



European Council of Civil Engineers

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NEWS FROM:

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- Spain
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2020 The Year of the 3S Approach "Safe – Sound – Sustainable"

2020
THE YEAR OF THE
3S APPROACH
SAFE – SOUND – SUSTAINABLE



The European Council of Civil Engineers declares the Year 2020 as the Year of the 3S Approach Safe – Sound – Sustainable.

Opening event in Cyprus

Aris Chatzidakis, President of the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE), declared the Year 2020 as the Year of the 3S Approach "Safe, Sound and Sustainable".

The official opening event was held on 14th December 2019, at Nicosia, Cyprus during the 27th General Assembly of the Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers.

It is noted that the General Assembly of the Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers was held under the auspices of the Honorable Minister of Transport, Communications and Works, Mr. Yiannis Karoussos. The event was attended besides the Members of the Association, by several official invitees such as Members of the Parliament, Mayors, Former Ministers, the President of the Scientific and Technical Chamber of Cyprus, Heads of Government Departments and Services, Presidents of Professional Organizations etc.

The announcement of the year 2020 as the year of the ECCE 3S Approach "Safe, Sound and Sustainable" by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis came after the completion of the relevant Position Paper prepared by the European Council of Civil Engineers.

The title of Position Paper is: "The need for integrating Structural / Seismic Upgrade of Existing Buildings, with Energy Efficiency Improvements".

According to this Position Paper, it is a basic and inalienable human right for everyone to live in a Safe, Sound and Sustainable home. For this reason, it is necessary to have first and foremost structural security in buildings and then structural sustainability.

Read ECCE's Manifesto

Europe's engineers, and ordinary citizens alike, are wondering why significant amounts of money are invested in improving the shell of buildings, ignoring the static adequacy of the bearing structure of these buildings, especially in countries located in earthquake-prone areas.

The suggestion is that a uniform policy should be drawn up for the static or seismic upgrading of the structural wealth of European States, along with the wider sustainable environmental upgrading, approaching the problem in a holistic way.

The Position Paper preparation committee consists of:

1. Platonas Stylianou, Coordinator (Cyprus)
2. Aris Chatzidakis (Greece)
3. Maria Karanasiou (Greece)
4. Paul Coughlan (England)
5. Andreas Brandner (Austria)
6. Branko Zadnik (Slovenia)
7. Nikolas Kyriankides (Cyprus)
8. Andreas Theodotou (Cyprus)



CYACE President Andreas Theodotou



ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis



Opening event of "2020 The Year of the 3S Approach Safe - Sound - Sustainable" in Cyprus

Kick-off event in Sofia "2020 The Year of the 3S Approach"



ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer Dimitar Natchev at the kick-off event in Sofia

On 6th December 2019, a meeting-discussion on the topic "Sustainable Construction and Digitalization of Construction Sector, BIM implementation" was held in Sofia, Bulgaria. This event was attended by representatives of higher education institutions/ engineering universities, engineers and architects from the Chamber of Engineers in the Investment Design, the Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria, the Chamber of architects of Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Construction Chamber, the Bulgarian Institute for Standardization and the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria.

Eng Maria Stefanova, Secretary of KIIP-Sofia, presented the current development of Level's - European Framework for sustainable buildings – overview of the testing phase and future action roadmap. Using existing standards, Level(s) provides a common EU approach to the assessment of environmental performance in

the built environment. The standards of CEN/TC350 'Sustainable Construction, BDS EN ISO 19650-1,2 related to the Organization and digitization of information about buildings and civil engineering works, including building information modelling (BIM), were discussed.

Eng. Dimitar Natchev, ECCE Vice President, presented the ECCE Manifesto "2020 The Year of the 3S Approach". The Manifesto is translated also in Bulgarian language. During the discussion the participants expressed their positive opinion on the holistic approach on the rehabilitation of existing buildings including structural / seismic rehabilitation.

The representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works declared that they support this ECCE initiative on the 3S Approach, because we need safe, sound and sustainable buildings, not only energy efficient buildings. They pointed out that in Bulgaria this issue is legally resolved for the buildings of public sector. The Construction legislation clearly outlined the engineering approach to the renovation: before preparing the renovation project, a structural expertise (technical audit), must be prepared and if it is necessary restoration measures of damaged structural elements are performed.

It is positive to pay more attention on seismic safety of the buildings and to try to ensure political commitments of EU institutions to support the investments, as for energy efficiency of buildings.

We hope 2020 will be a successful and fruitful one for the engineering community and we can realize the benefits of the ideas contained in the, laid down in the ECCE Manifesto - Safe, Sound and Sustainable buildings (3S).

71st ECCE General Meeting

21 - 23 May 2020, Malta



SAVE THE DATE!

The **71st ECCE General Meeting** will be held from **21 to 23 May 2020, in Malta**, hosted by the Kamra tal-Periti (Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers).

A preliminary Agenda for the events that will take place during these days can be found below.

THURSDAY 21ST MAY 2020

14:00-19:00 ExBo Meeting – Hotel
afternoon Site Visit for delegates arriving early for General Meeting
20:00 Dinner for delegates at ExBo Meeting and KTP - Hotel

FRIDAY 22ND MAY 2020

08:30-10:30 General Meeting
10:30-11:00 Coffee Break
11:00-13:00 General Meeting
13:00-14:00 Lunch
14:00-17:00 General Meeting
09:00-14:00 Site Visit for Accompanying Persons – Any Heritage of Malta site
17:30-19:30 ExBo Meeting, same location of General Meeting
20:30 Dinner for delegates, accompanying guests and KTP

SATURDAY 23RD MAY 2020

09:00-11:00 Conference
11:00-11:30 Coffee Break
11:30-13:30 Conference
13:30-14:00 Lunch (at location of conference)
15:00-19:00 Site Visit for all attendees

Updated information will be available soon on the [ECCE website](#). Stay tuned!

4th European Engineers' Day SAVE THE DATE!



The 4th European Engineers' Day 2020 will be held on 24th June 2020, in Brussels, Belgium co-organized by the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE), European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) and European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI).

More in information will be announced soon.

Stay tuned with the [ECCE website](#).

Declaration for the Protection of Engineers Chambers TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Dear All, / To Whom It May Concern,

The European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) is concerned about the fact that, over the last years, political bodies of some EU member states and candidate countries are undervaluing the importance, function and purpose of the Engineers Chambers. Without intending to bring out individual cases, where this is evident, we are concerned about the disrespect, shown by the leading political bodies, towards the professional chambers opinions and their exclusion from the dialogue concerning the adoption of any key regulations.

As a result of this exclusion, laws are adopted, which are not the result of the professional consideration of facts. The importance of the Chambers, which are the professional bodies whose primary function is to protect public interest and the interests of professionals, in the fields of engineering activities, is marginalized and undermined, and eventually, making it impossible for them to operate and exist. Engineering professional organizations, are among the most important European Institutions, incorporating and transmitting the best professional practices, built through the years of their experience.

Specifically, as a result of the adoption of such laws that do not have the support of the profession, the application of various Directives of the European Parliament and of the Council is diminished. For example, Directive 2006/123/EC, dated December 12th 2006, concerning the prescribing of professional liability insurance. Also, Directive 2013/55/EC, dated November 20th 2013, requiring the recognition of professional qualifications of those whose services present a direct and particular danger to the health or safety of users or third parties.

The intention and desire of ECCE is that the European Parliament may adopt a resolution on the necessity to enhance the collaboration of Engineers Chambers with the European Parliament, by working together for the best possible outcome and strengthening the role of professional engineering bodies in the EU member states and candidate countries. Also, respecting their views and positions in topics relevant to spatial planning, construction and provision of services, and enhancing their participation in any stakeholder discussion, in order to prevent potentially enormous and already visible risks, due to misplanned land management and limited sustainable resources, that

must be managed in a high-quality and multidisciplinary manner.

In this view, we would like to refer to the **B5 0247/2001 “European Parliament resolution on scale fees and compulsory tariffs for certain liberal professions, in particular lawyers, and on the particular role and position of the liberal professions in modern society”** which clearly recognizes the importance of the liberal professions and identifies that they are one of the pillars of pluralism and independence in society, and, fulfil roles in the public interest.

Should you require any clarifications or have any questions, ECCE is at your disposal for further cooperation on this and other topics.

Sincerely,



Aris Chatzidakis
President of ECCE

70th ECCE General Meeting 25 September 2019, Lisbon, Portugal



70th ECCE General Meeting participants

The 70th ECCE General Meeting was held on 25th September 2019, in Lisbon, Portugal hosted by the Portuguese Engineers Association (OEP - Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal). The 70th ECCE General Meeting was held in parallel with the [Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit 2019 \(CES2019\)](#) that was organized from 24 to 28 September 2019, at LNEC - The National Civil Engineering Laboratory.

During the five days of the CES2019 engineers from around the world were gathered in Lisbon to share knowledge, challenges and projects. This international event aimed to discuss, with a global and integrative approach, the main issues that currently affect the community of civil engineers, who seek solutions to new and also old challenges, in which its role will have a major impact, as climate change, food and water security, safety construction and all the other UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Simultaneously with the CES2019, Lisbon also hosted the World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE), the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE), the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) and the Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries (EAMC) General Assemblies.

The 70th ECCE General Meeting was very well attended by delegations from the majority of the ECCE Member organizations and it was chaired by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis.

This time, given the special circumstances, the structure of our meeting was slightly different. The CES2019 plenary session on Civil Engineering Heritage which was moderated by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis was integrated into the ECCE meeting agenda and this way all the delegates had the opportunity to attend this session.



From left to right: ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brandner, ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis, OEP Bastonario and WCCE President Carlos Mineiro Aires, ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer Dimitar Natchev

status of ECCE until September and he presented the proposed ECCE Membership Fees for 2020 as well as the Budget for 2020. Both the Fees and the Budget were unanimously approved by the General Assembly. Then, ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis presented the [ECCE Brief Activity Report June – September 2019](#) describing briefly the ECCE activities since our last meeting in May in Podgorica. After the ECCE activity report a topic that was submitted to the ECCE Executive Board by the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro was presented and discussed. The Engineers Chamber of Montenegro submitted a letter to be addressed to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union supporting the adoption of the Directive on the protection of engineers' chambers. ECCE committed to support its members and will take the topic forward.

