

Network of National Construction Technology Platforms

Newsletter No.1

October, 2014



Edited by PTEC

PRESENTATION

This is the first newsletter of the construction NTPs network to promote synergies between the National Technology Platforms or other National organisations in the construction sector, in close coordination with the European Construction Technology Platform ECTP.

The NTPs network was informally launched at the workshop in ECTP conference (Brussels June 19th, 2014) attended by 35-40 persons representing 16 countries, ECTP, DG Enterprise and Industry and DG Research and Innovation. Previously, representatives from about 20 countries had been contacted for this initiative.

We believe that these newsletters will contribute to keep this NTPs network alive identifying and exploring different fields of collaborations between countries on R&I in the construction sector.

The newsletters will be published every two months with contributions from different countries, ECTP and EC. In this first issue, collaborations from ECTP and four National organizations (Italy, Poland, Spain and Sweden) are included.

At the end of this newsletter, some information on the 1st meeting in October 28th by Internet of NTPs network is also included.

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EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM



Why ECTP needs a new take-off of a Network of National Technology Platforms

At the occasion of the ECTP Conference held in Brussels on June 2014, ECTP organised a workshop gathering National Technology Platform (NTP) delegates in order to assess the interest of giving a new impulse to a Network of NTPs. This workshop, coordinated by Jesus Rodriguez from the Spanish NTP, which is recognized today as probably the most active NTP in operation, clearly displayed, through the high number of participants and the richness of the

positive exchanges which took place, that there was still a willingness from many NTPs, in spite of the variety of their status, activities and kinds of achievements, to give a new stimulus to the Network of NTPs launched at the start of ECTP life.

ECTP would like to highly encourage this movement.

Actually, even if, through a membership constituted of adherents coming from practically all Member States, ECTP has a good presumed connection with other stakeholders from all over Europe, NTPs are privileged interlocutors to establish closer links with regional and national authorities as well as all with many stakeholders, including SMEs, gathered within their own memberships. Through their missions often comparable to the ECTP ones, NTPs are indeed in the best position to efficiently comprehend many issues and act as an efficient relay between the EC level covered by ECTP and the tissue of construction stakeholders active at local levels. For example, the role that NTPs may play in the dissemination of EC project results has been particularly emphasized by several delegates during the Brussels workshop.

Another high potential relevance of the Network appeared to be about stimulating exchanges of information between NTPs on national programmes, practices, experiences... Beyond the added-value thus generated for the NTPs themselves, ECTP is also interested in this role, since it may facilitate the collecting and synthesis of information on various matters from Member States.

The coming months will be crucial for the revival of the Network. How expectations will be translated into a clear mission and real cooperation between NTPs? How the Network will find its right position within the other ECTP undertakings? This Newsletter is one of the first steps of this movement and ECTP is delighted to have launched and to be part of the undertaken efforts.

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ITALY.- PTIC



PTIC: ITALIAN CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM

PTIC believes that a central role of the Construction National Technology Platforms should be to support incubation and dissemination of innovations to the many SMEs of the construction sector. SMEs are in fact usually not ready or organized to perform R&D activities. In this prospective at the National level TPs could act as local "hubs" to increase awareness and leverage research results for the local industry.

To this aim, PTIC representatives in the last years has attended and gave presentations at several national events, to present and support this vision and to push at the same time Italian companies to participate in EU projects. Among these several events, the following ones have to be cited:

- “The construction Industry towards Horizon 2020”, Rome, July 2012, with the Minister of Research and Education.
- Workshop on Horizon 2020 at the MADE Exhibition, October 2012, Milan.
- PTIC supported SAIE exhibition in 2013.
- Workshop on Innovation in the Construction Industry in Italy and in EU, 5th June 2014, Rome, with representatives from the Italian Parliament.

This strategy will follow in the next months, in cooperation with the main industrial (e.g. ANCE and Federcostruzioni) and scientific (e.g. ISTEAs) Associations of the sector.

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POLAND - PPTB



PPTB: Polish Construction Technology Platform

The new EU financial perspective for 2014-2020 in which Poland is going to receive large resources makes the future of Polish construction sector very promising. In total, Poland will get 82.5 billion euro including 27.4 billion for investment in e.g. road construction, rail, energy and hydro-engineering. In addition an opportunity for the development of the

Polish construction sector is the growing popularity of investment in the public-private partnership (PPP).

One of the organization active in the Polish construction sector that dedicates its work to improve the innovation and competitiveness of Polish construction companies, research centres etc. at the national and foreign markets is the Polish Construction Technology Platform.

Since 2004 PCTP, coordinated by ASM – Market Research and Analysis Centre, disseminates the information on available EU funds as well as promotes participation of Polish companies, especially SMEs, in the national as well as European research and innovative projects within Framework Programmes and now Horizon 2020. PCTP is also an active member of the European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP) and Energy Efficient Buildings Association (E2BA).

