

## EUROPE'S POLICIES FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING

During the 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Assembly in Lisbon, an International Conference was organized with the title: "Changes in Civil Engineering". The theme is very real in Europe as after several years of investments in large infrastructures networks, suddenly, with the economic crisis, the construction industry almost stopped. So it is time to think about what to do about Civil Engineering in Europe and to give some guidelines to the politicians.

Civil Engineering is always associated to public investments, as its goal is to achieve the well-being of the human society from the simple comfort of having water in the tap, till the construction of a 2km span bridge allowing an easy crossing of a large river. Besides public works, Civil Engineering is also associated to private investments mostly corresponding to the building of our homes. All this represents in average more than 10% of the European countries economy and employment.

When governments stop public investments, the economy of the society is affected, leading to a reduction in private investments and automatically civil engineering activity decreases and unemployment increases significantly, reaching the actual crisis in Europe.

In this situation, many of the construction companies, without work in Europe, had only one way to survive: to internationalize, meaning to move to the countries where public investments exist, namely in South America, Africa and Far-East. With them went the engineers, the architects, and in general all the members of the construction cluster. Several European construction companies



Conference "Changes in Civil Engineering"

are presently with incomes above 95 % from the world growing economies, and many small SMEs, which stayed in Europe, went into bankruptcy. Today young civil engineers go working abroad as soon as they finish their graduation. Europe that globally has a lack of engineers, who are the basic force for a new growth of the economy, is sending its civil engineers abroad! This clearly means a policy to increase the difficulties of any economy recuperation.

But does this have to be like that? Has Europe built all its infrastructures and does not need any more? No, it is clearly a short sighted vision of the politicians, because the well-being of our society still needs, and will always need, a lot of public investments in civil engineering.

JF Kennedy during his reign invoked this principle to good effect. The economy operates more efficiently with a smooth infrastructure system but cannot be put in place without investment. Just look at a few examples of what Europe should implement:

**New Infrastructures** – At the end of this century, the energy consumption will increase around 100% (energy

infrastructures needed), each European will travel more than 11000 km per year (trans-European networks needed) with a big increase in air transportation (intermodal systems needed), the temperature will increase around 3°C what leads to drying zones and an increase of the ocean level with bigger waves and frequent hurricanes (water infrastructures and coastal protection needed), people living in cities will increase from 40% to 70% (transport networks for cities needed). This shows that Europe needs urgently to address the strategies to be implemented in infrastructures, like:

- Trans-European Energy Infrastructure;
- Trans-European road and railway links;
- Transports in sustainable European cities;
- Intermodal transportation systems;
- Coastal protection and water infrastructures for climatic changes.

**Infrastructures Maintenance** – Besides building new infrastructures new maintenance strategies to protect the existing struc-

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tures, increasing their service life, or to prevent their rupture in accident situations, should be financed as they bring economy to Europe, associated to:

- reduced costs of maintenance
- reduced need for substitution of infrastructures (or building substitute ones)..

**Building Renovation** – And what about private investments, mainly associated to housing construction. Europe which has low energy resources is leading the way with a target for reduced energy consumption till 2050. But this is impossible to be

achieved without the help of public funding complementing private housing investments. Also here there is a lot of civil engineering to be implemented, associated to:

- Renewal of our homes with new Insulation Systems (façades, roofs, glass, etc.) and installing Monitoring Control Systems
- Implementation of New Renewable energies systems (solar, wind, ocean, river, etc.,)

**Buildings Seismic Protection** - In European Southern countries seismic safety is as important as energy saving, or even more as it may lead

to death of people. A special program should be developed for European southern countries to consider both the seismic and energy aspects in building renovation, towards a safe and functional house.

In conclusion there is still a lot of work to be done in infrastructures and house renovation to prepare Europe for the near future, and for that, public investments are needed! ... And believe it, with those investments the Europe economy will increase again, as J F Kennedy once said!

**Europe must urgently find equilibrium between aus-**

**terity and investment policies to reach a new growth with Civil Engineering being part of it.**

June 2013

Fernando Branco  
ECCE President



## 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE GENERAL MEETING

The **57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting** was held on 30<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013, in Lisbon, Portugal, hosted by the **Ordem dos Engenheiros** (OE). Together with the 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting, the OE/ECCE Conference with the title “**Changes in Civil Engineering**” was also organized with great success.



From left to right: Gorazd Humar - ECCE Immediate Past Pres., Carlos Matias Ramos - OE President, Fernando Branco - ECCE President, Luis Oliveira Santos - College of Civil Engineers Board Member



57th ECCE General Meeting and ECCE/OE Conference “Changes in Civil Engineering” audience

During the 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting a special meeting was organized between the ECCE Executive Board, the President of the Ordem dos Engenheiros and the Japan Society of Civil Engineers that participated for the first time in one of the ECCE Meeting. During this meeting many important issues were discussed regarding the enhancement of the cooperation between the organizations for the benefit of the civil engineering profession. Also, an **Agreement of Cooperation between the Japan Society of Civil Engineers and the European Council of Civil Engineers** was mutually signed.

Another important cooperation between the **European Council of Civil Engineers and the Korean Society of Civil Engineers** was also confirmed during the 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting by the signing of an **Agreement of Cooperation** between the two Associations.

More details and material from the 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting and the Conference “Changes in Civil Engineering” can be found on the [ECCE website](#).