Later on, a common session between the European Council of Civil Engineers and the World Council of Civil Engineers took place. On the opportunity of both organizations having their General Assemblies in Lisbon, such initiative was organized in order to bring the two organizations closer and to enhance the cooperation between them. During the common ECCE-WCCE session a number of initiatives and activities of both associations were presented. The presentation can be found below:

- [Civil Engineering: Gender perspective in Europe](#) by Cristina Machado, WCCE Standing Committee Chair on Gender Equality
- [Civil Engineering: Gender perspective in the Americas](#) by Alejandra Fogel, Argentinian Representative on WCCE's Standing Committee on Gender Equality
- [The need for integrating structural / seismic upgrade of existing buildings in parallel with energy efficiency improvements](#) by Platonas Stylianou, ECCE Executive Board Member
- [Ethics and professional practice](#) by Emilio Colon, WCCE Past President
- [Civil Engineering Big Data Primer](#) by Jorge Emilio Abramian, WCCE President Elect
- [WCCE's Water related initiatives](#) by Teodoro Estrela Monreal, WCCE Standing Committee Chair on Water
- [Appropriate regulation for enhancing global practice of civil engineering](#) by José Francisco Saéz, ECCE Executive Board Member



ExBo Member Platonas Stylianou during his presentation in the ECCE-WCCE common event

Later on, the official opening of the 70th ECCE General Meeting took place with speeches by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis and the OEP Bastonario Eng. Carlos Mineiro Aires who cordially thanked everyone for coming to Lisbon and for being part of and contributing to the success of the Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit and the ECCE General Meeting. Among the distinguished guests were WCCE Past President Emilio Colon, ECEC President Klaus Thurniedl and EAMC Secretary General Nicola Monda. All of the invited guests had a short speech during the opening of the meeting.

The [minutes of the 69th ECCE General Meeting](#), in Podgorica, Montenegro were unanimously approved. The financial topics reports were presented by the ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer Dimitar Natchev. He briefly informed the delegates regarding the financial



70th ECCE General Meeting participants



ExBo Member Jose Francisco Saez during his presentation in the ECCE-WCCE common event

During the ECCE-WCCE common event ExBo Member Platonas Stylianou delivered a presentation regarding the ECCE Position Paper "The need for Structural / Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings in parallel with Energy Efficiency Improvements". The text of the one page Manifesto and the motto were agreed upon during the meeting. Now, after the finalization of the design part of the document the Manifesto will be broadly disseminated.

Next on the Agenda, it was a presentation by the ECCE President regarding the [Construction Industry news](#) when ECCE President informed the delegates regarding the latest news of the High Level Tripartite Forum on Construction 2020, the Thematic Group 1 "Stimulating investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation" and the European Construction Forum to which ECCE participates.

Later on, ECCE President presented the proposal on the amendment of the ECCE Articles of Association that was commonly agreed by the ECCE Executive Board the previous day and that was submitted to the General Assembly in written. The suggested proposals regarding the amendment of the Articles 1, 2 and 6 were unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

Then, ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis informed the General Assembly about the next steps regarding the ECCE book "Notes on the history of civil engineering" which was issued in October 2018. He mentioned that 1.000 copies of the book "Notes on the history of civil engineering" will be reprinted after getting an International Standard Book Number (ISBN). Also, the 2nd edition of the book "Notes on the history of civil engineering" that will include contributions from the ECCE member countries' history is being prepared. The materials are expected to be gathered until the end of the year and the elaboration and publishing of the book will be completed in 2020. Finally, he mentioned that ECCE is examining the possibility of reprinting the book 'A History of Civil Engineering' by Hans Straub that was published in 1952 and that is a masterpiece of its kind. This possibility is being explored with the support and assistance of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).



Signing of the INESCO MoU

From left to right: WCCE President and OEP Bastonario Carlos Mineiro Aires, ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis, OEP Vice President Fernando de Almeida Santos

After that, the Portuguese National Delegate Fernando de Almeida Santos presented the proposal about the establishment of an International Network of Civil Engineers on Safety Construction (INESCO). The founding organizations of INESCO would be the WCCE-World Council of Civil Engineers and ECCE – European Council of Civil Engineers, and the national full members that they represent. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the ECCE General Assembly and it was agreed that an Agreement will be signed between ECCE and WCCE in Lisbon. A [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) was signed by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis and the WCCE President Carlos Mineiro Aires during the ECCE – WCCE Gala Dinner on 25th September 2019.

At the end of the session ECCE Delegate from Malta Jeanette Munoz Abela confirmed that the 71st ECCE General Meeting will be hosted in Malta by the Kamra-Tal-Periti during the second half of May 2020 in the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Kamra-Tal-Periti. The dates will be confirmed soon.

At the end of the meeting ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis officially closed the 70th ECCE General Meeting thanking everyone for their participation and addressing special thanks to the Portuguese Engineers Association

for this excellent organization and hospitality.

The European Council of Civil Engineers would like to express its gratitude to the Portuguese Engineers Association for the successful organization of the 70th ECCE General Meeting and the Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit and their excellent hospitality.

Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit (CES 2019)

24-28 September 2019, Lisbon, Portugal



In the year in which the Portuguese Engineers Association (OEP - Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal) celebrated its 150th Anniversary the Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit 2019 (CES2019) was organized.

From 24 to 27 of September 2019, the Portuguese Engineers Association (OEP - Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal) brought engineers from around the world to Lisbon to share knowledge, challenges and projects in Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit 2019 (CES2019), that was held at LNEC- The National Civil Engineering Laboratory.

This international event aimed to discuss, with a global and integrative approach, the main issues that currently affect the community of civil engineers, who seek solutions to new and also old challenges, in which its role will have a major impact, as climate change, food and water security, safety construction and all the other UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Over 400 participants from all over the world listened to speeches and lectures from over 150 experts. ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis had the opportunity to moderate the Civil Engineering Heritage Plenary Session on 25th September and to hold a speech on "Guiding Principles for the Future of Civil Engineering" as part of the Plenary Session Civil Engineering 2030 that was held on 27th September.

Also, the ECCE ExBo members as well as a number of ECCE delegates participated as speakers during the Technical Sessions of the CES2019 contributing with their knowledge and expertise in the various fields of discussion.

The photo gallery can be seen on the [Lisbon CES Website](#)



ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis during his speech at the CES2019



Closing session of the CES2019. From left to right: Moderator Joao Palma-Ferreira, FEANI President Jose Vieira, WCCE President and OEP Bastonario Carlos Mineiro Aires, WFEO President Marlene Kanga, UPADI Vice President Diana Espinosa, ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis

ECCE participates in the Thematic Group 1 meeting

8 November 2019, Brussels, Belgium

ECCE has been participating in the Thematic Group 1 “Stimulating investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation” since its establishment. The latest Thematic Group 1 meeting was held on 8th November 2019, in Brussels and ECCE was represented in this meeting by its Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brandner.

The meeting consisted of the following parts:

- **Part 1 – Investing in affordable and sustainable built environment**

“ICMS and data sharing - An international standard for construction cost” by Ken CREIGHTON, director of RICS and chair of the ICMS (International Cost Measurement Standard)

“Financing for Social and Affordable Housing” by Andrea COLANTONIO (EIB)

“INDU-ZERO: Interreg project industrialise the energy-neutral renovation of dwellings” by Ulla-Britt KRÄMER (Provincie Overijssel and INDU-ZERO project)

- **Part 2A – Digitalisation and innovation**

“Digital trends in the Construction sector” by Karim KARAKI (PwC)

“Estonia’s roadmap for digitalising construction and the built environment” by Jaan SAAR (Head of Digital Construction in the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications)

“BIM-SPEED: develop BIM tools for a smarter, more efficient, method of deep renovation for the residential building sector” by Jan-Derrick BRAUN (Vicon HOCHTIEF GmbH)

- **Part 2B – Digitalisation and innovation**

“Digital Innovation Hubs for the Construction sector– The case of the nZEB Smart Home” by Apostolos TSOLAKIS (Information Technologies Institute)

“Digitalisation of Construction SMEs: study conclusions and future actions” by Rizal SEBASTIAN (TNO)

Part 3 – Beyond Construction 2020

“Presentation on the main conclusions of the assessment of Construction 2020: Focus on TG 1” by Michael FLICKENSCHILD (Ecorys)

The closing remarks can be summarized as follows:

Part I: Investing in an affordable and sustainable built environment

The ICMS coalition prepared an international standard for life-cycle costing to enable comparing information on construction costs in order to improve decision-making;

Investment gap for social and affordable housing of EUR 7bn per year (or EUR 57bn when accounting for energy efficiency needs);

Energy efficiency renovations involving an industrialised approach as INDU-ZERO shows can achieve significant cost savings (up to 50%).

Part II: Digitalisation and innovation

Digitalisation can improve the performance of the economy, but solutions need to go beyond digital documents towards machine readable and automatic processes;

Standardisation, structuring and reuse of data with interconnecting databases provides a spectrum of opportunities (example of Estonia);

Need to develop an appropriate client culture to facilitate technology uptake;

EU BIM Task group brings together public procurers informing them about BIM and other digital tools to increase technology adoption of digital solutions;

Digital Innovation Hubs can be engines to promote innovation, testing applications, develop an ecosystem and support market uptake;

Need for targeted support to innovation not only via financing support but also regarding the sector needs for knowledge, networks and standards;

In countering the costs of using new technologies it is important to develop common standards and showcase the value of the availability of data for better decision making

The minutes of the TG1 meeting can be found [here](#).

ECCE participates in the Day of Liberal Professions 2019 (LPD2019)

13 November 2019, Brussels, Belgium



The 5th edition of the Day of the Liberal Professions organised by the EESC's Liberal Professions Category was held on 13 November 2019 from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at the EESC's headquarters (Jacques Delors Building - Room JDE62), Belliard Street 99, 1040 Brussels. ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis participated in this event representing ECCE.

The event, entitled **Trust in liberal professions in the age of digitalisation and artificial intelligence**, aimed to gain fresh insight into the impact of artificial intelligence on the exercise of professional services and on clients' and patients' rights.

Speakers addressed fundamental issues such as transparency, communication and trust in professionals, regulators' awareness of the challenges linked to the opportunities offered by artificial intelligence, the consequences on the quality of professional services and their capacity to protect public interest.

The meeting was opened by the **president of the Diversity Europe Group, Arno Metzler**, and **Karl Stöger, professor at the Institute for Public Law and Political Science at the University of Graz**, delivered a keynote speech on Artificial Intelligence, the liberal professions and the law, with a special focus on the profession of doctors.

The conference, which brought together numerous representatives of the liberal professions at national and European level, as well as academic experts on the topic, with discussions divided into three panels covering:

- Consumer protection, healthcare and digital health
- Skills and training
- Regulation

While the issues of reliability and ownership of data are of concern to all professions and society, there is a particular aspect to liberal professions based on scientific knowledge. Firstly, the exercise of these professions is based on the relationship of trust and confidentiality between the professional and the client and obeys a complex code of conduct. Secondly, there is a constant need for critical thinking and decisions for ever-changing situations and lifelong learning. Today's artificial intelligence is far from capable and of course there is a huge moral and legal problem with A.I.'s irresponsibility.



From left to right: Mr. Hansjörg Letzner (ECEC General Secretary); Mr. Klaus Thürriedl (ECEC President); Mr. Aris Chatzidakis (ECCE President)

ECCE Meeting with MEP Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou

13 November 2019, Brussels, Belgium



Mr. Aris Chatzidakis (ECCE President) and MEP Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis met MEP Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou not only in her capacity as Member of the European Parliament but also as member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

The meeting was held on 13th November, at MEP Asimakopoulou's office at the premises of the European Parliament.

