, as well as reviewing a report on Reserves of Function, examining the review of the Italian professions and following the evaluation of the implementation of the Services Directive.

Meanwhile, the **Accreditation & Validation** work group's report is expected to be completed and submitted to the first General Assembly of 2013. This is intended to describe systems in place in the Member States for determining which "access to market" qualifications should be notified to the Commission (and develop best practice recommendations).

Finally, arrangements for ACE/EAAE interactions through the **Joint Working Party** were simplified and replaced with annual meetings at senior Board level.



VAL-SAINT-LAMBERT.
Seraing, Belgium.
Architect: Dethier Architectures.
Photo: Serge Brison.

Practice of the Profession (Thematic Area 2): Coordinators (vacant) : Pierre-Henri Schmutz and Pawel Kobylanski

Public Procurement (*Thomas Maibaum*)

The European Commission published its legislative proposal to modernise the EU Public Procurement Directive in December 2011 - one of 12 priority actions set out in the Single Market Act. It aims to introduce simple, flexible instruments to allow public authorities to conclude transparent and competitive contracts easily and at the best value for money. Throughout the legislative process that ensued, ACE has stressed the importance of avoiding measures that exclude 90% of the architects from public contracts (NB. small offices unable to meet the high financial requirements associated with submitting a tender).

In its response to the legislative proposal and rapporteur's report, ACE's submission seeks to:

- facilitate participation of architectural firms (mostly SMEs) in public procurement;
- promote selection procedures and award criteria based on quality;
- ensure that the specific nature of intellectual services is taken into account.

SMEs: ACE advocates simplifying administrative demands and opposes setting turnover requirements for architectural service providers at three times the estimated contract value.

Choice of procedures: ACE recommends the inclusion of the competitive procedure with negotiation and/or the design contest as standard approaches, given the unsuitability of electronic auctions. ACE calls for more disaggregation and opposes centralized procurement and framework agreements which exclude SMEs/young architects from the market.

Contract awarding criteria: ACE welcomes the substitution of "lowest price" with "lowest cost" (including life-cycle assessment) but regrets that authorities may award on either basis, calling for intellectual services to be based only on "economically most advantageous tender"

Adoption of the revised Directive is one of the Irish Presidency priorities in 2013.

Scope of Service (*Philip Ridgway*)

To better understand core services provided by EU architects, the work group launched a survey which identified many similarities, but also some significant differences (and some less obvious ones, because of the subtleties/complexities of local practices). A series of national studies was also initiated, to explain the architect's role in projects in different parts of Europe, using the CEN/TC 395 headings ("Engineering Services"). It explores core areas of work for architects throughout Europe, explaining how projects are dealt with in different countries, referring to three different project types: a family house, apartments and school building.

Insurance (*Pawel Kobylanski*)

There are 27 different insurance systems in the EU and no reference model, though some similarities have been noted. The work group aims to develop a system to cover the profession across the EU that excludes joint and several liabilities and insures all stakeholders against loss.

Trade in Services (*Ian Pritchard*)

There has been encouraging progress in 2012 at political level and the Canada-Europe Trade Agreement (CETA) is likely to be concluded in early 2013. Meanwhile, talks between ACE and the Canadian Architectural Licensing Authority (CALA) proceeded positively, and at the end of 2012, the ACE Assembly approved the broad content of an agreement. ACE has been able to work closely with DG Trade and DG Markt in this area.



Architecture & Quality of Life (Thematic Area 3):

Coordinator: Nicholas Galabov

Energy Efficiency Directive (*Thomas Haas*)

The level of ambition of the Energy Efficiency Directive, adopted in October 2012, was disappointing, with ACE and others observing fearing Europe will not now meet its pledge to reduce carbon emissions by 20% by 2020. ACE's submission highlighted the

- need for consistent development and qualification programmes for all stakeholders in the Energy Efficiency value-chain;
- importance of contextualizing, customizing and planning energy saving measurements for retro-fitting and renovating existing buildings, and preserving the independence, transparency and traceability of energy audits;
- necessity to consider energy efficiency within an holistic approach.

The EED offers an opportunity to create new jobs in the construction sector, particularly in renovation. However, the level of ambition now depends on the manner of implementation by Member States and ACE will be counting on its Member Organisations to encourage national Governments to establish new strategies to enhance the construction sector and mobilise retro-fitting investments. ACE will also stress that energy efficiency needs to be considered as part of an holistic approach which includes more than the single building, connecting it to the wider architectural context and users. Each Member State will be obliged to set an indicative national energy efficiency target and by 30 June 2014 the Commission will assess progress.

