



# **ECCE BRIEF ACTIVITY REPORT**

## **OCTOBER 2014 – MAY 2015**

*by Włodzimierz Szymczak, ECCE President*

*&*

*Maria Karanasiou, ECCE General Secretary*

Naples, May 2015

# **60<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in Warsaw, Poland**

**October 17 – 18 2014**

- 60<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in Warsaw, Poland hosted by the Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers (PCCE) was organized with great success. The International Conference “Modern solutions in the bridges construction” was held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014, organized by ECCE and PCCE, as part of the 60<sup>th</sup> ECCE GM.







# 60<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in Warsaw

## Elections for the period 2014 - 2016

Name	Position
Włodzimierz Szymczak	President
Fernando Branco	Immediate Past President
Massimo Mariani	Vice President/ President Elect
Vija Geme	Honorary Treasurer/ Vice President
Gorazd Humar	Executive Board Member
Dimitar Natchev	Executive Board Member
Jose Francisco Saez Rubio	Executive Board Member



# **AFTER WARSAW**

- The 2nd European Engineers’ Day was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014, in Brussels with great success! The European Engineers’ Federations ECCE, ECEC and FEANI, together with EFCA, ENAEE, CLGE and CLAIU organized this unique event wishing to extend the public knowledge and appreciation of the engineering profession, their education and professional concerns and the capacity to solve the arising problems in a changing world. The event was attended by 150 participants from industry, academia and professional organizations and it was the first time the federations have come together to make such an appeal.
- European Union policymakers have been urged to support European engineers in addressing a range of “critical” issues. European Council President **Herman VAN ROMPUY** send a very warm opening video message. **Martin FROHN**, Head of Unit in the unit “Free movement of Professionals” in DG Internal Market and Services, delivered a presentation during the morning session “Mobility and Regulation” and **Jaroslav KRAČÚN**, European Commission, Directorate General Internal Market and Services, Unit C3 - Public Procurement Legislation and Enforcement, responsible for the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia + Innovation Policy, delivered a presentation in the afternoon session “Delivering Client Value”.

- The opening of the event was made by the Presidents of the three main organizers; **ECCE President Wlodzimierz SZYMCZAK**, **ECEC President Ľrtomir REMEC** and **FEANI President José Manuel Pereira VIEIRA** who delivered opening speeches. Also, the WFEO President Marwan ABDELHAMID had a welcome speech.
- The two lecturers on the ECCE side were **ECCE Immediate Past President Fernando BRANCO** in the morning session with the presentation “**Engineering Challenges for a future Europe**” and **ECCE former President Vassilis ECONOMOPOULOS** in the afternoon session with the presentation “**Internationalization of Engineering Activities**”. Also, ECCE President Wlodzimierz SZYMCZAK participated in the Round Table at the end of the morning session and ECCE former Vice-President/ Honorary Treasurer Vincentas STRAGYS participated in the second Round Table at the end of the afternoon session.

# "2nd EUROPEAN ENGINEERS' DAY"

(3)





## **“2<sup>nd</sup> EUROPEAN ENGINEERS’ DAY”**

### **Press Release/ Resolutions**

**(4)**

The EU Institutions are herewith invited to acknowledge that :

- **Engineering solutions are** always designed with economic, safety and functionality considerations in mind. Many of today’s societal challenges such as sustainability of the environment, aging infrastructures, deployment of innovative renewable sources of energy and economic growth are **of an international nature**. Therefore, **internationalization and cross-border recognition of engineering qualifications are important and vital to forge a better future for society**. International mobility is now a normal part of an engineer’s career: the global engineering profession has developed tools to facilitate this and will continue to work across borders to promote excellence in engineering education and practice for the benefit of society.
- By the very nature of their professional and ethical commitment, professional engineers ensure that the public is protected from harm. To do so, **professional engineers must possess the relevant underpinning knowledge and maintain their technical and managerial competence** so that they can deliver value to their clients in their chosen field of endeavor.