From left to right: ECCE President Fernando Branco, JSCE President Takehiko Ono and ECCE President Elect Włodzimierz Szymczak signing the Agreement of Cooperation between ECCE and the Japan Society of Civil Engineers



From left to right: ECCE President Elect Włodzimierz Szymczak and ECCE President Fernando Branco signing the Agreement of Cooperation between ECCE and the Korean Society of Civil Engineers

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### STANDING COMMITTEE Environment & Sustainability

The Standing Committee Environment and Sustainability (SC E&S) is a renewed old ECCE Standing Committee. After a period of rest and reorganization it has been installed at the 56<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Assembly, 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2012, in Dubrovnik, Croatia. By this ECCE contributed to the many demands of their national members to keep a keen eye on sustainable demands in the built environment.

The SC E&S had its second meeting at the 57<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Assembly, 31 May 2013, in Lisbon, Portugal.

In Dubrovnik Carsten Ahrens (Germany) has been elected as chairman.

In Lisbon George Demetriou (Cyprus) has been elected as vice-chairman.

The main topics of the discussions within these two meetings which have been and still are of actual as well as strategic interest are as follows:

- Platform to becoming an E&S-voice of European civil engineers

- Platform to becoming an information center about E&S-education within Europe
- Water management and scarcity problems within ECCE national member states
- Involvement in EU-programmes concerning energy saving in the built environment

#### E&S platform for civil engineers

Common understanding of sustainability within the group of players in the built environment in Europe is not really existent. Therefore the goal of the SC is to build up such a common platform of understanding. The first step to do so is the collection of the names of the E&S responsible officers within our ECCE member associations. This is on the – stony – way.

Due to the lack of time in Lisbon a proposed kick-off speech of the chairman on “Sustainability and the involvement of every person/civil engineer” had to be postponed, but is still on the agenda.

In addition topics could also be on- and offshore wind power and civil engineering, concentrated solar power and civil engineering, waste management etc.

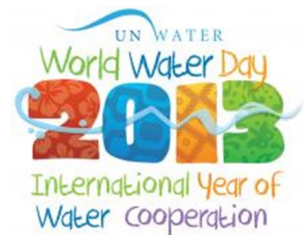
#### E&S center of education

This goal is also on the way, and a lot of data collecting work has to be done. Partly this work may be supported by the Standing Committee Education and Training and by this gives a good opportunity of cooperating between different ECCE SCs.

#### Water management

The year 2013 is the international year of Water Cooperation and a UN World Water Day has been celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013.

The resolution A/RES/65/154 as part of the Millennium Development Goals has been dedicated to “water cooperation, with the aim of raising awareness on the need to increase international cooperation in the field of water and on the challenges currently faced by water management, especially in respect of water access, allocations and services”.



On the European scale actual topics are found and discussed as the result of “opening” the European water market to the public (e.g. “European Parliament resolution of 3 July 2012 on the implementation of EU water legislation, ahead of a necessary overall approach to European water challenges (2011/2297(INI))).

A number of different national water “managers” within Europe tackle this directive and are very critical on it. Some of these have been discussed and addressed also to the general assembly. Even a public European initiative is active (e.g. under [www.right2water.eu](http://www.right2water.eu)).

To give an impression of such actions some of these critics are shown as follows:

## Thessaloniki Citizens' Initiative 136 together with other groups bid for water company

Monday, May 13, 2013



## German water workers concerned about future of water services

Friday, May 17, 2013



## Reggio Emilia city towards re-municipalisation of water

Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, the City Council of Reggio Emilia has approved a statement that brings the Emilian town near the re-municipalisation of the water service and represents another example for the rest of Italy.



Leaving this general pan-European critical path the vice-chairman G. Demetriou gave an interesting paper on water management, which is not only relevant for Cyprus, but for a number of countries especially around the Mediterranean Sea:

European Council of Civil Engineers

United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation 2013

**Water management**  
**Non-Revenue Water Reduction Management -**  
**(Drought climates and the case of Nicosia, Cyprus)**  
57th ECCE General Meeting – SC Environment and Sustainability  
in Lisbon, Portugal

31 May - 1 June, 2013  
George Demetriou  
Cyprus Council of Civil engineers

WATERLOSS

### Strategic approach

**Basis of actions followed:**  
IWA - Water loss task force and Waterloss-Med program - guiding lines. [www.waterloss-project.eu](http://www.waterloss-project.eu)  
(Partners: Greece, France, Cyprus, Spain, Italy, Slovenia)

Examine the cause and the effect of each Non-Revenue water component



The paper also gave an outlook to possibly start a bid for a European project (see [www.waterloss-project.de](http://www.waterloss-project.de)).

### Cooperation within CiT-INZEB Project

Just in time for learning how to make a bid for a European project, ECCE and, by this, the SC E&S has been asked by pan-European consortium to participate in the CiT-INZEB project (the respective logos or descriptions are seen below). The proposal has been signed by the ECCE-president F. Branco. If the bid is successful ECCE

will participate as an observer without any financial obligations.

The project is involving different stakeholders of the chain of value of the residential building sector, from local governments to institutions as experts in the energy area. The coordinator is the [City of Coruña, Spain](http://www.cityofcoruna.es).