Work groups

A TA3 facilitated workshop was held in Sofia in May 2012 with a view to re-energising the groups, revising their terms of reference and re-confirming objectives. In particular the

- Environment & Sustainable Architecture (ESA) work group was asked to publish guidance on the potential role of Architects in relation to the Energy Performance of Buildings and the Energy Efficiency Directives;
- Urban Issues (UI) work group was asked to formulate the architect's role in urban design (to include legal references to the framework, cohesion policy, inter-group etc)
- Housing work group was re-established under the chairmanship of Teresa Taboas and asked to define the architects' role in renovation (retro-fit).

The workshop was held in conjunction with a conference, the main output of which was the Sofia Declaration calling for an integrated, holistic approach to procurement that makes efficient use of resources, provides for community consultations and life-cycle costing.

TA3 will also focus on issues raised by member organisations including retro-fit (CSCAE) and sustainable urban regeneration (CNAPPC).

Urban Issues (*Antonio Borghi*)

In 2012 the WGUI participated in the DG Urban development meeting in Copenhagen and the Member States/Institutions group of the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities, FSC (see separate mail), established cooperation with URBACT and INTERACT, notably through the Building Energy Efficiency Workshops held in July in Paris, and November, in Milan, the URBACT Annual Conference in December in Copenhagen and plans have been made for the forthcoming Conference in January 2013 at the European Parliament, at the invitation of the Urban Intergroup.

Construction 2020

On 30 November, the Deputy-Director General of DG Enterprise addressed the ACE General Assembly to introduce its Construction 2020 strategy. The strategy proposes to

- stimulate investments in renovation and maintenance of buildings
- boost innovation and improve worker's qualifications
- improve resource efficiency and environmental performance
- standardize design codes of practice
- promote the global position of European construction enterprises.

During the course of 2013, TA3 work groups will be invited to develop ACE's response to this objectives identifying, where possible, a role for architects in the delivery of the strategy.



ACE participation in EU-funded projects

The ACE is currently involved in 5 European research projects, funded by the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) and the Innovation and Competitiveness Programme (IEE). These projects are: OPEN HOUSE-, SHELTER, TRAINREBUILD, LEEMA and INSPIRE. All projects are related to the building sector and are addressing issues related to sustainability, energy efficiency and renovation, innovative materials and technologies. Through these projects the ACE is advocating for the architects' role in building sustainability and energy retrofitting. Moreover, the ACE is raising its visibility and recognition by engaging with a wide range of stakeholders in the European Union and participating in important events, conferences and publications.

OPEN HOUSE- FP7 (Jan 2010- June 2013): There are 20 partners in the OPEN HOUSE project. The objective is to develop and to implement a common European building assessment methodology for planning and constructing sustainable buildings. Following the conclusions drawn from the assessment of 67 case studies in 35 countries around Europe, the developed sustainability indicators are currently being evaluated and refined. The project has received a 6-month extension of its contract due to the complexity of the work and an initial underestimation of the time required for certain tasks.

SHELTER- IEE (June 2010- May 2013): There are 10 partners in SHELTER. The project brings together Social Housing Organisations and European Professionals for testing and implementing integrated project delivery methods in energy renovation of Social Housing. In June 2012, in the context of SHELTER, the ACE participated in the organisation of a very successful conference that took place during the EU Sustainable Energy week in Brussels. The conference explored the possibilities of scaling up renovation with innovative thinking, planning and financing. Moreover, the ACE in collaboration with other European Associations (EBC and CECODHAS) produced a set of political recommendations, addressing ways to improve the coordination of professionals involved in energy renovation processes. The main effort of the ACE through these recommendations is to strengthen the role of architects.

TRAINREBUILD- IEE (Jan 2011- Dec 2012): There are 10 partners in Trainrebuild. The project successfully came to an end in Dec. 2012 with a Forum Event that took place in Brussels and which was dedicated to the challenges related to the retrofitting of Heritage buildings. TrainRebuild was targeting owners of residential buildings that were reluctant to undertake energy upgrading of their buildings because of the phenomenon known as the "split incentive". The ACE among other tasks in this project, contributed to the development of training materials addressed to building owners, where technical and financial aspects of residential retrofitting works were presented.

LEEMA- FP7 (Jan 2012- Dec 2015): The objective of the project is to develop a new generation of inorganic insulation materials and building insulation masonry components. The ACE is responsible for the communication activities and the technical coordination of a preliminary Business Plan for the industrial application of the new production processes and the promotion of the developed products in the building sector.