ECCE President presented to and discussed with MEP Asimakopoulou all the latest ECCE actions:

- **ECCE Proclamation of 2020 as the Year of the 3S Approach Safe-Sound-Sustainable** which stresses the need for integrating Structural / Seismic upgrade of existing buildings, with Energy Efficiency improvements.

- **Declaration for the Protection of Engineers Chambers** with which ECCE requires that the European Parliament may adopt a resolution on the necessity to enhance the collaboration of Engineers Chambers with the European Parliament, by working together for the best possible outcome and strengthening the role of professional engineering bodies in the EU member states and candidate countries.

- **CONSTRUCTION 2050 "Building tomorrow's**

Europe today" paper prepared by the European Construction Forum of which ECCE is a member. Construction stakeholders call upon the European Commission to strengthen the current construction policy context by creating a new vision for the built environment: "Construction 2050: Building tomorrow's Europe today" building upon the results of the current Construction 2020 initiative.

- **PRESS RELEASE on "Construction 2050 - Building tomorrow's Europe today"** where the position of ECCE on the need for integrating Structural / Seismic upgrade of existing buildings, with Energy Efficiency improvements is highlighted.
- **ECCE's Position Paper on "Appropriate regulation for the practice of civil engineering in Europe"**
- **European Engineers' Day initiative**

MEP Asimakopoulou showed great interest in ECCE's activities and initiatives and is willing to cooperate with ECCE and try to promote its positions. She also promised to attend the European Engineers' Day 2020 and also assist ECCE in reaching Greek EU Commissioner, Mr. Margaritis SCHINAS who will be asked to participate in the European Engineers' Day 2020 as well.

ECCE participates in the 18th ECEC General Assembly

27 September 2019, Lisbon, Portugal



18th ECEC GA participants

On 27th September 2019, the ECEC held its 18th General Assembly Meeting in the course of the Civil Engineering Summit in Lisbon, Portugal, which was hosted by the Ordem dos Engenheiros - the Portuguese Engineering Association and its President Mr. Carlos Mineiro Aires.

ECCE was invited to the 18th ECEC General Assembly and was represented by its Vice President/ Treasurer Dimitar Natchev who held a welcome speech highlighting the importance of the cooperation between ECCE and ECEC because both organizations have common goals and interests and should be on the same team for positioning in Europe.

The message of his speech was accepted with great enthusiasm by ECEC and ECEC President Klaus Thürriedl gave his oral approval regarding the signing of an Agreement of Cooperation between ECCE and ECEC. Also, Andreas Brandner ECCE Vice President/ President Elect partici-



EEEC Presidium



ECCE and ECEC ExBo meeting regarding future common initiatives

pated in this General Assembly representing the Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants, Austria.

In the course of this meeting, Ordem dos Engenheiros was approved for full membership after being associated member since 2017.

Further, the General Assembly has decided positively on organizing another joint European Engineers Day with the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) and the European Federation of national Engineering Associations (FEANI).

ECCE participates in the 14th WCCE General Assembly and ECCE — WCCE ExBo bilateral meeting



14th WCCE General Assembly participants

The 14th General Assembly of the World Council of Civil Engineers was held in Lisbon, Portugal from 23 to 26 September 2019, organized by the Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal, in parallel with Lisbon's Civil Engineering Summit. The Assembly was welcome by OEPT's President Carlos Mineiro Aires. Attendance at WCCE activities by WCCE delegates was enriched by the attendance of WFEO President, Marlene Kanga, UPADI President, M^a Teresa Pino and FEANI President, Jose Vieira.

ECCE was invited to the WCCE General Assembly and ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brander participated on behalf of ECCE.

Regarding the 14th WCCE General Assembly, various issues were addressed being the ma-

for achievements of the meeting as follows:

Outreach

- Kenya's Institution of Engineers has joined WCCE as National member
- Nigeria's Institution of Civil Engineers has reactivated WCCE's national membership
- Universidad de Granada and Asociación de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos y de la Ingeniería Civil have joined WCCE as Associate members.

New initiatives

- Civil Engineering Olympiad for secondary schools to be replicated in several countries
- Development of a Big Data Civil Engineering primer to be nurtured from member organizations stats.
- Presentation of the 2020 edition of WCCE's Jose Medem Civil Engineering Excellence Award.

Several initiatives have been developed jointly with UNESCO during the last months under the aegis of the UNESCO – WCCE partnership agreement being among them:

- Contributions to UNESCO's SAGA report relative to assess the current situation of Women Civil Engineers

and how to enhance their participation in the profession.

- Contributions to UNESCO's II Engineering Report titled 'Engineering UN's Standing Development Goals - SDGs' together with some other partners on the following topics:
 - Gender Equality
 - Engineering and SDGs: Latin America
 - The Future of Engineering

Also in the field of partnerships with other organizations they presented the following activities.

- Partnership agreements with UPADI, Unión Panamericana de Asociaciones de Ingeniería was ratified during the General Assembly
- A Memorandum of Understanding with FAEO, Federation of African Engineering Organizations' was signed during the General Assembly.
- Participation in 10th CICPC's meeting in held in Rio giving birth to Rio's declaration in defense of the future.
- Participation in EAMC's, Engineering Association for Mediterranean Countries General Assembly held in the same week in Lisbon.

The next General Assembly in September 2020 will be held in Kigali, Rwanda.



Also, on 25th September a bilateral meeting between the Executive Boards of WCCE and ECCE was held at the Library of the OEP premises. The leaders of the two Councils discussed their current fields of activity and explored possible common actions and initiatives.

ECCE and WCCE ExBo bilateral meeting

ECCE participates in the EAMC General Assembly and ExBo Meeting

The General Assembly of the Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries (EAMC) was held on 27th September 2019, in Lisbon, Portugal, hosted by the Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal.

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis participated in the EAMC General Assembly and ExBo Meeting. ECCE is an International Member of EAMC and Aris Chatzidakis is member of the EAMC ExBo representing ECCE. During the EAMC General Assembly the new ExBo elections were held and the new ExBo consists of the following:

- Prof. Adil Alhadithi President FAE
- Eng. Nicola Monda Secretary General CNI
- Eng. Aris Chatzidakis International member ECCE
- Dr. Ioannis P. Glekas National Member ETEK Cyprus
- Eng. Khalid Shihab National Member OEA Lebanon
- Eng. Vicent Esteban Chapapria National member AICCP Spain
- Eng. Usamah ALKhariji National Member OIT Tunisia

Also, during the EAMC General Assembly it was decided that the hosting of the Standing Technical Committees would be reallocated as follows:

- Energy and Renewable Energies Lebanon
- Engineering Education and Professional Qualification Spain
- Infrastructure and Construction committee Egypt
- Environment committee Portugal

ECCE participates in the 10th AECEF Symposium

20-23 November 2019, Wrocław, Poland



The 10th AECEF (Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties) Symposium "Cooperation between Universities and Industry in the Education and Employment of Civil Engineers: Current Expectations, Future Challenges" was held from 20 to 23 November 2019, at the Wrocław University of Science and Technology, in Poland.

ECCE supported the 10th AECEF Symposium and nominated the ECCEC Immediate Past President Włodzimierz Szymczak to participate in the Conference Committee. Włodzimierz Szymczak participated as a keynote speaker and his speech had the title "Can the Civil Engineers rescue the existence of the human beings on the earth?". His speech dealt with the presentation of the changes on the Earth and challenges which

the mankind is facing nowadays connected to global development and destruction of environment caused by human activity. The greatest threats to the existence of the world and humanity were listed and described as well as the role of civil engineers in "repair" of our World was defined.

Włodzimierz Szymczak's speech and paper can be found at the following links:

[Speech "Can the Civil Engineers rescue the existence of the human beings on the earth?" by Włodzimierz Szymczak](#)

[Paper "Can the Civil Engineers rescue the existence of the human beings on the earth?" by Włodzimierz Szymczak](#)

For further information regarding the 10th AECEF Symposium please visit the [Conference's website](#).

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Today, within the European Union, construction companies have activities in many countries, so civil engineers have to move to foreign countries and to work all over Europe.

To allow this professional movement EU published a Directive on Professional Mobility, to facilitate the recognition of Civil Engineers across Europe.

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IBAN GB28 NWBK 6072 1408 5260 60

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Account Name: European Council of Civil Engineers

Account Number: 550/00/08526060

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News from ECCE Members

Slovenia

DAMS, AN ADDED ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE

Nina Humar, Jure Šimic, Andrej Kryžanowski

Summary In Slovenia the construction of multi-purpose reservoirs and dams primarily intended for electricity generation is underway, where sustainable principles for designing environmental and spatial interventions are taken into account. Because of the reservoirs' size and the changed water regime, dams gained a reputation for having strong adverse effects on the environment. Dam construction also means changes for people who live in the impact area, as they are often exposed to changes in their environment (new developments, changed living conditions, etc.), which are usually associated with negative feelings. The siting of dam structures is therefore often met with resistance. However, is dam construction really as negative and harmful as generally believed? A review of the environmental situation indicates that in Slovenia even after the construction of new structures the impact area of more than 70% dams remains, or becomes, home to many protected or endangered animal species and habitats. This paper will deal with the actual situation of impacts of dams on the natural environment for all existing dams in Slovenia. We will present the cross-sectional situation between dam impact areas and nature protection areas (Natura 2000, ecologically relevant areas and natural assets). Furthermore, we will provide some examples of completed dams and shed some light on the extent of mitigation measures for improving the ecological situation in nature protection areas.

Key words: dams, natura 2000, nature protection, reservoirs

1. INTRODUCTION

Dam construction in Slovenia has a rich tradition, which began nearly half a millennium ago. The oldest preserved dams in Slovenia date back to the 18th century and were intended for transport of timber for the needs of the mercury mine in Idrija. The development of electrification at the end of the 19th century encouraged the construction of small dams on lateral rivers for the needs of electricity production. In the early 20th century, the increasing needs for electricity led to the construction of dams on larger rivers and electricity generation remained the prevailing purpose of dam construction until the early 1960's. Over the next three decades dam construction was primarily intended for water regime regulation and water retention for flood control purposes. Slovenia is extremely abundant in water due to its geographical position. A characteristic of Slovenian rivers is the prevailing rain/snow runoff regime and as a consequence a frequent occurrence of sudden high-flow events. Owing to dispersed settlement in Slovenia, the flood threat to populated areas is great while with the increasing population density and the desire to use the plain areas for agricultural and economic activities, there is little space available for construction of major reservoirs. In Slovenia, smaller reservoirs prevail: the volume of approximately 60% of all reservoirs is smaller than the average (6 hm³). Smaller reservoirs are mainly intended for water management purposes while among larger reservoirs those intended for hydro power purposes prevail.