Carsten Ahrens  
Chairman of SC E&S

**Call for proposals 2013 INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE**  
**Title: CITIES TOWARDS NEAR ZERO ENERGY BUILDINGS**

**Promotion of energy refurbishment of existing residential buildings of European intermediate cities towards NZEB**



Prof. Carsten Ahrens  
Chairman of SC E&S

## NEWS FROM EU & OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

### ECF Breakfast Briefing

The European Construction Forum (ECF) is organizing a Breakfast Briefing regarding the follow up of the "Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its Enterprises" – COM (2012) 433 at the European Parliament on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013. MEP Reinhard Butikofer will participate in the event as EC rapporteur. The possible topics of debate will be the following:

- Construction is not part of the problem, but part of the solution for practically all global challenges: energy efficiency/ production/ distribution, resource efficiency/ recycling, infrastructure, climate change mitigation/ adaptation
- Construction is also a job machine, mainly for local jobs in both SMEs and larger firms
- coordinate efforts at all levels of EU and national governments in order to implement coherent and balanced policies and legislation based on a level playing field between public and private actors as well as between the EU and third countries
- despite the need to reduce public debt, to ensure that the necessary investments are made, in accordance with political decisions
- ensure coherence between policy decisions and consequent investment decisions, even if this requires punctual exemptions from stability pact principles
- ensure that enterprises and citizens have access to credit for such investments, despite the stricter prudential rules of "Basel 3" and "Solvency 2"
- unacceptable that cheap ECB money does not really reach the real economy.

ECFE which is an ECF Member will be represented by Mr. Karlheinz Zachmann.

Also, note that the new ECF website was launched last

week on the same URL as the previous one [www.ecf.be](http://www.ecf.be).

### Workshop Regulating access to professions: national perspectives

The Workshop Regulating access to professions: national perspectives was held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013, in Brussels. ECCE President, Prof. Fernando Branco, participated in this workshop on behalf of ECCE.

The purpose of this workshop was to invite stakeholders to have an exchange on the different approaches to the regulation of professions across the EU and the ongoing reforms in this area.

Pierre DELSAUX, Deputy Director General, Directorate General Internal Market and Services, European Commission made the opening speech of the workshop. Two panel discussions were held on "The regulation of professions in Member States" and on "Recent reforms in Member States". Following this, 3 parallel sessions on the regulation of selected professions took place (Engineers, Craft Professions, and Social Workers). The closing address was made by Claire BURY, Director, Directorate General Internal Market and Services, European Commission.

ECCE President reported that there was no discussion about the Directive on Professional Recognition and only England and France showed some concern about international recognition of professionals. Countries just presented their own situation related to regulated or non-regulated professions, something that ECCE already knows well for Civil Engineers, corresponding to a large variety of systems across European countries.

The final agenda and all presentations are now available [here](http://www.ecf.be).

The recording of the workshop can be found [here](http://www.ecf.be).

### CEPMC changed to CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS EUROPE

During the General Assembly of the Council of European Producers of Materials for Construction (CEPMC) that was held in Brussels on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> of June the new name and logo of CEPMC which has changed to Construction Products Europe was approved. The changes that have occurred to this association can be found in their new [website](http://www.constructionproducts.eu).



### Monday 24 June to Friday 28 June: EU Sustainable Energy Week 2013

The news:

Sustainable energy is at the heart of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. To underline the importance of moving towards more energy efficiency and renewables, the European Commission (DG Energy and EACI, Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation) organizes the eighth edition of the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels.

The background:

This year's main theme is 'Financing and Sustainable Energy'. At the center of the discussions is the role the private sector can play as an important source of financing and how public funds available at national and European level can be used in the most efficient way. The agenda will include presentations of best financing practices and a debate on how to improve regulatory frameworks. Once more, the EU Sustainable Energy Week will be an excellent opportunity to raise

awareness, engage in discussions, present and promote the latest and most innovative sustainable energy technologies.

The event:

At the core of the week is a high-level policy conference from 25 to 27 June, with more than 40 different sessions taking place in the European Commission's Charlemagne building and in the Committee of the Regions.

On 24 June, EU Energy Commissioner Oettinger will open the Week at the prestigious Sustainable Energy Europe and ManagEnergy Awards Ceremony, which will take place at the Viage Theatre in Galerie Anspach. The Commissioner and Member of European Parliament Maria Da Graça Carvalho will award six prizes: five to the winners of the Sustainable Energy Europe Awards (categories: Communicating, Consuming, Learning, Living and Travelling) and one to the winner of the ManagEnergy Award, recognising the best practice in local and regional energy action.

In parallel and during the whole week, hundreds of events and activities related to sustainable energy will take place in around forty countries in Europe and beyond, not only in capitals but also in towns and villages. These will include interesting exhibitions and workshops and will show how small businesses and households can contribute to the collective energy efficiency effort.

### Thematic Group (TG) 1: Stimulating investment in buildings' renovation and innovation

The first meeting of the Thematic Group (TG) 1 on "Stimulating investment in building's renovation and innovation" was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013, in Brussels.

The European Commission considers building renovation

and innovation as the key topics to be addressed by the Action Plan. However, some members of the High Level Forum highlighted the importance to them of adding also infrastructure, especially within the context of the Cohesion policy 2014-2020. Therefore, it was decided that the TG 1 will embrace all three aspects – Renovation, Innovation and Infrastructure and will cope with this diversity by breaking up the group into 3 sub-groups.

The work that has already been carried forward in the past was acknowledged yet an overall strategy is still missing. Therefore, Thematic Group 1 could contribute by having a look at bridging the gaps and connecting the existing recommendations.

ECCE President prepared and sent to Brussels comments on the report of the first meeting of TG 1.

### The European Cement Industry - A Strategic Contributor to Europe's Future

The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) published a study on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013, commissioned by CEMBU-REAU, the European cement association, which outlines the competitiveness of the cement industry in Europe and its role in helping Europe to achieve its goals of developing a sustainable, resource efficient and innovative society.

