

“Enhancing the involvement of ECCE members in continuing education activities related to the implementation of structural Eurocodes”

Phase I: Survey on the state-of-the art of implementation of the Eurocode in the respective country

REPORT 1/2012 of SC E&T

**ECCE Standing Committee on
Education & Training**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1976 the European Commission agreed to sponsor the development of a set of European codes of practice for building structures. The purpose of these was to encourage free trade between members states. As a result, activities aimed at preparing codes of practice in various fields started, usually with the involvement of international professional societies.

In the field of geotechnical engineering, for instance, an agreement was reached between the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) and the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (ISSMFE), according to which the Society should undertake to survey existing codes of practice for foundations within the member states and to draft a model code which could be adopted as Eurocode 7. In 1981, the ISSMFE established an *ad-hoc* committee for this task, which produced a draft model for Eurocode 7 in 1987.

The CEC sponsored further work on the draft codes of various fields for 3 years to 1990, after which the work on all Eurocodes was transferred for further development, issue and maintenance to the “Comité Européen pour la Normalisation” (CEN), with agreement that the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) secretariat would also support the work. CEN Technical Committee (TC) 250 was therefore set up, and this committee has overseen the development of Eurocodes since 1990.

A subcommittee (SC) of CEN/TC 250 is responsible for each Eurocode. Referring again to the domain familiar to the author of this report, i.e. geotechnical engineering, the subcommittee for Eurocode 7 is named CEN/TC2 250/SC7. Under the auspices of this subcommittee a project team produced a draft of Eurocode 7 – Part 1, which was ratified as provisional code ENV 1997-1 in 1993. After a period of inquiry held among the CEN member states, several drafts were subsequently produced, leading to a final form approved in 2004, following a formal vote by the member organizations of CEN – the national standards bodies. This form is named: EN 1997-1:2004, Eurocode 7: Geotechnical Design, Part 1: General rules.

Similar routes were followed by the other 9 SCs, however the time when they completed the work differed.

As it is known, the Structural Eurocode programme comprises 10 standards (EN 1990 ... EN 1999), having in total 58 parts (sometimes the figure appears 60, considering actually some sub-parts).

Once the Eurocodes (and parts of Eurocodes) were approved by CEN, they were adopted also as national standards and, if the case, translated. For each part, a National Annex had to be elaborated. As defined in the Foreword of Eurocode EN 1990: Basis of Structural Design, what the National Annex may contain is stated as follows:

The National Annex may only contain information on those parameters which are left open in the Eurocode for national choice, known as Nationally Determined Parameters, to be used for the design of buildings and civil engineering works to be constructed in the country concerned, i.e.:

- *values and/or classes where alternatives are given in the Eurocode,*
- *values to be used where a symbol only is given in the Eurocode,*
- *country specific data (geographical, climatic, etc.) e.h. a snow map,*
- *the procedure to be used where alternative procedures are given in the Eurocode.*

It may also contain the Following:

- *decision on the application of informative annexes,*
- *reference to non-contradictory complementary information to assist the user in applying the Eurocode.*

The implementation of Eurocodes started in each country with a “*coexistence period*” with existing national codes. According to the time table established by CEN, on 1st April 2010 the “*coexistence period*” was supposed to end and all existing codes conflicting with the Eurocodes should have been withdrawn.

Considering the importance of the subject, in its meeting held in Antalya on 28 October 2011, the ECCE Standing Committee on Education & Training included in the activity plan for 2012 the elaboration of a study named “*Enhancing the involvement of ECCE members in continuing education activities related to the implementation of structural Eurocodes*”.

For the first phase of the study, to be discussed and concluded at the 2012 spring meeting of ECCE in Vilnius, was proposed a “*Survey on the state-of-the art of implementation of the Eurocodes in the respective country*”.

For the survey, a questionnaire with 6 questions was prepared and sent to all ECCE members from countries which are members of CEN.

In the Annex I of this report, a synthesis of answers received from 13 countries is presented. In the Annex II are given additional information for the answer to the question 5 (“Entities engaged in the implementation of Eurocodes in your country”), while in the Annex III are given additional information for the answer to the question 6 (“Other relevant information on the implementation of Eurocodes in the country”).

The results of the Survey will be analysed at the meeting of the SC Education & Training to take place in Vilnius on 25th May 2012.

It is hoped that in the weeks immediately following the Vilnius meeting, answers to the questionnaire will be also obtained from the ECCE members which did not contribute so far. Then, the time until the 56th ECCE meeting in Dubrovnik will be used by the SC on E&T to review the activities undertaken in ECCE members countries for the implementation of Eurocodes and also for the preparation of a second generation of Eurocodes, expected to be completed by 2018.

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on Education & Training