Over the last two decades, the activities related to the planning of new hydro power capacities on the Sava and Mura Rivers in Slovenia have intensified to increase the proportion of production of electricity from renewable resources as well as to meet the European commitments adopted by Slovenia, which relate to electricity generation from renewable energy sources. The approach to dam design in this period is completely different than before. Each intervention means a change in the use of space (new regulations, changed living conditions, etc.), which the public generally accepts negatively, particularly because of the lack of information. In the planning phase the sustainability principles are adhered to in the design of spatial interventions, taking account the natural environment as well as space and the society. The public has been actively included in the planning phase all along; to some ex-

tent the participatory decision-making model was established in the phases of siting of structures. Such way of decision-making has been commonly used in Central Europe, but this was a novelty in Slovenia. The priority in planning is water regime regulation, flood control assurance, and the solving of other infrastructural issues as far as the local community interests are concerned. Energy use in this context represents an added value or benefit in the economic evaluation of flood control measures. This approach revealed to be extremely successful in building the chain of HPP's on the Lower Sava.

The period of more intensive construction of hydro energy structures coincided with the setting up of protected Natura 2000 sites. Nature protection areas (Natura 2000, ecologically important areas, valuable natural features) also reach into sections where energy use is planned. During site location of dams, the opponents all too often adopt the stance that the interventions are environmentally unacceptable, while they are not explicitly prohibited by the Habitats Directive or the Water Directive. In this case we apply the principle of the prevailing public interest and the obligation to provide alternative measures by creating and improving habitats elsewhere, in order to conserve the integrity of the area. Another view of the opponents to dam construction is that an accumulation brings irreversible changes in the natural environment with a devastating influence on the environment and physical space. Without doubt, this thesis is valid for the current situation in space, but it does not consider the fact that with an accumulation or construction of dams new conditions are introduced, which can represent a new value in space. An analysis of the environmental situation suggests that the conditions in most areas of the existing dams and reservoirs continue to, or newly, provide home to many protected or endangered animal species and habitats.

This paper will present the relationship between dam impact areas and nature conservation areas (Natura 2000, ecologically important areas, valuable natural features). Based on the situation established in the existing dams we will present some cases where by choosing the appropriate mitigation measures we managed to prevent or restrict the impacts on wildlife and the environment and some other cases where the construction of a dam actually created the conditions to establish a nature protection area. We will attempt to establish the actual situation of impacts of dams on the natural environment for all existing dams in Slovenia.

2. THE ROLE OF DAMS IN VIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Recently in Slovenia and in its close neighbourhood we have been faced with hydrological extremes manifested as an increasing occurrence of alternating drought and flood events. All these weather-related extreme events, such as storms, floods, droughts, and others, prompt us to find new efficient measures to mitigate the consequences and reduce losses occurring because of the higher frequency of occurrence of hydrological extremes. Dam construction in this context is considered as a partial but necessary measure to mitigate hydrological imbalances and effectively reduce losses that occur each year because of the aforementioned hydrological extremes.

Putting aside the direct economic development of river basins and by shedding some light on the problem in view of the higher occurrence frequency of hydrological extremes, these measures can be divided into two categories. The first category is structural, civil engineering measures, such as: construction of embankments, dams, retention areas, etc. The second category is non-structural or non-constructional measures, such as zoned land use in flood-plains to reduce losses, adjustment of structures, spatial planning, public awareness-raising, etc. The general opinion of the professional public is that neither of the two groups offers the appropriate absolute answer to flood safety issues. In relation to structural measures, a restriction is the availability of measure implementation according to the land use intensity, particularly in the light of climate change and hydrological forecasting reliability. On the other hand, non-structural measures represent a significant restriction to economic development and provide relatively poor possibilities to mitigate the extremes.

Internationally the notion of integrated sustainable development of river basins is increasingly used – it is a combination of structural and non-structural measures as the most efficient answer to the hydrological imbalances, at the same time offering an effective, environmentally friendly solution for the areas where we witness great variations, shortages, and inefficient use of water resources. This principle has been recently applied in the design of hydro-power structures where the priority is to design flood safety measures in the light of climate change while also increasing the water potential exploitation and in the light of adhering to the commitments regarding the promotion of renewable energy resources.

3. DAM IN SPACE

Siting of dams is an extremely demanding and complex procedure; firstly, as a demanding engineering project that includes all engineering professions and, secondly, as a spatial intervention including natural sciences and humanities, administrative bodies, as well as the professional and lay communities involved through interest groupings, local governments, or individuals. Any intervention means changes, which are typically met with scepticism in the general public; it is therefore important that both advantages and disadvantages of the planned intervention are appropriately presented. Along with the favourable socio-economic influence of dams on the economy and the local environment, in many cases they create conditions that are favourable also for introduction and existence of many vulnerable and protected plant species. An overview of the existing reservoirs and dams in Slovenia reveals that in many cases the conditions prior to the construction have been preserved while there are cases where the new conditions provided habitat for other endangered species.

In analysing the existing dams, our attention was directed toward the most frequent factors impacting the decisions about dam siting. Taking into account the legislation of the Republic of Slovenia and the adopted EU directives, environmental parameters are among the most influential parameters in the dam siting process. Many studies suggest that environmental goals are in fact those that most considerably make it hard to meet the targets of transition to renewable energy resources, furthermore, these parameters are most often presented as the most restrictive in the siting procedures. In terms of nature protection, we distinguish between the following sites with special nature protection significance: (1) Natura 2000 sites as part of the European network of special protection areas; (2) Valuable natural features that include all natural heritage protected under legally prescribed measures; (3) Ecologically important areas, which significantly contribute to biodiversity conservation.

Figure 1 shows the existing condition of the sites of special nature protection significance in Slovenia. We find that compared to the neighbouring countries, the level of nature protection in Slovenia is at an enviable high level. The Natura 2000 area covers 37.2% of Slovenian territory, putting Slovenia at the very top in Europe in terms of the proportion of protected areas. The public often relies on quick assessments about the unacceptability of the interventions in areas of special nature protection significance, which opponents justify with spatial degradation due to the devastating impacts of dam construction on the environment. In Slovenia we have witnessed an extensive ex-

pansion of nature conservation areas, which is too often becoming a tool to prevent the development of the planned activities in space, rather than actual protection of an area with a high nature protection value. These trends are most considerable in the areas of reservoir and dam design, where the objection to construction out of natural conservation reasons is the greatest. This encouraged us to conduct a study on the role of the existing dams and reservoirs in the context of nature protection. If dams really had such a devastating effect on the environment, then this should be reflected in the fact that these areas per se could not represent a large nature protection value.

Currently, there are 70 dams and weirs registered in Slovenia (Fig. 2) – of which there are 43 structures that are considered large dams according to ICOLD's classification (Fig. 3). As regards their purpose, there is a prevalence of water management dams 45 (64%) and hydropower dams 25 (36%). National registries pertaining to the areas with special natural significance were taken into account in the analysis. The areas are classified in the registries in various ways according to the hierarchy or the level of nature protection significance. Given its significance, a site can be included on various lists. A fast overview of the current situation shows that out of 70 dams and reservoirs recorded, 53 are included on lists of areas of special nature protection significance, presenting more than 75% of all structures (Fig. 4). Of these, 8 (11%) structures are in areas specified as valuable natural features and 13 (19%) are in an ecologically important area; 16 (23%) structures are recorded as valuable natural features. In the Natura 2000 area there are 16 (23%) structures identified as valuable natural features and ecologically important areas. Only 17 (24%) structures are not directly included in the registries of areas under special nature protection significance. A more detailed analysis reveals that, e.g., two dams are situated in a landscape park, another two dams are connected with their conduits with an area declared as a valuable natural feature, and there are four further reservoirs which are less than 2 km away from a Natura 2000 area or a valuable natural feature.

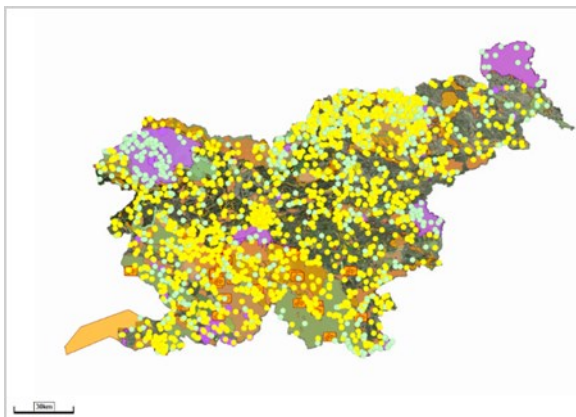


Fig. 1. Existing condition of the sites of special nature protection significance in Slovenia (Humar et Šimic, 2015)

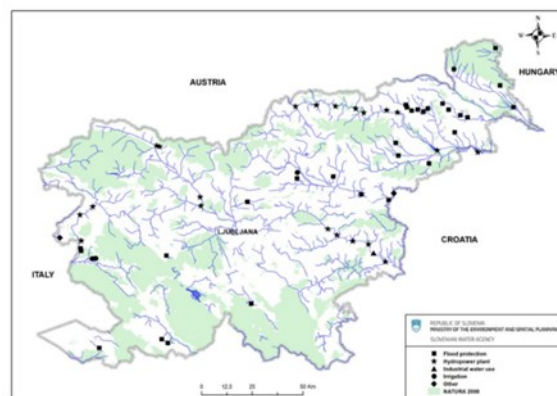


Fig. 2. Dams and weirs in Slovenia and Natura 2000 areas [Slovenian Water Agency]

A further analysis shows that in Natura 2000 areas the majority of dams and reservoirs (14 out of 16) are considered large dams. Interestingly, the majority (10 structures) are dams for electricity generation, i.e. 40% of all hydro power structures. Water management dams and reservoirs are represented to a smaller extent: altogether 6 structures, presenting 13% of all water facilities. Nature conservation areas are classified in two ways: Firstly, as a site of community importance (SCI), which means a site which, in the biogeographical region or regions to which it belongs, contributes significantly to the maintenance or restoration at a favourable conservation status of a natural habitat type according to the Habitats Directive and, secondly, as a special protection area (SPA), which means a site according to the Birds Directive. Both SCI and SPA areas contain eight structures each; of which there are 5 hydro power structures, 3 water management structures and 6 structures in nature protection areas in both categories; of which there are 4 hydropower structures and 2 water management dams (Fig. 5). All nature protection areas as where dams and reservoirs are located under Natura 2000 are recorded also as valuable natural features and as ecologically important areas. In areas defined as ecologically important areas there are 45 structures identified, of which there are 20 hydro power structures and 25 water management structures (Fig. 6). The recorded structures are mostly within one individual area; two water management and three hydropower structures are situated in two ecologically important areas.