### **Press Release/ Resolutions**

The rhythm of new developments in science and technology implies for engineers, the need for updated life-long-learning in order to acquire new technologic knowledge and skills, and to maintain high professional standards. **The importance of quality assessment of their initial and continuing education needs to be recognized.**

- Engineers, through a combination of intellect, skill and ingenuity deliver the appropriate and sustainable solutions to some of the world’s grandest challenges. Society today is surrounded by engineering products and inventions that allow both current and future generations to prosper and flourish. **Professional regulation, in its varying forms [whether voluntary or statutory], is the mechanism by which the public can be independently assured of an individual engineer’s professional competence and personal commitment to be bound by professional codes of practice.**
- The evolution of engineering has always been associated with “investment, innovation and internationalization”. Public and private investments are necessary for developing infrastructures and buildings. Innovation associated to new materials and technologies is paramount to the success of the construction companies.

## **“2<sup>nd</sup> EUROPEAN ENGINEERS’ DAY”**

### **Press Release/ Resolutions**

**(6)**

Due to the high complexity of engineering services and their technologies, it can be difficult for procuring authorities to compare the content of offers, which can lead to decisions based on the lowest price only. This may run contrary to the interests and intentions of the consumer/client and may lead to a lack of quality in the project, unfulfilled expectations in design and exaggerated unforeseen costs. **Therefore, a quality based contract award for engineering services is essential (most economically advantageous tender).**

- Micro-, small- and medium sized enterprises, which employ the majority of European engineers, including civil engineers, are at the core of the European economy. **The success of the European economy will depend upon our ability to unlock the potential of the SME-sector and our endeavors to support engineering entrepreneurship in our countries.** Only high-quality engineering services can guarantee that the costs of a project do not explode due to weak design. This is in the interest of each consumer/client and in the case of public procurement in the public interest.

# WFEO Meetings – December 2014

- On 8-11 December 2014, Vassilis Economopoulos participated at WFEO Meetings in Paris as Advisor of the WFEO President Eng. Marwan Abdelhamid.
- In the President's Advisors Meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December in his presentation regarding the Relations with the European Union he presented the outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Engineers' Day, as well as the general evolutions in European Union, regarding the priorities of European Commission and European Parliament at the new period (2014-2020) and the key points affecting Engineering professional matters and also the infrastructure development and Connecting European Facility (CEF).





# Meeting with ICE Leadership

(1)

- Towards the end of 2014 ECCE received a resignation letter from the Institution of Civil Engineers (U.K.) which is one of ECCE's founding members. This was a very unfortunate moment for ECCE as one of its founding members decided to step down. The ECCE President and Executive Board considered the poor situation and decided that for the sake of ICE's long history in ECCE the least that could be done was to explain and clarify the situation and the reasons that led ICE to such a decision.
- Therefore, a meeting with ICE leadership was arranged on 5<sup>th</sup> February in London. In this meeting the participants on behalf of ECCE were ECCE President Wlodzimierz Szymczak, ECCE Immediate Past President Fernando Branco and ECCE Past President Vassilis Economopoulos. On behalf of ICE, Nick Baveystock Director General and Secretary and Tim Broyd Vice President participated in the meeting.

## Meeting with ICE Leadership

(2)

- It has been a very fruitful and constructive meeting since the two organizations established a direct contact and exchanged information to achieve the utmost transparency and dissolve any misperception due to miscommunication. The discussions that were held reinforced the need for further dialogue and we are expecting good results.



# **ECCE E-Journal**

**December 2014**  
**March 2015**

- A new initiative of ECCE, the issuing of periodic e-journal.
- The ECCE e-journal is prepared every three – four months.
- The goal is to bring together periodically the European Civil Engineers and to be aware of their problems and their realizations, organizing a forum of ideas and of news.
- The e-journal may also act as a mean to send ideas for discussion in Brussels.
- Next ECCE e-journal will be in **JUNE 2015**

**Get involved with ECCE e-journal !**



# European Council of Civil Engineers

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## ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak speech at the 2nd European Engineers' Day



Distinguished Members of the European Parliament, Representatives of the European Union Authorities and Institutions, Leaders and Members of the National and European Engineers' Organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

Speaking as the third one I have a privileged position. My esteemed previous speakers have already said enough so that I could limit my speech just to welcome you. However, I have decided to take up some of your precious time and share with you some of my personal thoughts.

