



ACE General Assembly, 28-29 November, Brussels

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This is a Special Edition of the Member Organisation Info Sheet (MOIS). It gives information on the ACE Annual General Assembly held on 28 and 29 November in Brussels. This newsletter is destined for internal use only.

SPECIAL SESSION

The Special Session took place on Friday the 28 November and focused on Peer Review Exercise and Traineeship

PART 1 PEER REVIEW EXERCISE

Laura LEE, Professor of Architecture at Carnegie Mellon University (USA) - Vision for the Future of the Profession



L. Lee described her imagined future for the architectural Profession. She urged the profession to embrace global, European and national challenges, stressing that the window of opportunity might be small. She felt that the knowledge-base of the profession was a little



behind the curve. She recommended that the Profession continues to aspire to the highest standards for the health, safety and well-being of citizens; advocate for an enabling regulatory environment; and work for the recognition of the value of design and its relevance as an intelligent investment. She encouraged the profession to communicate its professional expertise clearly to the public, clients and owners. She concluded with three points for the future: 1) Achieve a value shift: provide a service, not a product, 2) Consider new fields of operation and 3) Expand the architect's role, notably as leader, innovator and integrator. [Download L. Lee's presentation.](#)

John GRABY, CEO of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) – Mobility of Architects



J. Graby insisted that there is no such thing as “no regulation”: supervision is either *ex ante* (e.g. title protection) or *ex post* (practice). It is a fact that in 80% of the MS, the minimum standards of the PQD are lower than the national standards. Reserved functions mostly relate to building permits and site supervision, for the protection of the public. ACE wishes to help the EC with Professional indemnity insurance (PII), transposition, CPD, Codes of Ethics and could help to develop an electronic platform of information on architectural services. He emphasised that professional practical experience is not an alternative to academic study and that CPD is designed to maintain skills. J. Graby recalled that 96% of Architects' applications for cross-border registration are successful, against 62% for engineers. He concluded that the real driver of mobility is the economy: professionals will follow work opportunities. [Download J. Graby's presentation.](#)

Martin FROHN, Head of Unit E4 "Free movement of Professionals", DG GROWTH - Mutual Evaluation of Regulated Professions



M. Frohn explained that the Mutual Evaluation exercise was aimed at producing better regulation not de-regulation of the rules governing access to regulated professions. The objective is to ensure that entry barriers are justified and proportionate to protect public interest and to consider the impact on mobility, quality, prices and costs to consumers. The MS are currently commenting on the first draft of the Commission's report. Cluster 1, that includes architects, is expected to produce results by April 2015, in the form of national Action Plans. He reported on preliminary outcomes. 1) Despite harmonised training requirements, there are divergent approaches: high regulation of the professions vs. high level of State control; reserves of activities vs. protection of title; variation in reserved activities. 2) The cumulative effect of requirements must also be considered. 3) There is a general lack of data, evidence or impact assessment. [Download M. Frohn's presentation.](#)

PART 2

TRAINEESHIP

Wolfgang HAACK, Coordinator Area 1 - Introduction



W. Haack explained how the revision of the PQD resulted in a modification of the minimum standards for the cross-border movement of architects (from 4+0 to 5+0 or 4+2). He then introduced five hypotheses to help focus discussion: 1) Professional traineeship cannot be part of an academic study course; 2) Professional traineeship is not compensation for academic studies that do not meet the minimum requirements; 3) The profession must be responsible for the content of professional traineeship and its evaluation; 4) The professional traineeship prepares the trainee for the required level of responsibilities and functions expected of an architect; 5) The EU has to make sure that EU professional standards meet the requirements of the international trade partners. [Download W. Haack's presentation.](#)

Andras ZSIGMOND - Professional Practical Experience



A. Zsigmond explained the harmonised training requirements of the PQD for the 7 sectoral professions and the basic principles. The modernised PQD offers two routes to satisfy the new minimum training requirements – five years full-time university study with a final examination (5+0), or four years full-time university study with a final examination, plus two years professional traineeship, which can take place only after the completion of the first three years of study (4+2). The traineeship must be carried out under the supervision of a person or body that has been authorised (and evaluated) by the competent authority in the home MS, though the traineeship may take place in any country. [Download A. Zsigmond's presentation.](#)

John CHAVE, Secretary General of the Pharmaceutical Group of the EU (PGEU)



For the Pharmacists, the PQD establishes a minimum of 6 months traineeship during the undergraduate studies, which must be undertaken in a community pharmacy setting or in a hospital pharmacy. The traineeship is important because academic courses are mainly oriented towards 'hard' sciences with limited emphasis on practical skills. A number of countries exceed the minimum six months requirement and training mainly happens in the 5th year. Approaches to supervision, monitoring, content and assessment are diverse. Some countries have no prescribed content or formal supervision/assessment mechanism. The traineeship is paid in some countries, but not all. Though MS must recognise traineeship undertaken in another MS, it is rare for pharmacists to undertake traineeship in another country. [Download J. Chave's presentation.](#)

Birgit BERGER, Secretary General of the Standing Committee of European

Doctors (CPME)



Traineeships are a well established part of medical training and their regulation is a national level competence. Structures vary in duration (from 4 to 21 months), timing (before/after diploma), content and regulation (covered by employment law or not), and there is no EU-level reference. They are generally carried out under formal supervision or guidance, but the regulatory body supervising the traineeship varies. [Download B. Berger's presentation.](#)