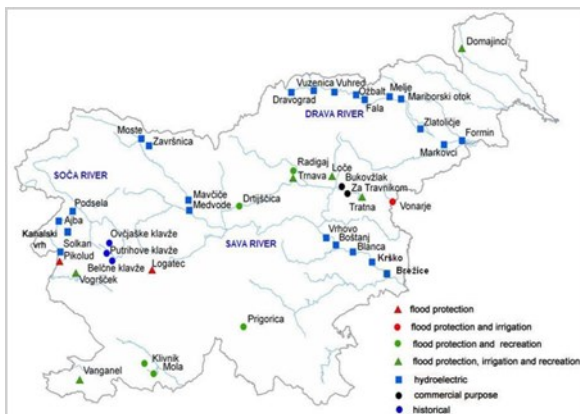


Fig. 3. Large dams in Slovenia [SLOCOLD]

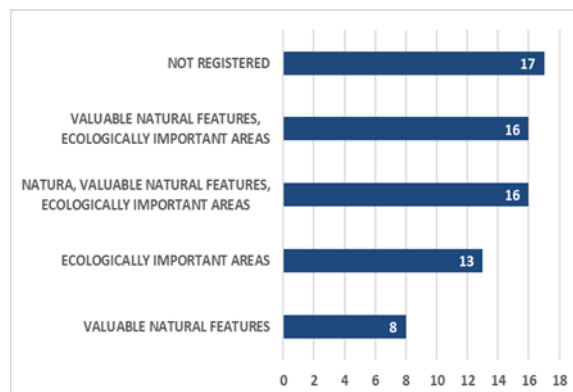


Fig. 4. Dams and reservoirs in areas of special nature protection significance

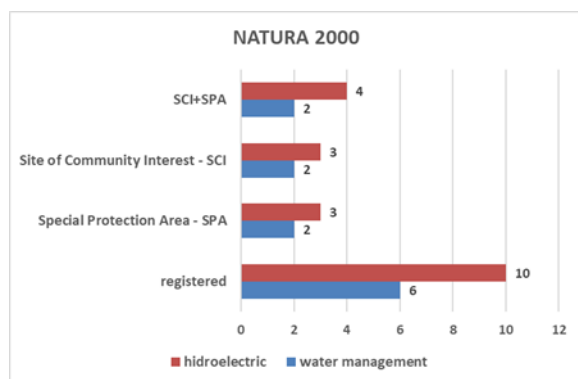


Fig. 5. Dams and reservoirs in Natura 2000 areas

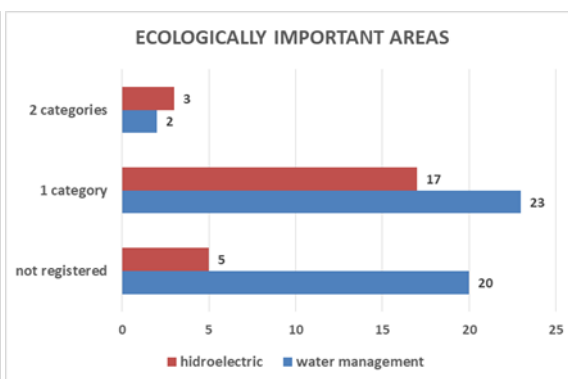


Fig. 6. Dams and reservoirs in ecologically important areas

In areas identified as valuable nature features, there are 40 structures recorded; of which 18 structures are hydro power structures and 22 are water management facilities. It is evident that most hydro power structures (72%) and less than a half of water management structures are located in areas defined as valuable natural features of local or national significance, which is also the prevailing category (Fig. 7). A majority of water management facilities and a half of hydro power structures lie in an area where at least 1 category of valuable natural features is recorded. However, the facility may be located in an area under several categories of valuable natural features – this particularly relates to hydropower facilities.

An analysis of the structures according to their purpose reveals that out of 25 hydro power structures only 2 (8%) are not directly in an area of special nature conservation significance; in areas of valuable natural features there are 3 (13%) structures, in areas of special ecological significance there are 5 (22%) structures, while 5 (22%) structures are both in areas of valuable natural features and ecologically important areas. In the Natura 2000 areas, which include ecologically important areas and valuable natural features, there are 10 (43%) structures (Fig. 8). Out of 45 water management structures, 30 (67%) lies in areas of special nature protection significance. In areas of valuable natural features there are 5 (17%) structures, in areas of special ecological significance only there are 8 (27%), while 11 (37%) structures are situated in areas with both valuable natural features and ecologically significant areas. Under the Natura 2000 area, which includes ecologically important areas and valuable natural features, there are 6 (20%) structures (Fig. 8). An analysis in terms of size we find that out of 43 large dams 35 (81%) are situated in areas of special nature protection significance; of which there are 23 hydro power structures and 12 water management structures.

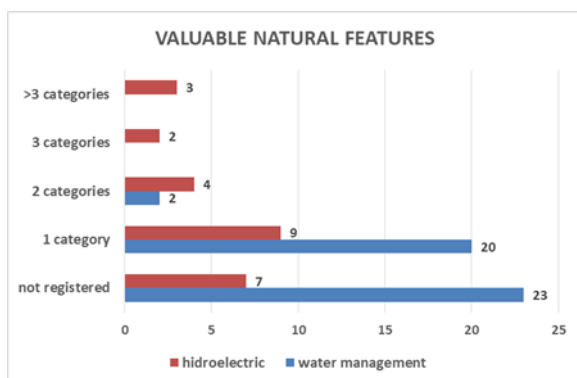


Fig. 7. Dams and reservoirs in areas as valuable nature features

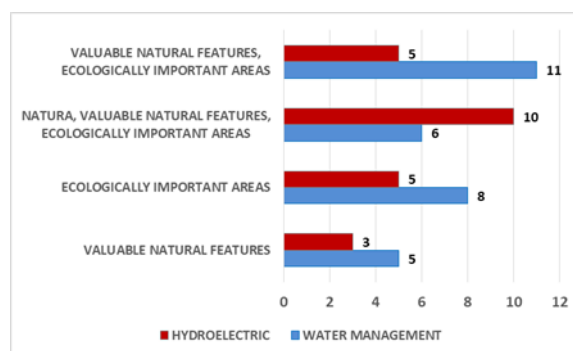


Fig. 8. Large dams in sites with special nature protection significance

In the conclusion of the analysis we find that the impacts of dams and reservoirs on the environment are less negative than perceived by the public. Along with their basic function, these dams and reservoirs represent a new asset in space, confirmed by the fact that most structures are inscribed on lists of special nature conservation significance. Moreover, in most of these cases it was only with the construction of reservoirs that such environmental conditions were created that allowed for introduction of natural communities, based on which the reservoir areas were placed on lists of special nature conservation significance.

4. RESERVOIRS – HOME TO MANY ENDANGERED SPECIES

A review of the situation of the dams shows that even after their construction, in 52 out of 69 dams favourable conditions for introduction of many, even endangered, animal and plant species were created. In fact, in many cases the conditions favourable for the introduction of endangered species were created only after the construction of dams (Lake Ptuj, Kočevska reka, Prigorica, Vogršček, etc.). This paper will focus on three cases when after the construction of a dam or a reservoir the conditions were created which provide the habitat for many animals or plants, while the area was included on the list of nature protection areas.

4.1 Prigorica

The Prigorica reservoir was originally intended as a permanent wet detention reservoir, but later, because of the

explicit nature protection requirements in the hinterlands, it was designed as a dry reservoir. The retention area is limited by a homogeneous fill dam on the Ribnica River, which was built in 1980. The dam height is 10 m, the crest length is 973 m. The reservoir's entire volume is 10 hm³, which puts it on the list of large dams. The role of the reservoir is to retain part of the flood water and to reduce the impact of flood waves on the nearby urban infrastructure. Its role is evident because after the reservoir's construction during high-flow events no notable damage has occurred in the impact areas, which was not the case before.

The responsible services acquired the design guidelines during the planning stage of the weir structure and the reservoir. An explicit environmental requirement was to preserve the wetlands in the head part of the Ribnica River. There were no special nature protection conditions provided for the reservoir area. Because a permanent reservoir would encroach upon the wetland part in the hinterland of the reservoir, a decision was made to introduce a dry reservoir and preserve the wetland biotope the springs in the area for which special nature protection conditions for their preservation were prescribed.



Fig. 9. Since 2011 the Prigorica reservoir has been designated a Natura 2000 site (author: N. Humar)

Even before the introduction of the reservoir the right abutment of the retention area was the habitat of the brown bear. The construction of the reservoir and its operation changed the living conditions, so that extensively used agricultural land on one hand and mostly dry grasslands changed into wet meadows with the prevailing purple moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Illyrian *Fagus sylvatica* forests (*Fagus sylvatica* (*Aremonio-Fagion*)). In the retention space area and on the banks of the reservoirs favourable living conditions were created for the introduction of the narrow-mouthed whorl snail (*Vertigo angustior*) and the greater mouse-eared bat (*Myotis myotis*). In 2011 the entire area of the dam and reservoir was designated as a Natura 2000 site under the Habitats Directive, while the reservoir was separately designated as a valuable natural feature of local significance and part of the reservoir as an ecologically important area because it provides the habitat of large carnivores. The role of establishing a special nature protection regime in the area of a dam or a reservoir is confirmed by everyday practice in managing these structures. Even though this is a functionally built structure primarily intended to provide flood safety in low-elevation urban areas it is necessary, because of its natural features, to obtain a nature protection consent for any intervention on the dam or the reservoir area. In this respect, nature conservation areas are under the same management regime as built assets.

4.2 Kočevska reka

There is not much known about the construction and exact purpose of the Kočevska reka dam on the Reški potok Creek. Before the Reški potok was dammed there were three mills and a sawmill operating on the river. It lies in the Kočevska reka area, a former closed zone, but only after the construction of the dam that conditions changed and became favorable to many endangered species. The massive concrete dam with a height of 6.4 m and a length of 43.2 m was built in the 1970's. The reservoir with a volume of 2,3 hm³ was designed (most likely) for the purpose of recreation, fishing, and river regime regulation. A foot path crosses the crest, allowing access to the right bank of the reservoir. Through the central part of the dam there is a fixed emergency spillway that passes excess water. The dam has no other emergency spillway facilities or built-in hydromechanical equipment to be used to regulate flows. Currently, the dam has no operator, the local angling club monitors the wildlife in the reservoir.



Fig. 10. Kočevska reka Dam (author: N. Humar)



Fig. 11. Orthophoto of Reško Lake [Atlas okolja]

The conditions in the area of the reservoir now provide the habitat for many animals and plants. The reservoir's operation is not supervised and entirely depends on the natural conditions – in fact, a kind of natural state has been reached, even though this is a built asset. The water level in the lake depends on the natural conditions and varies throughout the year, which is most evident at the inlet in the reservoir. The area of the lake, along with the forest around the lake was declared as a forest reserve, which is the nesting grounds for, among others, the protected white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), while other rare birds are observed there as well, e.g. the wood grouse (*Tetrao urogallus*), and the Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*). In the reserve area there some other priority animal and plant species found, such as the wolf (*Canis lupus*), the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), the otter (*Lutra lutra*), the lynx (*Lynx lynx*), and others.

Nowadays the dam doesn't have no other specific purpose apart the preservation of the habitat.