We, the organizers of the 2nd European Engineers' Day feel honored to host here in Brussels, the administrative heart of the European Union so many distinguished guests. Your kind presence here is a tangible evidence that the issues so vital to the European Engineers Community are not completely unfamiliar and insignificant to you.

We are about to listen to six presentations given by eminent European engineers. All these presentations are closely related to practicing engineering profession in the European Union. All

the speeches bring up issues which are highly up to date and important I think not only for us, engineers.

I might sound a little bit unorthodox to you asking this question: can you imagine our present life without all these buildings, roads, bridges, means of transportation, communication and all the domestic appliances we use on daily basis? To say least but not least very difficult, am I right? This all we owe to engineers who in response to the needs and expectations provide with solutions.

On many occasions I have been asked: what does it take to be an engineer? To my mind it takes being a visionary as well as being able to give your vision a physical shape. But it is not enough, the solid educational foundation is necessary. This path is a painstaking process, but the outcome could be outstanding.

Engineers, in particular civil engineers make their very unique contribution to the surrounding world, shaping the environment in which we work, live and pass our free time, and making our world a better and safer place to

live. The results of their activity remain with us throughout decades and centuries. Therefore civil engineering has gained its due status of the Public Trust Profession. To prove oneself worthy of this trust each and every civil engineer has to undergo probably one of the most demanding, challenging and one of its kind educational path.

On this special day it is my desire to bring it home to you, the value of engineering education. I do believe, that engineers feature specific set of qualities just like for example in Special Forces. These people throughout years are trained in precision and logic of reasoning and solving seemingly unsolvable problems. In the wake of it, the future engineers develop both confidence in their intellectual abilities and intellectual curiosity, which allows them to challenge the world order as we know it today, again on the other hand, maintain the entire technical infrastructure in which we live, and which surrounds us on all sides.

The engineers, because of their thorough knowledge, based on comprehensive understanding of mathematics, physics and other exact sciences, which for the overwhelming part of society seem to be kind of "black magic", ought to be treated as the "national treasure" and most valuable asset of every state in the world.

But that would be merely scratching the surface to say that, because according to the report entitled The Vision of Civil Engineering 2025, published a few years ago by the American Society of Civil Engineers



# European Council of Civil Engineers

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## 61st ECCE General Meeting – 30th ECCE Anniversary 29th – 30th May 2015, Naples, Italy



European Council  
of  
Civil Engineers



The 61st ECCE General Meeting will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the European Council of Civil Engineers and it will be held on 29th – 30th May 2015 in Naples, Italy at the Royal Continental Hotel hosted by the National Council of Italian Engineers (CNI).

This festive General Meeting will be combined with the Conference "Artistic and Monumental Heritage – Restoration, Safeguard and Enhancement" organized by CNI that will take place on Friday 29th May 2015, at the Basilica di San Giovanni Maggiore a Pignatelli.

Please find the [61st ECCE General Meeting Preliminary Agenda](#), the [61st ECCE General Meeting Registration Form](#) and the [Hotel Reservation Form](#).

All updated information regarding the 61st ECCE General Meeting and Conference will be available on the ECCE website [here](#).

Please note that the deadline for hotel reservations at the Royal Continental Hotel is on 5th April 2015 and the deadline for registration to the 61st ECCE General Meeting is on 31st March 2015.

You are all invited to be part of this magnificent and memorable event at this important moment in the history of the European Council of Civil Engineers.

## New ECCE book "Footbridges – Small is beautiful"



The second book prepared by the European Council of Civil Engineers on the subject of cultural and technical heritage in civil engineering and architecture is the book "Footbridges – Small is beautiful". The book "Footbridges – Small is beautiful" which is the outcome of the hard work of the Task Force on Civil Engineering Heritage as well as of all the ECCE Members, is finally accomplished and published.

The official presentation of the book took place during the 60th ECCE General Assembly Meeting in Warsaw. The book is now available for purchase.

Some details about the book:

- the book contains 418 pages
- a total of 198 footbridges (179 in Europe and 17 in Japan) are presented in words and pictures



# **6<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of the Civil Engineering Chambers from the Portuguese and Spanish Speaking Countries**

**(1)**

**5-6 March 2015**

- On the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of March, in the capital of Cape Verde, Cidade da Praia met the representatives of the Civil Engineering Chambers from the Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries, including Portugal and Spain, the Latin America Countries, Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde.
- ECCE Immediate Past President Fernando Branco was present, representing the actual ECCE President, and also, as guests, assisted the representatives of FEANI and WCCE.