The report highlights that the European cement and concrete industry contributes to the economy with a total production value of €74 billion, a value added of €22 billion as well as ~366 thousand jobs<sup>1</sup>. It also underlines the fact that the industry plays a vital role in generating growth, particularly given that investment in infrastructure has one of the highest multiplier effects on the economy as it can duplicate the initial spending over several quarters, and triplicate it over a period of 20 years.

The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

### What is the European Professional Card?

The European professional card is a project aimed to facilitate the free movement of professionals in the EU under a possible future modernization of the Professional Qualifications Directive. The implementation of the project has been subject to discussions within a special group established for the purpose – "Steering Group on the professional card".

The card should simplify the administrative procedure for recognition, make it more transparent for citizens and increase trust among the competent authorities of EU Member States.

### What is the European Professional Card and how will it work?

The European professional card is an innovative tool to make it easier for professionals to work in another Member State.

The European professional card will in essence be an electronic certificate to be exchanged between competent authorities via the Internal Market Information System (IMI). It should accordingly not take the form of a smart card or any other type of physical card as this would run the risks of falsification or becoming outdated.

The European Professional Card could be available as an option to interested professions, and professionals could use it regardless of whether they intended to become established on a permanent basis in another country or to offer their services on a temporary basis anywhere in the EU.

The introduction of the European Professional Card responds to the need to streamline recognition procedures. It is based on stronger involvement of the competent authority in the home Member State. This authority will communicate any requisite information about the professional to the competent authority in the host Member State by using the IMI. A professional card could also take much of the administra-

tive burden and costs off the professional's shoulders and expedite the process because the home Member State would assist the professional (for instance, by confirming that his diploma is valid).

With a European professional card:

- professionals wishing to become established in another Member State would be able to obtain recognition of their qualifications within six weeks instead of 12 (in case of automatic recognition) and ten weeks instead of 12 (in case of non-automatic recognition). This shortening of deadlines will also lead to a reduction in costs for the professional;

- professionals interested in providing services in other Member States on a temporary basis would be able to use their professional card for two years, without other administrative requirements;

- competent authorities of the home and host Member States would work more closely in order to check the qualifications of the professionals thereby exploiting the potential of IMI which is able to deal with a great number of applications for a card.

### What are the costs associated with the European professional card?

The European professional card will significantly reduce the costs incurred by the professionals seeking recognition of their qualifications:

- Under the current regime, professionals often lose time and money in identifying the host Member State's competent authorities. Under the process foreseen for the European professional card, the professionals will contact the authority in the Member State in which they are established. This authority will then get in contact, through the IMI system, with the relevant competent authority in the host Member State.

- Professionals will be able to submit most of the documents in the original language. The need for translation and certification of docu-

ments will be reduced due to the involvement of the home competent authorities in the process, which would check the authenticity of the documents.

- Recognition procedures should be less expensive for professionals: competent authorities should only be able to charge fees which are directly linked and proportionate to the direct administrative costs of the recognition procedure.

In addition, the systematic use of the IMI, funded by the European Union, would allow recognition procedures to be rationalized and could generate cost savings for competent authorities. In addition, an online application tool for such a card will be made available to professionals and competent authorities for further streamlining the process.

### How can interested professions obtain the right to use the professional card?

Professions interested in using the European professional card should express their interest at European level, for example through a European professional organization. The Commission has the right of initiative on implementing acts and will consult professions, preferably at European level, and Member States to sound out the interest for a European professional card. Nurses and mountain guides have already expressed an interest in using such a card.

Source: European Commission, DG Internal Market

More details can be found [here](#).

# NEWS FROM ECCE MEMBERS

## Estonia

### New Occupational Standards for Civil Engineers in Estonia

#### The system of occupations in general

The European system of occupations is based on the European Parliament and Council Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of occupational qualifications and the recommendation of the same institutions on establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (2008/C111/01). These papers were followed by the Estonia Professions Act, which was passed in June 2008. The purpose of the Act was to create a comprehensive system of granting occupations, which would ensure the competitiveness of Estonian employees both domestically and in Europe, accelerate the development of professional competence and create a basis for evaluating and comparing their competencies.

According to the division of labor of the specialists of the construction industry, in addition to architectural studies, in Estonia civil engineering studies have been regulated under the government regulation "The framework requirement of medical training, veterinary training, pharmacist training, dentistry training, midwifery training, nursing training, architectural studies and civil engineering studies" which was drawn up in 2004. Chapter 9 of this document sets out general requirements for the training, competence and lecturers of engineering studies and the procedure for graduation from the school.

Therein are the basics of the design and development of the system of occupations of civil engineers and for granting the occupations, which has been used as guidance and will be used as guidance in the future.

The beginning of the occupational system of engineers, which extends to the era before the above mentioned documents, received an impetus for creation from the definition of the FEANI European Engineer. As the level of a European Engineer is relatively low (Bachelor's degree will suffice), no special interest for it arose. To give the name of an engineer a content that would be taken more seriously and appreciated higher, the Estonian Association of Engineers, under the initiative of the Association of Civil Engineers, developed the occupational standard of a chartered engineer and with it the lower levels, the occupational standard of an engineer and the diploma engineer. The division was based on the then prevailing five level occupational system and in this system, engineers were placed according to their level of education either on the fourth or fifth level. The main attention in these standards was devoted to the more detailed definition of chartered engineers. Setting the occupation of lower-level engineers was relatively simple, this occupation had an unspecified term and the occupation was not defined.