4.3 Lake Ptuj

Lake Ptuj was created by damming the Drava River due to the HPP Formin construction in 1978; it is now the largest Slovenian artificial lake with an area of 3.46 km² and a total volume of 20 hm³. This is a derivation power plant with a head of 29 m; with installed capacity of 116 MW it generates 548 GWh energy annually. The lake area is restricted with lateral embankments made of gravel sealed with 10-cm thick asphalt. Lake Ptuj provides refuge to migratory birds, particularly rare and endangered bird species that found there their replacement habitat. At the lake one can observe almost all species of ducks; the diversity of gulls is also great, particularly during migration. On Lake Ptuj there are also the little grebe, the great crested grebe, the black-necked grebe, and, less commonly, the red-necked grebe to be found. In winter there are other birds similar to grebes, such as black-throated and red-throated divers. There are also cormorants on the lake, including frequent occurrences of the rare pygmy cormorant. Around the lake there are extensive agricultural areas, where you can observe various bird species that this area is home to. Before the accumulation was formed, the Drava River gravel bars were the natural nesting grounds of the last colony of the common tern. The changing of the river dynamics led to the overgrowing of the Drava channel, while birds moved to other areas. In 2004 only another two common tern colonies nested in Slovenia; because of the lack of nesting grounds the existence of this species in Slovenia is critical. The operator, Dravske elektrarne Maribor (DEM) company, and DOPPS-Birdlife Slovenia introduced nature protection measures by constructing artificial islands to serve as nesting grounds for the common tern, which were covered in gravel. The islands contribute to the preservation of the common tern, which nests in open areas with little or no vegetation, particularly on river gravel islands. By providing the natural gravel bar conditions, the new islands, introduced as part of a project, give birds back their habitat. Along with the common tern, there is also a large *Larus ridibundus* gull colony with pairs of black-headed gulls. The lake offers an interesting recreation ground for water and water-side sports. A cycling route loops around the lake. The dam gives an added value to regional tourism. Lake Ptuj is categorised as a valuable natural feature of state significance and lies in a Natura 2000 area (SCI and SPA), while the Lower Drava area is also designated as an ecologically important area.



Fig. 12. Artificial islands on the lake Ptuj [<http://ptice.si/ptice-in-ljudje/opazovanje-ptic/kam-na-izlet/ptujsko-jezero/>]



Fig. 13. Markovci dam and lake Ptuj [www.dem.si/]

5. CONCLUSIONS

Because of the high population density and intensive land use, rational land use and sustainably oriented development policies are necessary to make any interventions successful. On the other hand, Slovenia's natural diversity is to a large extent due to its water abundance, which puts it at the top in Europe. To sum up, our water abundance should be protected; however, prohibition and objection to projects without compromise, which are nevertheless necessary to protect citizens against extreme events and are in some places the condition for development and advancement of regions, is not the right solution, but leads to extreme standpoints, which cannot be beneficial for nature in the long term.

Owing to the fast development and strong pressures by the environmentalists, an integrated approach to exploitation of river valleys has been gaining ground. This is not encouraged only by economic development trends, but also by climate changes that have over the last decades required increasingly efficient solutions, which influence the volume of precipitation and flows and ask for more adaptability of structures to hydrological extremes. Even though dams per se are not, in the light of unreliable forecasts about the possible increase of hydrological quantities, the only solution to such extremes, they are one of the main and most efficient-even key-measures in ensuring the balancing of water quantities (alternating drought and flood events) and flood control.

In Slovenia, dams have one other function, which strives for long-term improvements in environmental conditions, i.e. water consumption as the purest and one of the few renewable natural resources for power generation, which comes closest to the principles of sustainability. This is proven by the fact that the prevalence (81%) of large dams

is inscribed on lists of special nature protection significance.

The presented cases show that dams and reservoirs are not such impostors in space as commonly perceived. We do not wish to deny the fact that dam construction presents an encroachment on the environment, but we wish to underline that nature is alive and adaptable, while results will, with constructive activity, improve and the time in which the natural condition is restored will become shorter.

We also want to underline the too often withheld fact that dams and reservoirs in some cases favourably affect the establishment of such living conditions that allow for preservation of some habitat types and are also the condition for their preservation. The maintenance of these structures is despite the belief that these interventions harm animal and plant species in fact the underlying condition for their preservation.

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Spain

Risk analysis in the railway sector - Workshop



Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos, jointly with ADIF- Spain's Administrator of Railway Infrastructures and INECO transport engineering consultancy, has organized the workshop 'Risk analysis in the railway sector', during past November 13th and 14th. The workshop was opened by Colegio's Vice President, José Polimón; Ineco president, Carmen Librero; and Adif president, Isabel Pardo de Vera. As Colegio's Vice President stated, "it is necessary to assess the risks in an increasingly specialized sector concerned with safety and environmental issues. Risk analysis is an essential activity in all phases of public works: design, project, construction and operation".

Following, INECO president, Carmen Librero, stressed the challenge addressed by the workshop "moving to-

wards a more efficient and sustainable model in the railway sector, which requires participation of all stakeholders. Undoubtedly, these meetings are essential to share experiences and thus achieve the objectives set out in the 4th railway package: technical standards, on the one hand, and transport and governance policies, on the other." Later on, she showcased INECO's effort to streamline and transform its managements processes to achieve a better integration integration of systems and subsystems.

Last to this opening session, ADIF's President, Isabel Pardo de Vera, declared "For us, the topic addressed today is strategic. Currently, Spain has a good rail network, whose current model is not sustainable," he said. Later, she presented liberalization



and adaptation to the new European regulations as one of ADIF's most demanding challenges. Spain's rail system is safe, but we have to adapt to Europe and enhancing security manage through an integrated approach" he said. Isabel Pardo de Vera also stated need to "rethink the way to enhance civil engineering as a key contributor to risk management and assessment, a challenge applicable throughout Europe requiring a more dynamic and proactive approach, enhancements are not only technical but also demanding to foster a culture of safety throughout all stakeholders in the rail sector."

The topics addressed by the workshop's first day included the definition of railroad safety legal framework, together with an overview of risk analysis techniques and its application on several case studies regarding operational, power supply and infrastructure risks, which were extended throughout the second day.

This workshop is the first in a series regarding risk assessment in civil engineering practice to be developed under the aegis of Colegio's 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. Should you require any further information regarding the workshop, please contact servicio.internacional@ciccp.es.

Colegio's initiatives to enhance traceability and transparency



In compliance with the Colegio's new Certification and Professional Accreditation Regulation, in force since mid-September, which aims to enhance accountability of Colegio's activity, all documents issued by Colegio will include a Secure Verification Code - SVC, accessible through its corresponding QR code, which will allow third parties to check the original through CICCP's digital platform tramites.ciccp.es.

The initiative aims to enhance Colegio's paperless administration through the major issuance of digital certificates to its members and clients.

In addition to this, Colegio, compliant with PDE 2020 objectives to provide equal services to any member wherever his location, Colegio's International service has developed a new open data platform for displaying such data sorted out through different criteria.

Demographic (Age and Gender)

University of Origin

Colegio Branch Demarcation

This new interactive scorecard can be consulted through the following link [\[+\]](#).



Demografía del colectivo ejerciente en el extranjero



Turkey

“On behalf of the Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers, the 8th Geotechnical Symposium organized by İstanbul Branche was held on 13-15 November 2019 in İstanbul, İTÜ.”



On behalf of the Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers, the 8th Geotechnical Symposium organized by İstanbul Branches was held on 13-15 November in İstanbul. TCCE President Cemal Gökçe, NCTR President Gürkan Yağcıoğlu, TCCE İstanbul Branch President Nusret Suna Symposium Organizing Committee President Feyza Çiniçioğlu made speeches at the opening of the symposium held at İstanbul Technical University Süleyman Demirel Culture and Congress Center.

Geotechnical Symposiums are favored by our colleagues for their high standards and scientific contents. The 8th International Geotechnical Symposium was organized with the same sensibilities and intends to set the bar ever higher.

17 sessions were held at the symposium and at the symposium, developments in "Geotechnical Construct" were discussed at home and abroad. In the first session of the symposium, led by Feyza Çiniçioğlu, invited Speaker Heinz Brandl, in the second session led by Chamber President Cemal Gökçe, invited Speaker Ergün Toğrol made their presentations.

Symposium topics were: Soil Characteristic and Behavior, Foundation Engineering, Soil Structure Interaction, Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering, Ground Improvement, Deep Excavations And Support Systems, Earth Structures, Slopes And Landslides, Marine And Transportation Structures, Geoenvironmental Engineering And Energy Geotechnics.

“The 8th Steel Construction Symposium was organized on behalf of The Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers, by Konya Branche was held on 24-25-26 October 2019 in Konya”



On behalf of the Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers, the 8th Steel Construction Symposium organized by Konya Branches was held on 24-25-26 October 2019 in Konya. TCCE President Cemal Gökçe, NCTR President Gürkan Yağcıoğlu, TCCE Konya Branch President Süleyman Kamil Akın, made speeches at the opening of the symposium held at Şehitkamil Culture and Congress Center.

At the symposium, developments in "Steel Construct" were discussed at home and abroad. In addition, sessions were held on strengthening of the structures with steel and designing of structures in accordance with the newly prepared earthquake regulations. At symposium, 46 papers were presented and 46 presentations were made in different sessions.

Called Speaker Prof. Dr. Farid Abed from American University of Sharjah, The other Called Speaker Prof. Dr. Carlo A. Castiglioni from Politecnico di Milano, the other called speaker Prof. Dr. David A. Nethercot from Imperial College, the other called speaker Prof. Dr. Mehmet Polat Saka from University of Bahrain and the other called speaker Prof. Dr. Daniel Viorel Ungureanu were presented their papers at Symposium.

The Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers organized the 13th Transportation Congress by Erzurum and Istanbul Branches on 10-12 October 2019, in Erzurum



The Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers organized the 13th Transportation Congress on 10-11-12 October 2019 in Erzurum. In the congress themed "Management of Harmonious Development of City - Transport Unity for Livable Cities", 8 sessions, 4 invited speakers, 31 papers, 2 posters and current information and researches were shared.

TCCE President Cemal Gökçe, TCCE İstanbul Branch President Nusret Suna, TCCE Erzurum Branch President Ahmet Tortum and Chairman of Congress Organizing Committee Prof. Dr. Güngör Evren made speeches at the opening of the congress.

After the opening speeches, the congress sessions were held. At congress presentations were made about Urban and Transport Policies for Livable Cities, Current Status of Erzurum Transportation, Mayors Making a Difference Approaching to Urban Transportation, Opinions and Suggestions on the Decision Making Process for Transportation Investments at the Level of Countries and Cities in Turkey, Urban Transportation Management: Correct Design and Effective Use.



United Kingdom

Former Kier Group CEO Paul Sheffield becomes the 155th ICE President

Engineers must "do the right thing" and ensure robust maintenance regimes to assure public trust, ICE's new President has said.

Paul Sheffield gave his inaugural address on 12 November 2019, becoming ICE's 155th President. He's the former CEO of Kier Group and former managing director at Laing O'Rourke and will serve as President for the 2019/20 term.

Sheffield called on the profession to ensure its work is accurate, transparent and to the highest standard.

He said: "In the face of public scrutiny, it is increasingly important for engineers to be able to demonstrate that they are competent throughout their careers, not just on the day they qualify. This is a process that ICE is very well placed to help with, to moderate and to assure."