# 6<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of the Civil Engineering Chambers from the Portuguese and Spanish Speaking Countries

(2)

- Fernando Branco presented recent ECCE activities, and their importance for the European Civil Engineers, including the activities to influence the positions of Brussels, the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Engineers' Day, the Position Papers, the Standing Committees, the organization of Conferences related to technical important topics, the publication of books and the quality of e-Journal, inviting everybody to register in ECCE site to receive it.



## **High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum**

### **25/3/2015**

Past president Fernando Branco participated in this meeting in representation of ECCE. The main guidelines that were presented for the construction sector are presented below.

It Is important to highlight the following points:

- Important investments are allocated to Energy rehabilitation (in practice any building rehabilitation can use these EU funds if some energy saving is associated to the works);
- EU does not know what is the saving energy return from this rehabilitation, so it is investing also in green value increasing of the property, to convince people to invest in rehabilitation;
- EU is also investing in Life cycle and recycling of the demolition debris, trying to impose that in a Green Public Procurement, what nobody really knows what it is. For now, the idea is to try to recycle public buildings up to 70%;

# High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum 25/3/2015

- Eurocodes are being pushed to be adapted all over the world, and simultaneously to be simplified.
- Political strategies for EU investments in Africa, Middle East and America are being studied to protect EU companies.





# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Association of Polish Engineers in Great Britain



On 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2015, the ECCE President, Włodzimierz Szymczak, took part in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Association of Polish Engineers in Great Britain. The first day of celebrations took place in the Polish Embassy in London hosted by the Ambassador of the Polish Republic in London, His Excellency Witold Sobkow. The Meeting brought together many prominent guests from Europe and worldwide. ECCE President gave his Honorary Patronage for this celebrations and delivered a welcome speech. Next day the International Conference titled "BIM for Poland - risk and challenges" took place. Włodzimierz Szymczak presented an ECCE approach to this subject and an action already taken. The last point in the agenda was a technical visit at the Tottenham Court Road Underground Station which is currently developed as a part of a big infrastructure project named CrossRail. This project is carried out using BIM method.

# **Honorary event with the EC President in Dusseldorf (1)**

**16 April 2015**

- A very important Event for the **Honorary Award to European Commission President Jean – Claude Juncker** within the European Senate Meeting of the Network/Group of the Associations of SMEs – “We Entrepreneurs” was held on 16.04.2015 at Dusseldorf/Neuss **by the initiative of our ECCE Honorary Vice President Hermann Sturm.** ECCE was represented in the event by the President Wlodzimierz Szymczak and the Former President Vassilis Economopoulos who were invited by the organisers.
- **In this Event, our President Wlodzimierz Szymczak was awarded as Honorary Senator.** Many ECCE contacts and discussions were held in the frame of this event with European and other Organisations representing SMEs and important personalities participating in this meeting.

# **Honorary event with the EC President in Dusseldorf** (2)

- **The priority of ECCE for Supporting and Promoting the Sustainable Growth of SMEs in Europe** was set by the ECCE President from Warsaw General Meeting and our participation in this network-group and its activities is of great importance.
- In this direction, the other **Honorary Senators previously awarded by the European Economic Forum (EWIF)** <http://www.ewif.de/gremien/senat.html>, Members of ECCE Vassilis Economopoulos, Gorazd Humar and Iacint Manoliu will also be activated. Our passed ECCE President Jose Medem was the first ECCE Member awarded as Honorary Senator by EWIF.

# Honorary event with the EC President in Dusseldorf (3)





# **“Engineering Days”**

## **Cyprus, 11 May 2015**

**(1)**



- On 11<sup>th</sup> May 2014, the last Honorary (closing) Event, took place in Nicosia within a previous time period with group of separate successful events on "Engineering Days" promoting the Visibility of Engineering and the important role of Engineers in the Society, organized by the Technical & Scientific Engineers' Chamber of Cyprus (ETEK).
- The key note Speaker of this event was our ECCE Former President Vassilis Econopoulos who presented the subject: "The Engineering Regulated Profession in Europe and worldwide. Challenges and Perspectives".
- The ETEK President Stelios Achiotis made an extensive reference of the whole program and successful events of the Engineering Days organized by ETEK and he insisted on the importance of this program promoting the Engineering Profession to the Society.