Due to establishment of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), on its basis was adopted the Estonian Qualifications Framework (EQF), which has also eight levels. If the original idea of the framework was education based, then it was decided to tie it with occupations. So it is easier to explain in other countries, what the occupation issued by Estonia is based on. Also, this occupation is easier to associate (to find correlation) with the occupations issued on other grounds. In order to distinguish the solely education based occupation from the occupation of a specialist in charge, the Profession Act has introduced the definition of a primary occupation. The primary occupation is granted upon graduation from school together with the graduation diploma or certificate.

### Revised occupational standards of civil engineers

To cover the entire construction sector, systemic separate standards were made in the following classifications:

- 1) General Civil Engineering specialty: construction of buildings, port construction and geotechnics;
- 2) Road construction specialty: bridge construction, road building and railway construction;
- 3) Environmental engineering and building utility systems:
  - Heating, ventilation and cooling systems;
  - Water supply and drainage of a building;
  - External water supply and sanitation;
  - Hydrotechnics

Electrical installation constitutes a significant portion of the building. Its design and construction is regulated by the Electrical Safety Act, under which the person responsible for performing the work must have an appropriate certificate of competency. Thus, electrical work is not done according to the Building Act, but rather according to the Electrical Safety Act, which is why the treatment of the subject has been left out of the occupational standards. For similar reasons engineering activities related to gas works, pressure and lifting equipment are not covered in the occupational standards of civil engineers.

The Occupational standards of Civil Engineers were approved in the Professional Council of Engineers in December 2012 and this concluded the six-year process of updating the standards.

### Occupational standards and the procedures for granting an occupation

The new occupational standards provide the boundaries of competence according to the levels, which serve a number of purposes. First, they give the applicant of the occupation and to the recipient of the occupation a clear sign of the authorized limits. On the other hand the boundaries of competence are relevant for both the customer and the organizer of the procurement for determining the requirements for the levels of the specialists responsible for the engagement. Excessively strict requirements unreasonably restrict the circle of potential laborers and the opposite allows for people with a heightened self-esteem to have access to solving the challenges above his or her expertise. Both of them would be bad prospects.

As a novelty, in the standards an opportunity has been provided to apply for an occupation to the good specialists operating in those specialties who are self-taught. For that, higher requirements have been set for the duration of his professional experience and the capacity of continuing education. Also the age of the census of at least 35 years has been set.

As another novelty, the standards establish the minimum experience requirements by occupations, as definition of occupations is now required for any occupational level. The minimum requirements for knowledge and skills are in particular the basis for drawing up the curricula for institutions of higher learning.

### Conclusion

The updated Construction Act and the system of occupations help to organize the work of both the professionals and the agencies in the construction industry and allow the raising of the qualifications of civil engineers. Occupational standards can be

## NEWS FROM ECCE MEMBERS

found on the website of the Estonian Qualifications Authority [here](#).

By Heiki Meos

Civil Engineer

Chairman of the Professional Committee of Estonian Associa-

tion of Civil Engineers

Vice-Chairman of the Professional Council of Engineers

### Germany

**bauma 2013: the largest fair worldwide of the building environment is the highlight once in three years not only for Germany...**

**bauma calls and they all come:** An impressive 530,000 visitors from over 200 countries converged on the Messe München exhibition center between April 15 and 21. Not only did this edition of bauma break all previous records for exhibitor numbers and exhibition space, it also attracted the highest number of visitors ever. "This is very good for our industry in these turbulent times and it will certainly give it a boost," said Johann Sailer, Chairman of the Construction Equipment and Building Material Machinery Association of VDMA and President of the Committee for the European Construction Equipment Industry (CECE).

#### Proportion of international visitors higher than ever

Klaus Dittrich, Chairman & CEO of Messe München, is more than satisfied: "Our exhibitors were delighted with the quality of the visitors here and with the international spread represented among them. Good business has been done here. With over 200,000 visitors from outside Germany, the number of international attendees was higher than ever before. The response this year has simply been outstanding."

The 'Top Ten' countries of origin among the visitors were: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, the Russian Federation, France, Netherlands, Great Britain, Sweden and Poland. Indo-



(Copyright Alex Schelbert / Messe München GmbH)

nesia, bauma's partner country this year, was also strongly represented, with a high-ranking political delegation and around 800 visitors.

#### Order activity high

In total, 3,420 exhibitors – 1,346 from Germany and 2,074 from abroad – from 57 countries presented their latest products and innovations in construction and mining machinery at bauma 2013 on a record exhibition space of 570,000 square meters. And they did so with amazing success, as Stefan Heissler, Member of the Liebherr-International AG Board of Directors, confirmed: "This has been an absolutely positive trade show for us. We welcomed customers from all around the world at our booths and we signed up lots of new orders. In some product sections we exceeded our expectations by a long way."

bauma is the uncontested Number One trade show for construction machinery, building material machines, mining machines, construction vehicles and construction equipment.

#### The next bauma takes place from April 11 to 17, 2016 in Munich.

(extract from a press release, Copyright Messe München GmbH)

Further information can be found [here](#).

#### German Fee Structure for Architects and Engineers

The upper house of the German Parliament adopted an amendment to the Fee Structure for Architects and Engineers (HOAI). It is estimated to come into law in summer 2013 and will furthermore count only inside Germany.

Up to now the fees were raised up ordinary on 17%, based on extended scope of services.

Basically, the German law legislator has to mind now and in future that all amendments are conformable with EU regulation.