The president also discussed net-zero carbon emissions and the role of civil engineers in meeting this target. He highlighted energy efficiency in buildings, smart city energy networks, and adapting road infrastructure for electric vehicles as areas where civil engineering can offer solutions.

He said: "We must step up to these challenges and show other sectors how it should be done. Many of the assets that we design and build are expected to last for decades, if not centuries."

"Today's civil engineers need to remain at the cutting edge of technology and innovation to create structures and buildings for tomorrow. We must be anticipating long-term trends and developing resilient products and processes."

Sheffield's speech referred to three presidential themes for his year in office: embracing innovation and iteration to support a modern workforce; getting the basics right and self-assessment; and what the future holds.

Held at the Institution's London headquarters at One Great George Street, the presidential address was attended by ICE members and infrastructure sector leaders. It was also broadcast live online to members around the world.

The event marked the handover of the presidency from former Costain CEO, Andrew Wyllie.

More: <https://www.ice.org.uk/news-and-insight/latest-ice-news/ice-presidential-address-2019>

ICE People's Choice Award 2019 winner revealed

The Hong Kong section of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) has won the 2019 ICE People's Choice Award.

The annual competition recognises civil engineering projects that have made a positive impact on their local communities, with the final winner decided by a global public vote.

The longest combined bridge and tunnel sea crossing in the world, the 55-kilometre-long HZMB connects Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao, reducing the distance and travel time between the three cities.

It has created a one-hour 'living circle' in the Pearl River Delta region, boosting the Greater Bay Area's economic development and enhancing Hong Kong's position as a hub.

The Hong Kong section of the project involved the construction of the Hong Kong Port and the Hong Kong Link Road, which connects the port with the main bridge.

Paul Sheffield, ICE's new President, announced the winner and presented the award at his inaugural presidential address at the Institution in London on Tuesday 12 November 2019.

Congratulating the project, Seán Harris, ICE Director of Membership, said: "Visible from space, this is a true mega-project and one which has rightly been voted as the winner of the People's Choice Award 2019."

He continued: "HZMB creates a close-knit, better designed integrated transport system which will enhance the lives of residents and travellers, ensuring that with greater prosperity comes a greater capacity to care for nascent communities in the region and for the environment which supports them."

Reacting to the win, Chris K.P. Wong, Project Manager / Major Works (Special Duties) of the Highways Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, said:

"The uniqueness of this infrastructure lies not only in the engineering feats, but also in bringing the three cities, including Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao, much closer and thus enhancing the prosperity and economic development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

"We are honoured that the mega project has won this prestigious award. It recognises the culmination of hard endeavour and unyielding steadfastness of all those who have contributed to achieving this engineering wonder."

More: <https://www.ice.org.uk/news-and-insight/latest-ice-news/ice-peoples-choice-award-2019-winner>

ICE prepares to launch its Enabling Better Infrastructure programme

As urbanisation and other demographic shifts take hold, alongside the impacts of climate change and the digitisation of international economies, there's a growing need to think differently about the ways in which infrastructure is delivered and used.

Facing up to the demands of these megatrends to ensure that societies are able to benefit from first-class infrastructure services is the responsibility of national governments. In doing so, there will be an increasing need to engage in new ways of working right across the infrastructure lifecycle to ensure the very best economic, social and environmental outcomes.

The Enabling Better Infrastructure programme has been initiated to help decision-makers to achieve these outcomes.

How does the Enabling Better Infrastructure programme work?

The programme is split into three parts. The first is a report drawing together examples of best practice from around the world in relation to prioritising and planning economic infrastructure networks, which looks specifically at visioning, undertaking a needs assessment and compiling a national strategy.

The second part is a resource hub that contains best practice examples from across the entire infrastructure life cycle from planning, through to delivery and operation, and finally project decommissioning.

The hub will also contain case studies relating to the optimum enabling environment for the delivery of major infrastructure programmes. This section will focus on a variety of areas including financing, regulatory frameworks and leveraging data.

The overarching objective is for the resource hub to become a 'one-stop shop' for government decision-makers to access insight that will help improve the development and administration of national infrastructure strategies.

Both the report and resource hub are to be launched in a series of sequential international events on Wednesday, 4 December 2019.

Events are to be held in London, Australia, South Africa and Singapore, with other events to follow on later dates in the United Arab Emirates and the United States.

The third part of the programme will see the ICE team, with the support of our membership and project partners, organise a number of international thought leadership roundtables to glean further insights into the steps that are being taken around the world to improve the planning and delivery of infrastructure.

Discussions will be captured and added to the resource hub as case studies.

If you'd like to participate in one of these events (or host one) then do get in touch. Likewise, if you have a case study that we could share through the resource hub, do let us know by getting in touch at enablingbetterinfrastructure@ice.org.uk.

The Enabling Better Infrastructure Programme has been developed in collaboration with a range of partners, including: Pinsent Masons, KPMG, UNOPS, the OECD, the University of Oxford and the University of Sydney.

More: <https://www.ice.org.uk/news-and-insight/the-infrastructure-blog/november-2019/ice-to-launch-enabling-better-infrastructure>

ICE hosts first International Students Reception

ICE has hosted its inaugural International Students Reception at One Great George Street, which was attended by more than 200 international and EU undergraduate and postgraduate students from universities around the UK.

The event showcased the Institution's headquarters facilities, alongside the range of face-to-face and online services available to members living and working outside the UK.

Past ICE President Andrew Wyllie CBE welcomed attendees and encouraged them to fully grasp the global opportunities to shape the future as civil engineers.

There were extremely engaging talks by Kenyan member Musa Chunge and UCL student Batool Aljufairi from Bahrain, as well as ICE Council Member Blessing Danha, originally from Zimbabwe.

Ben Goodwin from ICE's Policy team spoke about the upcoming Enabling Better Infrastructure project. This international policy programme, launching in early December, looks at how best to prioritise and plan infrastructure around the world.

Meanwhile, Brendan van Rooyen from ICE's Engineering Knowledge team explained the growing benefits of the ICE Learning Hub, a source of learning programmes, available free and exclusively to ICE members.

The evening's programme featured a behind-the-scenes tour of the Grade II listed 'Home of Civil Engineering' and interactive demonstrations of the award-winning Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) pop-up VR training system developed by Ferrovial Agroman Laing O'Rourke Joint Venture (FLOJV).

Guests were treated to mocktails and vegan canapés (soundtracked by a World Music DJ) and the evening proved a fantastic networking opportunity for the hugely diverse audience, which had travelled from as far afield as Leeds and Liverpool.

Of the reception, ICE International Director Catherine Cole said: "By transferring from student to graduate membership, young engineers will benefit greatly from structured career support from ICE staff and Representatives worldwide in addition to our online services, as they work towards the 'global professional passport' of becoming Incorporated or Chartered Engineers."

More: <https://www.ice.org.uk/news-and-insight/latest-ice-news/inaugural-international-students-reception>

News from ECCE Partners

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)



ASCE'S 2019 Year in Review



Members will likely remember Robin Kemper's 2019 presidential year for her many travels, visits and the inspiring, dramatic "Welcome to the wonderful world of ASCE!" opening line from her many speeches.

ASCE will likely remember 2019 as the year the momentous Future World Vision project launched.

Kemper herself doesn't look at her ASCE presidency as some kind of legacy or personal accomplishment, but rather as a bridge toward continued success for the Society and the civil engineering profession.

"My overall goal was to leave the Society in a little better place than when I started," Kemper said. "Did I achieve that? In my opinion, in some areas, yes."

Kemper worked behind the scenes to establish a system of Champions Reports to help streamline the way the Board of Direction works to serve member programs.

She charged a new task committee to deconstruct and revise ASCE's Code of Ethics for the first time in more than 40 years.

And she presided over the adoption of ASCE's new purpose statement: To help you matter more and enable you to make a bigger difference.

"It's our true north now," Kemper said. "So when we're making decisions about what we should be doing, what programs and services are best for our members, we look at it from this higher level. Everything we do is really all about our members."

For more ASCE news please follow the link [here](#).

Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE)



You can access the latest JSCE International Activities Center Newsletter of December 2019 at the link here [IAC News No.86, December 2019](#).

Korean Society of Civil Engineers (KSCE)



You can access the KSCE International Newsletter at the link here [KSCE International Newsletter](#).

World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)



You can access the WFEO Flash Info #31 – October 2019 at the link here [WFEO Flash Info #31 – October 2019](#).

World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE)



The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), following its 2019 General Assembly in Melbourne, and in the frame of the COP25 held this week in Madrid, has expressed its deep concern on the matter of climate emergency.

WFEO has summarized its position and commitment to act quickly through a Declaration on Climate Emergency in the following languages: English and Spanish.

WCCE agrees to subscribe such Declaration and encourages all its member organizations sign this Declaration and coordinate jointly with WFEO global communication campaign to raise awareness on the immediate and long-term consequences of climate change, and the need to support innovative technologies to face them, and build resilient infrastructures and communities.

President Mineiro declares "WCCE is fully aware that our represented organizations and professionals are already committed to provide inclusive and resilient communities through the planning and design of resource-efficient infrastructures throughout its life cycle compliant with society's needs and its environment."

According to WFEO Environment Committee Chair, Davide Stronati (U.K): "Engineers have always stepped up to the challenge to find solutions to societal needs. Climate change is one of the biggest issues humanity and the environment are facing now and in the foreseeable future. WFEO will strive together with more than 30 million engineers we represent in finding solutions to combat climate change and to create resilient communities that will leave no one behind."

WFEO President, Prof. Gong Ke (China) declared "Facing the ever pressing challenge of climate change, engineers and engineering organizations are in action. Realizing that engineering is the key to sustainable development, WFEO and its members are working hard, among many others, to build engineering capacity of climate change mitigation and adaptation especially in developing and small island countries, we are mobilizing engineers worldwide to implement SDGS in engineering practices to reduce carbon and GHG emission and enhance resilience of human settlements and infrastructures, and we strive constantly to engage more women engineers to play their irreplaceable role in climate actions. It is our engineers to turn the ideas to action and to turn the goals to reality."

European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC)



Working Group Meetings: BIM / Public Procurement for Engineering

On 10th October 2019, the Working Groups BIM and Public Procurement of Engineering Services met in the premises of the Slovak Chamber of Engineers (SKSI) in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The Working Group BIM welcomed several new members and is currently working out i.a. a survey on the international use of BIM.

The Working Group on PP for Engineering Services will be working on a new paper on maintaining quality in PP.

European Civil Engineering Education and Training (EUCEET) Association



12th General Assembly of the EUCEET Association

The 12th General Assembly of the EUCEET Association took place on Friday, 4th October 2019, in Paris, France, kindly hosted by École des Ponts ParisTech.