# **“Engineering Days”**

## **Cyprus, 11 May 2015**

**(2)**

- The Minister of Transport & Public Works of Cyprus, Mr. Marios Dimitriadis, as well as the Mayor of Nicosia, Konstantinos Giorkatzis, stressed the productive cooperation with ETEK and the contribution of Cypriot Engineers in the Growth and Development of Cyprus.
- ECCE Former President Vassilis Economopoulos was awarded by the ETEK for his contribution to the International Engineering Affairs and to the bilateral Cyprus - Greece cooperation, by the ETEK President Stelios Achiotis, and he expressed his great thanks for the close and productive cooperation with all Colleagues Friends Cypriot Delegates in ECCE, ECEC, FEANI, WFEO for many years.
- The President of the Association of Civil Engineers of Cyprus Platonas Stylianoy and George Dimitriou / ECCE Representative, were also present at this event.
- The ETEK President gave also two awards, assigned after competition to the two Groups of Cypriot Engineers succeeding important projects



# **STANDING COMMITTEES**

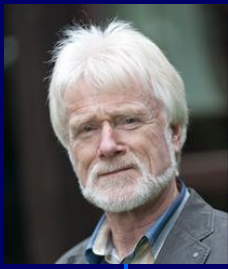


## **Standing Committee on Knowledge & Technology**

***Chairman: Ruben Paul Borg***

- Task Force 1: VISION 2025 Civil Engineering: Survey and Analysis of Trends; definition of key areas in Civil Engineering. The first survey conducted summarizes the most common needs in Civil Engineering. ECCE is therefore carrying out a much useful and relevant Europe-wide exercise to obtain indications of the likely developments and emerging needs in Civil Engineering in Europe during the coming years
- Task Force 2: BIM and LCA (Building Information Modelling and Life Cycle Analysis)
  - The aims of the Task Force are:
    - To create a network of European experts in LCA and BIM.
    - To collect best-practice case studies on LCA and BIM from across Europe and collate them into a peer reviewed publication.
    - To identify other opportunities arising from the activities of the task force.





## **Standing Committee on Environment & Sustainability**

***Chairman: Prof Carsten Ahrens***

***Vice Chairman: George Demetriou***

- WFE0 Annual conference, Dec. 2014, Paris

Carsten Ahrens participated in the meeting of the SC Energy as chairman of the Solar Energy Group and presented the first half part of the WFE0 Solare Energy Brochure. This was kindly accepted and handed over to the UNESCO representative.

- Co-operation with VDI, Febr. and May 2015, Düsseldorf
- C.A. discussed common interests of ECCE and VDI (Verein Deutscher Ingenieure) with CEO Ralph Apel concerning topics of E&S.
- European University of Cyprus-workshop, April 2015, Cyprus

George Demetriou participated in this discussion, which strongly touched issues of desalination of seawater and sewage water treatments – connecting with concerns about energy use and gain.

- Position Paper about water energy nexus, since 60<sup>th</sup> GA in Warsaw

Energy for water – energy from water – water for energy, which is the longer expression of the water-energy nexus. European-wide and worldwide this nexus is a very actual topic of essential future looking considerations to bring together these two limited resources. A position paper has been elaborated by the chairmen.