INSPIRE-FP7 (Oct 2012- Sep 2016): The project's aim is to conceive, develop and demonstrate systemic packages for deep energy renovation of buildings. At this early stage of the project there is an effort to gain an understanding of the condition of the building stock across all EU countries and for this purpose a survey is underway. The ACE's responsibility at this point is to provide information about the condition of the building stock in Belgium. The ACE is also responsible for the dissemination of the project's outcomes.

LU88 OFFICE BUILDING.
Administration Centre.
Bratislava, Slovakia.
Architects: Peter Benuska,
Peter Topinka.
Photo: Pato Safko.



Strategic alliances and networks

ACE has developed a unique profile and reputation in the heart of EU officialdom in Brussels, in spite of limitations due to its scale, structure and funding. We have developed relationships with other EU-based or international networks to strengthen the voice of the architectural profession in the EU. Mindful of the growing number of initiatives, all contacts and lines of communication kept under on-going review with a view for potential re-alignment in keeping with the key political priorities.

While we continue to develop contacts with the various Directorates of the European Commission, and with MEPs, if we are to fulfill our ambition to raise the profile and stature of the profession, it is essential for the Member Organisations to take a stronger, more active campaigning role. The recent campaign in relation to the Qualifications Directive clearly illustrates the complexity of making a real impact at the EU level and the need for persistently synchronised actions at national level.

The ACE Executive Board is aware of the value of strategic alliances and continues to engage with partner networks, seeking to refine the effectiveness of our involvement.

EAAE – ACE's co-operation with the network representing architectural education continues, through bi-annual meetings at Presidential level.

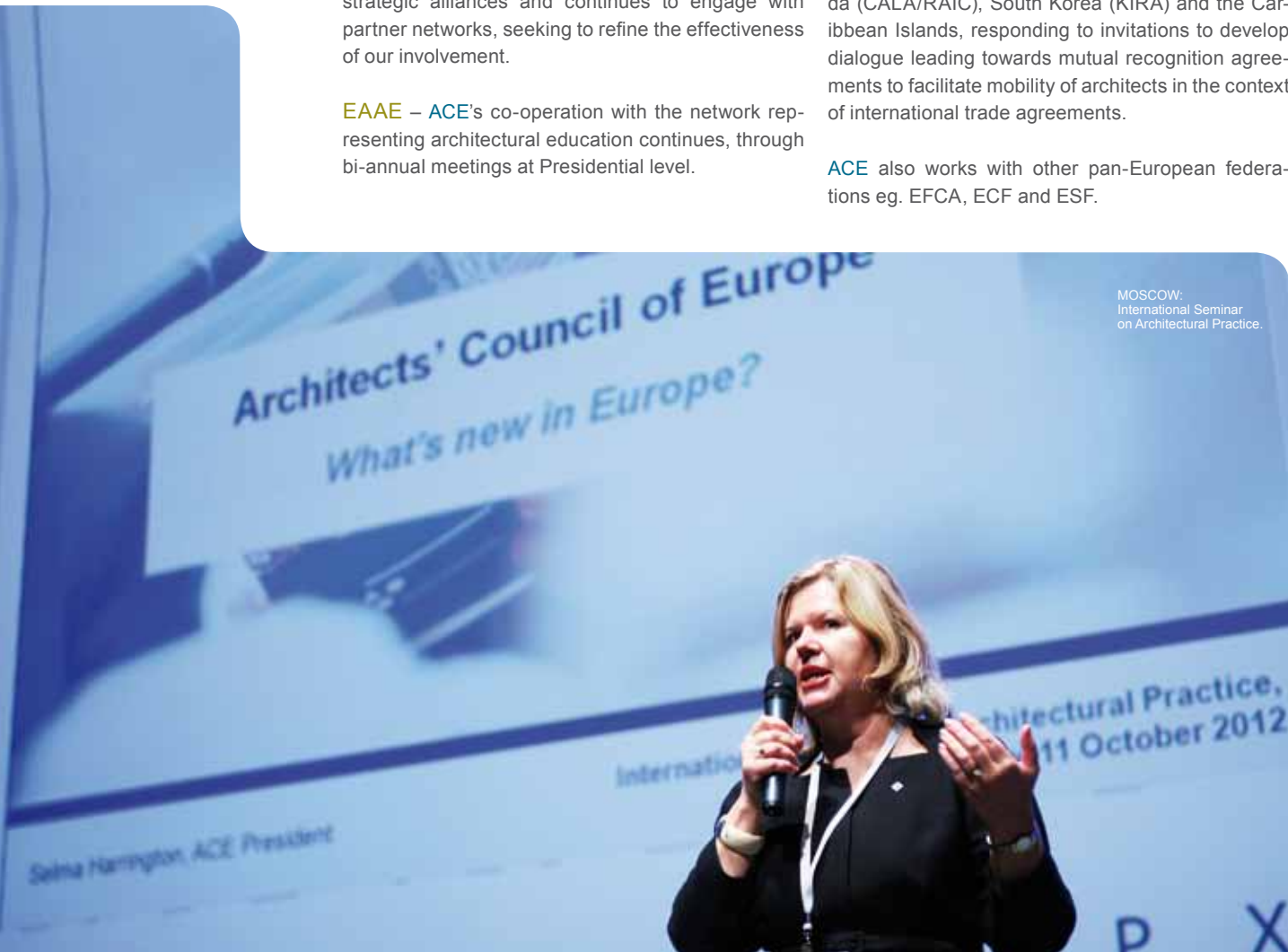
ENACA – we benefit from the involvement of ACE delegates in the European Network of Architects Competent Authorities and we enjoy excellent relations with chair Olga Mihalikova.