Margaret Hynds O'FLANAGAN, Chair of the PQD Work Group



In the architectural profession, PPE addresses the professional maturation of the graduate and the development/refinement of practice-related skills. According to the UIA/UNESCO Charter for Architectural Education, the basic goal of traineeship is *"to develop the architect as a generalist able to resolve potential contradictions between different requirements"*. M. O'Flanagan also cited the same Charter to describe the characteristics of professional training: *"the balanced acquisition of knowledge and skills [] requires a long period of maturation; the period of studies in architecture should always be no less than five years' of full-time studies in a university or equivalent institution, plus two years' experience in an architectural practice. At least one year must be devoted to professional practice following the conclusion of academic studies"*. She stressed that PPE is the bridge between achievement of the graduate standard and having the expertise to apply the knowledge that has been gained. [Download M. O'Flanagan's presentation.](#)

Laura LEE - Traineeship for Architects



L. Lee stressed that the structure of the PPE is probably more important than the amount of time spent. Referring to the integration of the knowledge base, she noted that while Education is case-based and Research is evidence-based, Practice is performance-based, hence the importance of PPE. In the US, the three 'E's can be summarised as follows: Education - containing student performance criteria; Experience - an Internship Development Programme (IDP) comprising 17 core competences; Examination - the Architects' Registration Examination. NCARB has published the Emerging Professional' Companion (EPC) to support those preparing to enter the profession. [Download L. Lee's presentation.](#)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

President's Report



ACE President Luciano Lazzari presented the ACE Political



Programme, recalling the importance of focusing on the Future of Architecture and preparing to deal with and react to Environmental Challenges. In addition to continuing the work already underway, ACE priorities for 2015 will include:

- Strengthening the connection with Schools of Architecture
- Continuing work on those issues that have a direct bearing on our work, especially Public Procurement, Qualifications Recognition, Standards and CPD
- Expanding ACE's Global Network in order to offer outlets to European architects and selling our uniqueness as Europe to a larger market, on our terms
- Gathering and distributing information on EU programs, subsidies and incentives on issues of Urban Renewal, Energy Saving and Sustainability.

Secretary General's report



ACE Secretary General Mr Ian Pritchard stressed the improvements in the ACE's Corporate Development (optimising productivity and Board development) and in ACE Project Activities (communications, sector study, schools programme). I. Pritchard also highlighted ACE's interactions with European Institutions, in particular with DG MARKET (Services, Professional Mobility, Procurement), DG ENTR (Construction 2020, ELIOS II, Connect & Construct), DG TRADE (TTIP, CETA, GPA, TISA) and the European Parliament (diffusion of the ACE Manifesto to MEPs). [Download I. Pritchard's presentation](#)

New ACE Executive Board Members

On January 2015, five new Board Members will take office at the ACE Executive Board. The Assembly formally ratified the new Board. Please see below the five new Board Members appointed by rotation:



Nicholas Galabov (Bulgaria)



Paula Huotelin (Finland)



Lars Jarle Nore (Norway)



Eugen Panescu (Romania)



Georg Pendl (Austria)

The President took the occasion to thank the outgoing Board Members for their contribution to ACE. The ACE Executive Board for 2015 will be composed by: Luciano Lazzari (President), Wolfgang Haack (Vice-President), Dubravko Bacic, Lionel Dunet, Nicholas Galabov, Paula Huotelin, Lars Jarle Nore, Eugen Panescu, Georg Pendl, Pierre-Henri Schmutz and Sara Van Rompaey.

Report on the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP)



Marco Dürkop briefly presented the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the US, currently under negotiation. While the Comprehensive Trade and Economic Agreement (CETA) with Canada has been finalised, the TTIP is going through a difficult phase and is receiving a negative feedback in the public debate. Mr Dürkop reminded that in case Professional Qualifications will be included in the TTIP, architects could be a test case. The Commission is looking to avoid the past mistakes and is ready to discuss the real economic benefit the agreement will bring to European architects.

Sector Study by Mirza & Nacey



Vince Nacey presented to the Assembly the methodology used for, and the draft results of the ACE Sector Study that will be published in January 2015. More than 18,000 architects from 26 Member Organizations replies to the survey. MOs were asked to send further comments and to help to promote the study. [Download V. Nacey's presentation.](#)

Reports from Thematic Areas

The coordinators of the three ACE Thematic Areas showed the results of ACE Work Groups' initiatives and commitments. Ms Sara Van Rompaey, coordinator of the Thematic Area 3 - Responsible Architecture, reported on recent activities, objectives and publications. [Download S.V. Rompaey's presentation](#). Mr Indrek Naak, coordinator of Area 2 - Practice of the Profession, showed the major achievements in this area. [Download I. Naak's document](#). Regarding the Area 1 - Access to the Profession, Mr Michel Proce presented the [PPE Glossary](#), which was endorsed for internal use.

Communication Report



Lionel Dunet presented an update on the ACE communications review. The new Web site received an encouraging number of visits from different EU Member States, US and Canada. The most visited section is "Architects in Europe", proving that the ACE web Site is an essential source of information for professionals. Further developments include an International section, a CPD Register and news from the Member Organizations. [Download L. Dunet's presentation](#).

ACE Activity in EU-Projects and LEEMA Project presentation



ACE Project Officer Dr Veronika Schröpfer reported on ACE involvement in EU funded projects. Currently the ACE is taking part to four projects consortia: LEEMA, Inspire, A2PBEER et Erasmus+. [Download V. Schröpfer's presentation](#)



Dr Anna Gaki, from the National Technical University of Athens, presented the [LEEMA Project](#), a research project that aims to develop a new generation of inorganic insulation materials and insulation masonry components with low embodied energy. [Download A. Gaki's presentation](#).

Next ACE Annual General Assembly meeting



Next ACE General Assembly will be held on 17-18 April 2015 in Tallinn (Estonia). [More information](#).

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