### Latvia

**Consulting industry in Baltic and Nordic countries. Challenges and solutions, FIDIC experience. Riga, May 24, 2013.**

The Conference, organized by the Latvian Association of Consulting Engineers (LIKA), with support of Ministry of Environmental protection and development of the Latvian Republic, gathered more than 80 consulting engineers, architects, clients and officials from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Denmark and Sweden.

Managing director of FIDIC Enrico Vink and Secretary general of EFCA Jan Van der Putten also were among speakers.

The Conference was dedicated to the FIDIC 100th anniversary, which will be celebrated during this year's annual FIDIC Confer-

ence in September, in Barcelona.

Enrico Vinks stressed the necessity to maintain high quality standards in the industry, to promote best practice and to build recognition and prestige of consulting engineers.

Jan Van der Putten explained how EFCA represents consulting industry in the European Union (EU) institutions in Brussels and influences corresponding legislative acts, taking into account interests of EU Member states.

A member of FIDIC Executive Committee Kaj Moller encouraged participants to use different standard forms of FIDIC Contract agreements in projects.

Challenges of the industry and consulting engineers associa-



## NEWS FROM ECCE MEMBERS

tions of Baltic and Nordic countries were analyzed by the Chairman of Latvian association Raimonds Eizensmits, Executive directors of Estonian and Lithuanian associations Mauno Inkinen and Rimvidas Pranaitis, President of the Finland's association Kimmo Fisher and the Managing director of the Danish association Henrik Garver.

A fascinating insight into the Riga building history and images of its future were given by the well known Latvian architect Janis Dripe.

After the conference, guests had a possibility to visit the building site of the new Latvian National Library, which will be opened next year.



Work Session



Visiting Latvian National library

### Latvian Association of Civil Engineers (LACE) XXV Congress

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Latvian Association of Civil Engineers (LACE) held their XXV congress.

History of the Association: in February 4, 1924 LACE was established, but in May 27, 1989 after 50 years of silence, the Association started its work again.

This year we are celebrating 25 years since the Association restarted its work and we are pleased to announce that it has become one of the lead professional organizations in the country.

The LACE is very successful in organizing the lifelong education for the certified engineers and overseeing the quality of their work in entire country. The Association is also very busy working on developing Latvian Construction Law and polishing Public Procurement acts.

However the major discussion topic was – what could the members of the LACE do for the construction business and what are they doing already.

The major activities in 2012 included- Construction Law, the National development plan for the 2013-2020, study programs at Riga Technical University and Latvian State University,

Working with Construction Coordination Center, participation in ECCE activities, participating in the Economics Ministry's work-

## Lithuania

### Meeting of Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish leaders of Civil Engineering Associations

On 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> of May a meeting of the leaders of four Civil Engineering associations was held in Vilnius Gediminas Technical University.

In the past such annual meetings were regular among associations of the 3 Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Meetings were held every year in different countries.

The main purpose of the last meeting was to present procedures of professional recognition of civil engineers in each country.

ing groups training the engineers.

According to the President of the LACE, Martins Straume: "There is a lot of positive happening at the LACE, but there are also a lot of problems. With the development of construction industry,

There are not enough financing for development of new companies, there is no clear direction with respect to the State and realization plan for new construction ideas in the National development plan for the 2013-2020. The suggestions by the LACE members are not always heard by the government and thus slow down progression of the construction industry".

### Overview

For the first time in Latvian construction history, the LACE and the "Construction Engineer" magazine organized competition "Yearly prize of the construction industry" and the winners received Prizes from the President of Latvia Andris Berzins and the Minister of the Economics Daniels Pavluts.

The LACE website [www.buvinzenierusavieniba.lv](http://www.buvinzenierusavieniba.lv) offers daily news and events.



Two years ago a Memorandum for cooperation between civil engineering associations of the 3 Baltic States was signed. In the memorandum among other items it was stressed "to harmonize the provisions and criteria for the evaluation of the competence of the construction technical specialists as well as the provisions for mutual recognition of documents confirming the competence between the states, to determine by law the status of civil engineers in the state construction sector". However, in the countries professional recognition systems differ very significantly. Also it was important that for the first time the Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers joined the meeting with the intention to participate in such meetings in the future. The Polish delega-

## NEWS FROM ECCE MEMBERS

tion consisted of Prof. Czeslaw Medzialowski and ECCE President Elect Wlodzimierz Szymczak. They presented the structure of the Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers and the procedures of the recognition of professional qualifications and granting construction license. The participants of meeting also visited the company "Traidenis", which is well-known in Lithuania and abroad as a manufacturing company of wastewater treatment equipment and tanks: [www.traidenis.com](http://www.traidenis.com). In the technical-cultural program it was also included a visit to construction sites of attractive tourist and international resort place Druskininkai: [www.druskininkai.lt](http://www.druskininkai.lt).



"Meeting of leaders of Civil engineering Associations of 4 countries"

Over the following day guests from Poland had the possibility to participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference "Modern Building Materials, Structures and Techniques".

During the opening ceremony of the Conference ECCE President Elect Wlodzimierz Szymczak made a Congratulation speech to all delegates of Conference.

*By Vincentas Stragys*

*Lithuanian Delegate*

*ECCE Vice President/ Honorary Treasurer*



ECCE Pres. Elect Wlodzimierz Szymczak at 11th Int. Conf. "Modern Building Materials Structures and Techniques". Vice-dean of Civil Eng. Faculty of VGTU Dr.Linas Juknevičius and Rector of VGTU Prof. Alfonsas Daniūnas.