EFAP – ACE's relationship with the European Forum for Architecture Policies is channeled through our presence at biannual conferences organised by each EU Presidency and through the presence of ACE Vice-President Lionel Dunet on the EFAP Board. This co-operation is seen as a vehicle to support the formulation of national architectural policies.

UIA – ACE has good relations with the International Union of Architects. We continue to seek ways of rationalising the work groups of ACE and UIA Regions I/II. We also fully support UIA recommendations for developing a model of regional co-operation through international architectural organisations like ARCASIA, AUA, FPAA, MASA and others.

ACE has developed contacts in recent years with registration bodies in the USA (NCARB/AIA), Canada (CALA/RAIC), South Korea (KIRA) and the Caribbean Islands, responding to invitations to develop dialogue leading towards mutual recognition agreements to facilitate mobility of architects in the context of international trade agreements.

ACE also works with other pan-European federations eg. EFCA, ECF and ESF.



MOSCOW:
International Seminar
on Architectural Practice.



Financial out-turn for 2012

EXPENDITURE

Premises	45.039 €
Maintenance	10.044 €
Office supplies and services	10.389 €
Professional fees	32.121 €
Executive Board expenses	66.691 €
Communications	7.167 €
Motor vehicle expenses	7.862 €
ACE meeting expenses	56.174 €
Staff costs	351.148 €
Other operating expenses	947 €
Finance expenses	1.579 €
Projects	44.662 €
Depreciation	3.338 €

TOTAL EXPENSES

637.161 €

INCOME

Activities	122.115 €
Subscription members	628.621 €
Recovered expenses	4.421 €
Financial income	5.186 €
Other income	

TOTAL INCOME

760.343 €

AG.
Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
April 2012.





CITY BUSINESS CENTRE.
Timisoara, Romania.

Architect:
Andrescu & Gaivoronschi srl;
Vlad Gaivoronschi,
Dan M. Munteanu.

Photo: Ovidiu Micsa.

Objectives and priorities for 2013

The Irish Presidency will focus on only two Directives, both of crucial importance to ACE:

- new Directive 2005/36/EC on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications;
- new Directive on Public Procurement.

Integrity of architectural education & qualification

Qualifications Directive impacts on the education of architects and the pre-license professional practice experience required in most Member States. ACE hopes that the modernisation of the Directive will result in a standard for cross-border mobility that is closer to the national/international one – important for negotiating mutual recognition agreements with 3rd countries. The “5+2” campaign intensified in 2012, energizing some Members, reaching MEPs, Commission officials, National Coordinators - demonstrating the complexity of ambition to advocate and promote the unified position of architects at every level.

Public Procurement and access to work

Key challenges for the profession relate to small and medium size practices, access to publicly funded work and removing obstacles to the use of quality based selection criteria. For the voice of architects to be heard, it will be necessary to mobilise Member Organisations to carry out joint campaigns at national/EU level. The new Procurement Directive offers an opportunity to erase some long-standing anomalies which excluded SMEs from markets. Related issues include Green Procurement and access to third country markets.