The Agenda was the following:

Time	Activity	Venue
Thursday October 3rd, 2019		
15:00 -15:30	Welcome by Marie-Christine BERT (Director of International Relations ENPC)	Carnot building / Belgrand aisle/3rd floor/ Perronet room
15:30 – 16:00	Visit of "Construire le courbe" structure (Dr. Cyril DOUTHE - Assoc. Prof. ENPC/Navier laboratory & Dr. Romain Mesnil - Researcher/ Navier laboratory)	Coriolis building/ Freyssinet hall
16:15- 16:45 (by groups)	Visit of the library historical collection (Guillaume SAQUET - Deputy manager of the library historical collection ENPC)	Carnot building /la Source
Friday October 4th, 2019		
9:30 -12:00	EUCEET General Assembly	Carnot building / Belgrand aisle/3rd floor/ Perronet room

The minutes of the 12th General Assembly of the EUCEET Association can be found [here](#).

European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)



FIEC Press Release 11/12/2010

FIEC confirms central role of construction in achieving the #EUGREENDEAL objectives

"Having held many hypothetical discussions over the last few weeks, we can now dig into the detail of the Green Deal to analyse its implications for our industry" says FIEC President Kjetil

Tønning, on the publication of the EU Green Deal. "As contractors, we are committed to sustainable construction and we will study the communication over the coming days, to see how it matches our initial expectations. It is clear that our industry will play a key role in the achievement of its objectives."

In a statement launching the Green Deal, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said "this is Europe's man on the moon moment". She went on to say that "we owe it to our children" to take action now. Amongst

the highlights of her short statement, she mentioned “50 actions for 2050” as well as an investment of €100BN for the “most vulnerable regions and sectors”.

Long advocating for an acceleration in the annual building renovation rate, action that could help achieve Mrs von der Leyen’s pledge to make Europe the “first climate neutral continent by 2050”, FIEC welcomes the emphasis on the need to improve efforts in this direction, whilst reminding policy makers that energy efficiency retrofitting needs to be done in parallel with other necessary repairs and maintenance, such as those aimed at structural reinforcement and safety improvements.

On the new Circular Economy Action Plan, Tonning says “Following our joint declaration on construction in the Circular Economy in May this year, our messages remain broadly the same. We support the resource efficiency policies of the European Union and we hope that this new Action Plan will really address the need for solutions to the practical challenges we face, in completing the transition to circular construction. These include the need for improved sorting and recycling facilities close to construction sites, standardisation of secondary materials; and supportive procurement policies that will enable the public sector to set the example of a changing attitude towards acceptance of secondary materials as the norm, when it is safe to use them and when insurers are willing to provide the necessary guarantees.”

FIEC will cooperate with the EU institutions and other relevant partners to ensure that the Green Deal becomes a success story.

For more news you can access the FIEC website [here](#).

The European Convention for Constructional Steelwork (ECCS)



European Steel Design Awards 2019

The European Steel Design Awards are given by the European Convention for Constructional Steelwork (ECCS) every two years to encourage the creative and outstanding use of steel in architecture. The awards are dedicated to the owners, the architects, the engineers, the general contractors and the steelwork contractors.

This 14th October 2019, twelve European Steel Design Awards of Merit and two European Steel Design Awards of Excellence were given to the finalists previously selected by the ESDA Professional and International Jury.

During the Ceremony, which organized in Brussels, four students were also rewarded for their remarkable architectural projects.

More information is available [here](#) and the Press Release [here](#).

EU News

A European Green Deal - Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent



Becoming the world’s first climate-neutral continent by 2050 is the greatest challenge and opportunity of our times. To achieve this, the European Commission presented the [European Green Deal](#), the most ambitious package of measures that should enable European citizens and businesses to benefit from sustainable green transition. Measures accompanied with an initial roadmap of key policies range from ambitiously cutting emissions, to investing in cutting-edge research and innovation, to preserving Europe’s natural environment.

Supported by investments in green technologies, sustainable solutions and new businesses, the Green Deal can be a new EU growth strategy. Involvement and commitment of the public and of all stakeholders is crucial to its success.

Above all, the European Green Deal sets a path for a transition that is just and socially fair. It is designed in such a way as to leave no individual or region behind in the great transformation ahead.

For more information please visit the website [here](#).

Approval of the European Commission 2019-2024

The von der Leyen team voted into office by the European Parliament

On 27 November during the plenary session in Strasbourg, a large majority of members of the European Parliament voted in favour of the von der Leyen Commission. Ahead of the vote, the President-elect presented her team of Commissioners to the European Parliament. She reaffirmed her strong commitment to working closely with the European Parliament on the defining issues of our generation: fighting climate change, harnessing digitalisation, building a social market economy for today's world. She called for Europe to show leadership in the world and for the Commission to be geopolitical in the way that it thinks and acts. She underlined the need for Europe to care for the things Europeans cared for and to find common solutions to shared challenges.

European Semester Autumn Package: Creating an economy that works for people and the planet

On 17th December 2019, the von der Leyen Commission launched a new European Semester cycle, the first of its mandate. It presents an ambitious, rebooted growth strategy focused on promoting competitive sustainability to build an economy that works for people and the planet.

The [Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy](#) delivers on the vision set out in President Ursula von der Leyen's [Political Guidelines](#). It sets out the economic and employment policy strategy for the EU, placing sustainability and social inclusion at the heart of the EU's economic policymaking, in line with the priorities enshrined in the [European Green Deal](#), the Commission's new growth strategy. It aims to ensure that Europe remains the home of the world's most advanced welfare systems, becomes the first climate-neutral continent and is a vibrant hub of innovation and competitive entrepreneurship. It will give Europe the tools to strive for more when it comes to social fairness and prosperity. More broadly, the sustainable growth strategy will help the EU and its Member States achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which the Commission is integrating into the European Semester for the first time.

The Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy encompasses four interrelated and mutually reinforcing dimensions to addresses long-term challenges. These dimensions should guide structural reforms, employment policies, investments and responsible fiscal policies across all Member States to deliver an economy that works for people and the planet. The four dimensions are:

- environmental sustainability;
- productivity gains;
- fairness; and
- macroeconomic stability.

The European Semester will place a stronger focus on environmental sustainability by providing specific guidance to Member States on where structural reforms and investment towards a sustainable economic model are most needed. The policy guidance under the European Semester will also help to spur productivity gains: it will promote investment and structural reforms to foster research and innovation, improve access to finance, enhance the functioning of product and services markets, and remove bottlenecks in the business environment. Fairness should be safeguarded through the implementation of social policies to guarantee fair working conditions for all and to allow people to adapt to changing circumstances at a time of important transformations. Macroeconomic stability should be preserved by respecting the fiscal rules, while using the full flexibility built into them, addressing imbalances and completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

For more information visit the website [here](#).

Open Public Consultations

Through public consultations you can express your views on the scope, priorities and added value of EU action for new initiatives, or evaluations of existing policies and laws.

Origin-labelling for meat - evaluation

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN

[Origin-labelling for meat - evaluation](#)

Topics

Agriculture and rural development

Consultation period

9 December 2019 - 2 March 2020

Evaluation of European Social Fund support to education

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN

[Evaluation of European Social Fund support to education](#)

Topics

Education and training

Consultation period

18 November 2019 - 24 February 2020

EU drugs strategy 2013-20 - evaluation

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN

[EU drugs strategy 2013-20 - evaluation](#)

Topics

Home affairs

Consultation period

12 November 2019 - 4 February 2020

Labelling fragrance allergens

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN

[Labelling fragrance allergens](#)

Topics

Single market

Consultation period

12 November 2019 - 4 February 2020

Aviation – reporting safety-related incidents (evaluation of EU rules)

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN

[Aviation – reporting safety-related incidents \(evaluation of EU rules\)](#)

Topics

Transport

Consultation period

7 November 2019 - 30 January 2020

EU competition rules on horizontal agreements between companies – evaluation

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN

[EU competition rules on horizontal agreements between companies – evaluation](#)

Topics

Competition

Consultation period

6 November 2019 - 12 February 2020

EU food quality schemes — evaluation

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN

[EU food quality schemes — evaluation](#)

Topics

Agriculture and rural development

Consultation period

4 November 2019 - 27 January 2020

EU rail freight network – evaluation

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN
[EU rail freight network – evaluation](#)

Topics

Transport

Consultation period

4 November 2019 - 3 February 2020

Evaluation of the support to employment and mobility by the European Social Fund

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN
[Evaluation of the support to employment and mobility by the European Social Fund](#)

Topics

Employment and social affairs

Consultation period

14 October 2019 - 6 January 2020

Implementing the final BASEL III reforms in the EU

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN
[Implementing the final BASEL III reforms in the EU](#)

Topics

Banking and financial services

Consultation period

11 October 2019 - 3 January 2020

Environmental crime - reviewing the EU rules

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN
[Environmental crime - reviewing the EU rules](#)

Topics

Justice and fundamental rights

Consultation period

10 October 2019 - 2 January 2020

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Place
18-20.03.2020	2020 International Civil Engineering and Architecture Conference http://www.ceac.net/	Hong Kong CHINA
21-23.05.2020	71 st ECCE General Meeting  European Council of Civil Engineers http://www.ecceengineers.eu/news/2020/71_ecce_meeting.php?id=41	MALTA

Date	Event	Place
25-27.05.2020	<p>14th Baltic Sea Geotechnical Conference 2020</p>  <p>https://www.ril.fi/en/events/bsgc-2020.html</p>	Helsinki, FINLAND
09-11.06.2020	<p>WBSE Conference "BEYOND 2020"</p>  <p>https://beyond2020.se/</p>	Gothenburg, SWEDEN
24.06.2020	<p>4th European Engineers' Day 2020 "Engineering intelligence in a digitalized Europe"</p> <p>http://www.ecceengineers.eu/news/2020/4th_european_engineers_day.php?id=41</p>	Brussels, BELGIUM
24-25.06.2020	<p>Conference Geotechnical Engineering Education 2020 (GEE2020)</p>  <p>https://www.erasmus.gr/microsites/1168</p>	Athens, GREECE
14.09.2020	<p>18th International Conference for Women Engineers and Scientists</p>  <p>https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/eng/icwes18/</p>	Warwick, UNITED KING- DOM
21-22.10.2020	<p>Digital Construction Week</p>  <p>https://www.digitalconstructionweek.com/</p>	London, UNITED KING- DOM
28-31.10.2020	<p>ASCE Convention 2020</p>  <p>https://www.asceconvention.org/</p>	Anaheim, Califor- nia U.S.A.



The end of the year brings no greater joy than the opportunity to express to you season's greetings and good wishes. May your holidays and New Year be filled with joy! We look forward to cooperating with you in 2020 and beyond.

All the best from the President, the Executive Board and Secretary of the European Council of Civil Engineers

Aris Chatzidakis
ECCE President

Maria Karanasiou
ECCE General Secretary



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

The European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) was created in 1985 out of the common concern of the professional bodies for Civil Engineers in Europe that the Civil Engineers working together across Europe could offer much more to assist Europe advance its built Environment and protect the natural environment.

At the European Union level, ECCE aims to promote the highest technical and ethical standards, to provide a source of impartial advice, and promote co-operation with other pan-European organizations in the construction industry. ECCE also advises and influences individual governments and professional institutions, formulates standards and achieves a mutual compatibility of different regulations controlling the profession, and formulates standards for a European Code of Conduct of the Civil Engineering Profession and disciplinary procedures applicable throughout the Union.