### Portugal

#### Council of the Professional Associations of Civil Engineers from the Portuguese and Spanish Speaking Countries

On March 14th, in Braga, Portugal, organized by Ordem dos Engenheiros, and with the presence of ECCE and WCCE Presidents, it was founded the Council of the Professional Associations of Civil Engineers from the Portuguese and Spanish Speaking Countries, aiming to promote the profession of Civil Engineering and to develop the exchange of professionals and students, among these countries in Europe, America and Africa.

The bylaws were signed by the founder countries: Angola, Argentina, Brasil, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, España, Honduras, Mexico, Moçambique, Panama, Portugal and Puerto Rico.

The signature of this agreement is very important as it builds a bridge between the European countries (ECCE members) and the American/African countries through the Associations of Portugal and Spain. It will allow an easier movement and recogni-

tion among these countries and the exchange of information related to Civil Engineering activities.

The meeting of the council was followed in the next day, at Porto, by the Ibero-American Congress in Civil Engineering, with technical presentations from the representatives of most of the countries.



### Slovenia

#### Presentation of the book written by Mr. Mirko Orešković

The Slovenian Chamber of Engineers (IZS) organized a presentation of the book titled "The Construction Project and its Book" published by Sveučilišna naklada Zagreb (Croatia). The author of a very interesting book is Mr. Mirko Orešković, ECCE delegate from Croatia. The book was presented in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on 5th June 2013 by Mr. Gorazd Humar, ECCE Im-

mediate Past President and member of IZS. Mr. Mirko Orešković who assisted too to the presentation explained the reasons which stimulated him to write such book on how to manage big construction projects.

Mr. Mirko Orešković is an internationally known civil construction expert having a long time experience in management of several big infrastructure, business and residential projects.

## NEWS FROM ECCE MEMBERS

During his rich professional experience he developed methods for improving management systems for execution of complex construction sites. He synthesized his views and experiences in the book which is also an excellent guide to all not only civil engineers but to all experts involved in execution of complex projects.

The book has 8 chapters and it is not based only on theoretical explanations. The very value of the book is that it is presenting also cases from the praxis on construction sites with rich explanations. Mr. Orešković underlined in his text that too many times improvisation is the only method used to manage a construction project. He stressed the importance of constructive collaboration between the clients, engineers and contractors in the benefit of the project under execution. Management team of a complex construction site should collaborate and decrease all "noises on communication channels" of all protagonists involved in the management of the project.

In his comments on the book Mr. Gorazd Humar stressed also that the book is an excellent manual to all young civil construction engineers that are involved in the process of execution of big construction projects especially because the book written by Mirko Orešković and with collaboration of his two collaborators is giving precious examples from the praxis.

It is a pity that the book is written only in Croatian language and such is suitable for the international book market. Nevertheless it is an important document to all engineers that reading such book may benefit new challenges to manage new construction projects.

*By Gorazd Humar*

*ECCE Immediate Past President*



## ECCE MEETINGS

**The 58<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Assembly Meeting will be hosted by the Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers and will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013, in Cyprus. More information will be given soon.**

**The 59<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Assembly Meeting will be hosted by the Georgian Society of Civil Engineers, in Georgia in spring 2014. More information will be given in due time.**

## CONFERENCES

### **2013 JSCE Annual Meeting**

**4 – 6 September 2013, Chiba, Tokyo, Japan**

The Japan Society of Civil Engineers is having its Annual Meeting for 2013 on 4 -6 September 2013, at the College of Industrial Technology, Nihon University Tsudanuma Campus. Information about the Meeting will be available soon at [JSCE's website](#).

### **WFEO general assembly conference on "Innovative and Sustainable Solutions to Climate Change"**

**11 – 13 September 2013, Singapore**

The WFEO general assembly will be organized in conjunction with the **World Engineers' Summit (WES) 2013** in Singapore the coming September. For more information about this event please visit the link <http://wes2013.org/>.

### **ASCE 143rd Annual Civil Engineering Conference**

**10 – 12 October 2013, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA**

American Society of Civil Engineers is pleased to announce the 143rd Annual Civil Engineering Conference will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina this October 10 -12, 2013. This year the Annual 2013 Conference promises to feature outstanding key-

note speakers and exhilarating technical sessions in one of the Nations hotspots: Charlotte!

"The Annual 2013 program emphasis; 'Innovations in Project Financing,' will explore the changes and challenges in the profession of civil engineering driven by financial forces. World-wide investments in technology and infrastructure are spurring innovation and accelerating productivity. Explore the impacts of financing, public-private partnership, re-development districts, tax incentives and other financial innovation on civil engineers and their influence on business development. Come to Charlotte to enjoy the cultural attractions, natural beauty, historical sites and renowned dining as you take steps to lead our industry into the future."

- Edward "Ed" McGuire, P.E.

ASCE Annual 2013 Conference Chair

### **ExpoTunnel, Underground Technologies Exhibition**

**17 - 19 October, Bologna, Italy**

ExpoTunnel, Underground Technologies Exhibition, that takes place in Bologna October 17-19, is continuing its promotion in Italy and abroad.

ExpoTunnel will be present at WTC 2013 in Geneva, one of the most important worldwide events among tunnelling industry, in order to promote the Congress "Tunnelling and Underground space in Europe development", organized by the Italian Tunnelling Society. It will exhibit in the booth (S17 - 18) of the Swiss Tunnelling Society and Partner Associations, on the first floor. ExpoTunnel is approaching! Discover all the opportunities for your company's visibility and plan your presence at Italy's unique event dedicated exclusively to underground technologies. For prices and more information, please contact the organizing secretariat at [info@expotunnel.it](mailto:info@expotunnel.it).