Services in the Internal Market Directive

ACE will continue to monitor the evaluation of the Services Directive. The Commission is assessing: the economic impact of the Directive; whether barriers to cross-border movement have been removed or the regulatory environment streamlined; and the impact of the Points of Single Contact, requirements limiting company structures or shareholding in companies. ACE will remain vigilant for voluntary convergence opportunities and define a core scope of service, which will inform our work on Liability & Insurance, as we develop a policy to provide cover for such a core service, particularly in the context of cross-border provision.

Trade in Services

In early 2013, the EU expects to conclude the Canada-Europe Trade Agreement, including ambitious commitments in the area of professional services. DG Trade is aware of ACE's work on Mutual Recognition Agreements with third countries, and has put the architects to the fore, as a spearhead project. The agreement we are close to concluding with the Canadian Architectural Licensing Authority is likely to be put forward as the first professional MRA of its kind, and should pave the way for other agreements (e.g. with South Korea and Singapore).

The Role of the Architect

While the profession assumes its role in society and the economy to be a vital one, it has not always found ways to effectively demonstrate this. There are no easy answers, but we believe that the work area Architecture & Quality of Life is of a strategic and long-term nature and it potentially can fulfill the need for an intellectual discourse beyond the mechanics of legal and administrative language, notwithstanding our mission to engage with EU legislators.

ACE response to Construction 2020 Strategy

The strategy rests on five pillars of activity: finance, skills, research, rehabilitation and global competitiveness. ACE will continue to consider how architects can best contribute to the achievement of this strategy, with particular emphasis on

- retro-fit and urban rehabilitation (NB. ACE work groups on Environment & Sustainable Architecture, Urban Issues and Housing; the architect's role can in relation to the implementation of Directive 2012/27/EU on Energy Efficiency;
- research (largely through our involvement in EU-funded FP6 and FP7 projects);
- global competitiveness (Trade in Services, Mutual Recognition Agreements, work on international standards)

Energy Efficiency Directive – implementation

Although the EED has now been approved, it is important, during the implementation phase (to mid-2014) that Member Organisations remain close to their national legislators and seek to influence the level of ambition contained in national energy efficiency targets.



Externally-funded projects

These provide opportunities for direct participation by Member Organisations, as well as for CPD and advancing the role of architects. Dedicated experts have successfully represented the ACE in the past, but we also need to articulate ways of engaging our work groups with the legislative agenda. We need to make connections with aspects of place-making, the cultural and historic contexts and the quality of the built environment for which architects are responsible, so that we can take an active role in making legislation work better for all. We will establish a taskforce to review our involvement to date and in for the future.

Communications

ACE will continue its Communications review into 2013. In 2012 we already started work on

- templates, to capture and present policy positions more succinctly;
- templates for mission reports, to facilitate reporting back on external representations;
- new, more modern formats for newsletters, alerts and press releases

This has led us to start reviewing our Contact Management System to move towards an “open source” approach to a refreshed website which we can be more easily up-dated.

We are planning a **programme of visits to Member Organisations** (by the President, Board Members and the Secretary General) and considering the introduction of an annual or bi-annual meeting of Presidents, with national correspondents, in order to better understand how our activities may be of benefit to member organisations and increase awareness.

Strategic Development

We will pursue our Strategic Development and arrange further facilitated Board workshops, following the success of earlier ones. We will also establish a group to engage in strategic thinking about the future of the profession.

Budget

Confining the proposed budget uplift to 1% for 2013, following 4 years of cuts/standstill, we will continue to operate modestly and containing costs. We have

rationalised the meeting programme to best advantage, encouraging work groups to meet in Brussels where possible so that they may be properly supported by the Secretariat without requiring additional travel.

While we have decided not to embark on a wholesale re-structuring of the work groups at this stage, we are considering trying to re-organise our Access to the Profession work on a broader basis by inviting all current work groups to joint TA1 meetings. Given linkages between the subject areas, we hope it will allow Member Organisations to rationalise their representation and cover a broader range of subjects, thereby facilitating participation by organisations with constrained budgets.



Structure of ACE (governance, membership)

The **Architects' Council of Europe** is an international, not-for-profit association composed of the national, architectural registration bodies and professional associations. It consists of

- a General Assembly
- an Executive Board
- a Finance Committee
- work groups, configured in three thematic areas and
- a permanent Secretariat established in Brussels.

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

The function of the **Executive Board** is to execute policies formulated by the General Assembly and to ensure the proper administration of **ACE**. The Executive Board is composed of 11 Members, 6 of whom are elected by the General Assembly (including the President) for a two year term, with the balance consisting of 5 persons from the Member Organisations (nominated in accordance with an established rotation) also serving for a two-year term of office that alternates with the elections to ensure continuity from one Board to the next.