## **Standing Committee on Education & Training**

***Chairman: Prof. Iacint Manoliu***

- Organization with the support of CKAIT of the first workshop of the ECCE SC E&T with the theme "*Lifelong learning in civil engineering profession in Europe*", Prague, 20-21 April 2015
- Preparation of the framework for the ECCE Position Paper "*Continuous professional development of European civil engineers- major field of cooperation among academic institutions, construction industry and professional associations*", discussed at the Workshop in Prague and of a draft to be discussed at the SC E&T meeting in Naples
- Preparation of the programme for the "*Study on the practical placements/internships of civil engineering students and on the support given by ECCE members to this activity*", to be launched at the SC E&T meeting in Naples



## **Standing Committee on Associate Membership**

***Chairman: Mr. Vassilis Economopoulos,  
ECCE Past President***

***Vice Chairmen: Bora Kutruza & Aristides Karlaftis***

- Permanent communication and correspondence for attracting New Full and Associate Members.
- ECCE participation in the important Event for the Honorary Award to Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker (President of the European Commission) within the European Senate Meeting of the Network/Group of Associations of SMEs -"We Entrepreneurs" by the initiative of our ECCE Honorary Vice President Mr. Hermann Sturm <http://www.europaeischer-senat.de/president-juncker/> on 16.04.2015 at Dusserdolf/Neuss.
- Many ECCE contacts and discussions with European and other Organisations of SMEs and important personalities participating in this meeting within the frame of awarding the ECCE President Wlodzimierz Szymczak as Honorary Senator.
- Networking and activation of the ECCE Members already awarded as Honorary Senators of European Economic Forum <http://www.ewif.de/gremien/senat.html> and by the above Group, coordinated by Hermann Sturm and President Wlodek for promoting the SMEs positions and interests in EU by ECCE side.
- Information on EU financial programs (Juncker Investment Plan, CEF)



**Standing Committee  
on Development & Business Environment**  
***Chairman: Mr. Hamish Douglas***

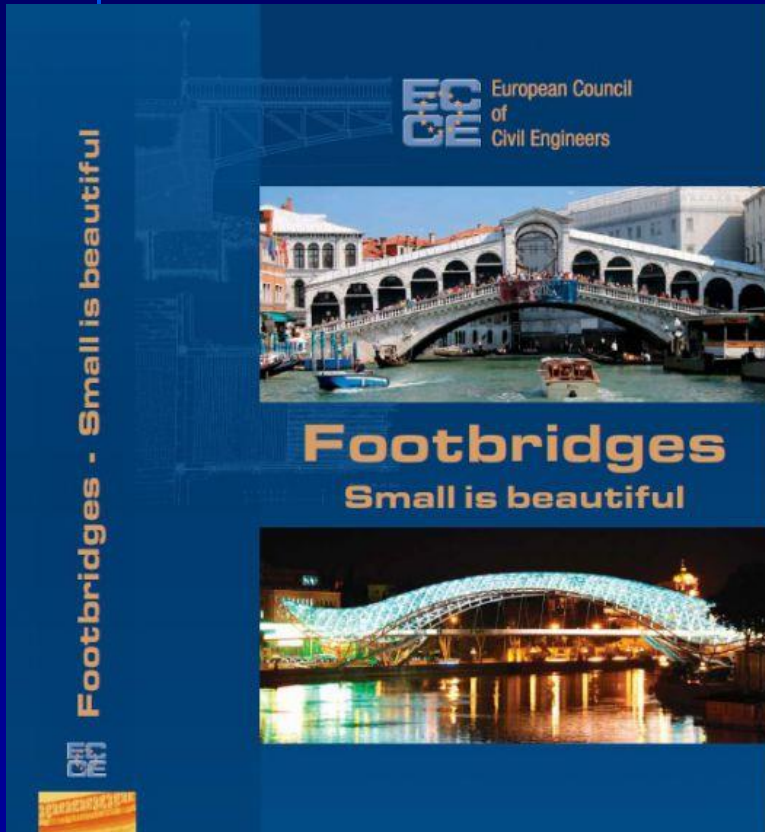
- Standing Committee has followed all items relevant to ECCE Activities by Internet and Press Releases
- More information on recent progress on all the items that the SC is working on will be presented during the SC Meeting in Naples.





## **Task Force Civil Engineering Heritage**

***Chairman: Mr. Gorazd Humar,  
ECCE Immediate Past President***



- Promotion and dissemination of the ECCE Book "Footbridges – Small is Beautiful"
- For more information about the book and instructions on how to purchase it please visit the ECCE website
- [http://www.ecceengineers.eu/activities/civil-engineering-heritage/content/footbridges\\_book.php](http://www.ecceengineers.eu/activities/civil-engineering-heritage/content/footbridges_book.php)