#### **IRF 17th World Meeting & Exhibition**

##### **9 -13 November 2013, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia,**

The International Road Federation (IRF) will host its 17<sup>th</sup> IRF World Meeting and Exhibition, November 9-13, 2013 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of Eng. Abdullah A. Almogbel, Mayor of Riyadh, IRF Chairman and former Deputy Minister for Transport of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Held every four years since 1952, this is an essential event for the global road community, offering a unique opportunity to share best practices, address important challenges and explore emerging trends in the transportation industry. For more information about the IRF and the World Meeting, please visit [www.irfnews.org](http://www.irfnews.org) and [www.irf2013.org](http://www.irf2013.org).

#### **2013 KSCE Annual Conference & Civil Exposition 23 - 25 October 2013, High1 Resort, Gangwon-do, Korea**

The Korean Society of Civil Engineers (KSCE) is pleased to announce the 2013 KSCE Annual Conference & Civil Exposition to be held on October 23-25, 2013 at [High1 Resort](#), Gangwon-do, Korea.

We invite all civil engineers in different fields and different countries to unite, to participate and to create a new chapter of discussion in civil engineering. The international program in this year's conference includes Welcome Reception, Opening Ceremony, Banquet, International Roundtable Meeting, and International Students Meeting.

The theme for the International Roundtable Meeting (IRM) is "Environmental Design of Aquatic Plants in Urban Streams", organized by Prof. Jin-Hong Kim (Chung-Ang University), who represents the KSCE at the Technical Committee on River Environment of the Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council (ACECC). The role of the aquatic plants is very important for the control of water quality and for the ecological habitat. The main task of the IRM is to set-up a new strategy and direction of environmental design of the aquatic plants in the urban streams.

#### **TRA2014 Transport Research Arena 2014 Transport Solutions: from Research to Deployment - Innovate Mobility, Mobilise Innovation! 14-17 April 2014, CNIT, La Defense, Paris, France**

TRA (Transport Research Arena) is the major conference on transport in Europe, supported by the European Commission, the Conference of European Road Directors, and the three European Technology Platforms: the European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC), the European Rail Research Advisory Council (ERRAC), and the WATERBORNE TP.

The conference topics address the main challenges in transport and mobility of people and goods, with respect to energy, environment, safety and security and economy issues. TRA aims to explore the most advanced research works and innovations, the latest technological and industrial developments and implementations, and innovative policies, in Europe and worldwide. As a wide and open forum open to all interested parties, it is a unique occasion to promote and improve European competitiveness and efficiency in transportation.

TRA 2014 will comprise:

- plenary sessions dedicated to general and policy presentations by invited keynote speakers,
- strategic sessions to convey policy messages and industrial key issues,
- scientific and technical sessions on the conference topics, where the accepted papers will be presented, either as oral or poster presentations,
- invited sessions, to be proposed and organised by community or project leaders, submitted to the Programme Committee review and acceptance, without published papers.

*Parallel Exhibition: A showcase for governmental and professional organisations, public and private research organisations and industrial companies will be held in conjunction with the conference.*

For further information please visit the [Conference website](#).



## ECCE MEMBERS

### **BULGARIA**

[Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria](#)

### **CROATIA**

[Croatian Chamber of Architects and Engineers](#)

### **CYPRUS**

[Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers](#)

### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

[Czech Institution of Structural & Civil Engineers](#)

### **ESTONIA**

[Estonian Association of Civil Engineers](#)

### **FINLAND**

[Finnish Association of Civil Engineers](#)

### **FRANCE**

[National Council of Engineers and Scientists of France](#)

### **GEORGIA**

[Georgian Society of Civil](#)

[Engineers](#)

### **GREECE**

[Association of Civil Engineers of Greece](#)

### **HUNGARY**

[Hungarian Chamber of Engineers](#)

### **IRELAND**

[Engineers Ireland](#)

### **ITALY**

[Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri](#)

### **LATVIA**

[Latvian Association of Civil Engineers](#)

### **LITHUANIA**

[Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers](#)

### **MALTA**

[Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers](#)

### **MONTENEGRO**

[Engineers Chamber of Mon-](#)

[tenegro -Civil Engineers Chamber](#)

### **POLAND**

[Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers](#)

### **PORTUGAL**

[Order of Engineers](#)

### **ROMANIA**

[Union of Associations of Civil Engineers of Romania](#)

### **RUSSIA**

[Russian Society of Civil Engineering](#)

### **SERBIA**

[Serbian Chamber of Engineers](#)

### **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

[Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers](#)

### **SLOVENIA**

[Slovenian Chamber of Engineers](#)

### **SPAIN**

[Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos](#)

### **TURKEY**

[Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers](#)

### **UNITED KINGDOM**

[Institution of Civil Engineers](#)

## ECCE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

 **ARONIS -DRETTAS -KARLAFTIS**  
Consulting Engineers S.A.



National Technical University of Athens  
School of Civil Engineering

### **PROCEMA**

Research, Design and Experimental  
Production Institute in the Field of  
Construction and Building Materials

**ZDI**

ZENTRALVERBAND  
DEUTSCHER INGENIEURE e.V. – ZDI



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**“Civil Engineers at the Heart of  
Society Building Life Quality and a  
Sustainable Environment”**



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