The **Finance Committee's** function is to advise the General Assembly and Executive Board on all matters relating to the financial management of the **ACE**. The Committee is composed of one Delegation from each EU Member State and only one member of each Delegation attends. Where countries have multiple Member Organisations, it is for those organisations to co-ordinate and decide, at national level, which member from that State will attend.

The **Work groups** undertake technical work involved in the execution of tasks assigned to them by the Executive Board, often related to the development of specific policy positions. Work Groups is composed of expert nominees from the Member Organisations, whose work represents the lifeblood of **ACE** and informs its policy positions and advocacy.

ACE's work is organized into three thematic areas (including the following groups):

- **Access to the Profession** (education, Qualifications Directive, accreditation & validation, professional practice experience, Continuing Professional Development);
- **Practice of the Profession & Trade in Services** (the Services Directive, Insurance, Public Procurement Directive, Scope of Services, Trade in Services);
- **Architecture & Quality of Life** (Sustainability, Urban Issues, Housing)

The Secretariat's main function is to be the permanent interlocutor of the EU institutions and to undertake the advocacy work directed at them, on behalf of **ACE** and its members. It is responsible for procuring information on the EU institutions' work for dissemination to the Member Organisations, maintaining accounts and managing **ACE** affairs. It is also charged with the proper and efficient routine administration of **ACE** including the organisation of **ACE** work group meetings in Brussels.

ETVA V.I.P.E.
INDUSTRIAL PARKS
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE.
Lamia, Greece.

Architects: Dima Vassiliki,
Mpasiakou Vassiliki,
Sofia Tsiraki-Biri.

Photo: Vassiliki Dima,
Sofia Tsiraki-Biri.

List of Member Organisations

ACE has 46 Member Organisations in 33 countries.

AUSTRIA	Bundeskammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten BAIK
BELGIUM	Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes CNOA Fédération Royale des Sociétés d'Architectes de Belgique FAB
BULGARIA	Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria CAB Union of Architects in Bulgaria UAB
CROATIA	Croatian Chamber of Architects CCA
CYPRUS	Cyprus Architects Association CAA
CZECH REPUBLIC	Czech Chamber of Architects CCA
DENMARK	Akademisk Arkitektforening AA Danish Association of Architectural Firms DA
ESTONIA	The Union of Estonian Architects UEA
FINLAND	Finnish Association of Architects SAFA
FRANCE	Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes CNOA Syndicat d'Architecture SA Union Nationale des Syndicats Français d'Architectes UNSFA
GERMANY	Bundesarchitektenkammer BAK Bund Deutscher Architekten BDA Bund Deutscher Baumeister Architekten und Ingenieure BDB Vereinigung Freischaffender Architekten VFA
GREECE	Association des Architectes Diplômés SADAS-PEA Chambre Technique de Grèce CTG
HUNGARY	Chamber of Hungarian Architects MEK
IRELAND	Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland RIAI
ITALY	Consiglio Nazionale degli Architetti, Pianificatori, Paesaggisti e Conservatori CNAPPC
LATVIA	The Latvia Association of Architects LAA
LITHUANIA	Architects Association of Lithuania AAL
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	Association of Polish Architects SARP National Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland (IARP)
PORTUGAL	Ordem Dos Arquitectos OA
ROMANIA	Architects' Chamber of Romania OAR
SLOVAKIA	Slovak Chamber of Architects SKA
SLOVENIA	Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia ZAPS
SPAIN	Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España CSCAE
SWEDEN	Sveriges Arkitekter SA
SWITZERLAND	Conférence Suisse des Architectes CSA
TURKEY	Chamber of Architects of Turkey CAT
UNITED KINGDOM	Architect's Registration Board ARB Royal Institute of British Architects RIBA

Observer Members

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Association of Architects in Bosnie and Herzegovina
FYROM	Association of Architects from FYROM – AAM

CENTRE OF ENVIRONMENT
RESOURCES. MUSEUM.
Valladolid. Spain.

Architect: O.D.I. más P. slp;
Julio Grijalba, Paloma Gil,
Alberto Grijalba, Eduardo Carazo,
Victor Ruiz.

Photo: Miguel de Guzmán.





PARK AZUR CNEN EDF-MONTROUGE.
France.
Architect: Prat Gigou Ridgway architectes.

Architects Council of Europe



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