Each month members of the PCTP receive newsletter with actual information about the situation of the sector, available funds, cooperation possibilities and relevant events. The Coordinator organises several workshops to encourage and train construction companies and research institutes in terms of applying for EU and national funds as well as sectorial events e.g. “Monitoring of the construction market conference”; “Construction brands ranking” in order to share knowledge on the market, trends, future business opportunities and facilitate technology transfer and national and international cooperation. Companies associated within the PCTP benefit also from the Construction Sector Promotion Programme set up by the Ministry of Economy and implemented by the Polish Chamber of Commerce and ASM – Market Research and Analysis Centre dedicated to the promotion of Polish construction companies on the foreign markets e.g. Saudi Arabia, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Germany, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine. Within this project the companies have the possibility to obtain co-financing for such activities like participation at international trade fairs, design and set up of own booth at the fairs, design and printing of promotion materials, participation in study visits abroad.

Since September 2014 PCTP coordinator is also elaborating at the request of the National Research and Development Centre in Poland a feasibility study necessary to establish in a further step a Sectorial Programme for the Construction Sector – a special

programme aimed at funding of research and development activities in construction. Sectorial programs are created in response to the current needs of companies operating in a particular industry and are to be a significant help in the process of increasing the competitiveness of the Polish construction sector. Its establishment will facilitate the continuous improvement of quality of products and construction processes as well as the development of intellectual and technical potential of the Polish construction sector. It is expected that the Programme will be launched in the first quarter of 2015.

More information on interesting, perspective activities of PCTP are available at www.pptb.pl

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SPAIN - PTEC



PTEC conference on R&I in transport infrastructures

PTEC is organising a conference in Málaga, Spain (Nov. 25th, 2014) on R&I in transport infrastructures. This is one of the activities that PTEC organises within its strategy on:

- Internationalization of the R&I in PTEC members
- Promoting and facilitating innovation
- Contributing of the image improvement in the construction sector through R&I

In this event, some major stakeholders in the transport infrastructures are expected as ADIF (Spanish railway infrastructure operator), Málaga Port authority, Regional/Local Authorities, large and SMEs companies, etc.

Two sessions are planned:

- Morning session on policy and opportunities for R&I in transport infrastructures
- Afternoon session on examples of innovations that have been introduced in projects as pavements, bridges, tunnels, ports and railway tracks.

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European Structural and Investment Funds – Partnership Agreement Spain

The Partnership Agreements for the European Structural and Investment Funds are the 2014-2020 national strategic documents that reflect the overall strategy and priorities for the use of these Funds. They are elaborated by the EU Member States and have to be approved by the European Commission.

On 22 April 2014 Spain presented the Agreement proposal to the European Commission.

The Thematic Objective 1, related to RDI, will be allocated with 4,400 million euros, preferably to be applied to the areas of the Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation in coordination with the research and innovation strategies for smart specialization (RIS3) of the Autonomous Communities.

The Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation for the period 2013-2020, is the strategic framework for national and regional RDI policies, the latter defined through their corresponding RIS3.

From the Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation and RIS3, the following general areas for action are established: support investment in RD, strengthening RDI institutions, improvement of the scientific and technological infrastructures, promotion of business leadership in RDI, increase of private financing in innovation, promotion of public-private partnerships in RDI, enhancement of knowledge transfer and capacities to the productive structures and promotion of training and incorporation of talent in companies, universities and research centres.

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PTEC at REFINET Coordination Support Action

Last August, the European Commission call on *Smarter design, construction and maintenance* (Mobility Programme MG. 8.1, Horizon 2020) closed. The Specific challenge was to Increase the performance of multi-modal transport infrastructure can be achieved through improving the productivity of the assets. In this context, key in the future will be to reduce drastically traffic disruptions of transport flows from inspection, construction and maintenance activities to accommodate increasing/changing traffic demand. This means fewer, faster, more sustainable and better planned interventions with maximum safety for the workers and other traffic participants.

PTEC, as initial coordinator of the National Construction Technology Platforms, participated in a CSA proposal that is coordinated by ECTP Secretary.

This CSA will contribute to create European-wide consensus on where to focus in terms of research and innovation in order to further increase the performance of **multimodal transport infrastructure** through improving the productivity of the assets (reducing maintenance costs, extending the life span...) and reduce drastically traffic disruptions of transport flows from inspection, construction and maintenance activities to accommodate increasing/changing traffic demand.

If the CSA will be approved, PTEC will be involved in dissemination activities and will establish a link between this CSA and National Platforms Network, collecting contributions from NTPs to the CSA and disseminating the information generated in the CSA among the Platforms.

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IQ Samhällsbyggnad

SWEDEN - IQS

Net national R&I Programme "Smart Built Environment" planned in Sweden

The Smart Built Environment strategic innovation area addresses stakeholders in the built environment sector and their conditions for a development leap. The sector comprises a wide range of stakeholders operating in sub-processes within a complex whole, from the early planning stages of built environment through design and construction to long-term facility management and use of homes, offices, hospitals, schools, roads and railways, etc.

The built environment sector, in Sweden and internationally, is fragmented, with a large element of sub-optimization and individual part deliveries, but with business logic that provide little incentive to offer new value in these deliveries. The sector's ongoing conversion to international competition, and to meet demands on sustainable societal development, provides great business opportunities.

The programme's focus on digital incentives, modern production techniques and a different business logic

will facilitate the increase of profitable and sustainable growth for the sector internationally, as well as stable prerequisites for all other sectors in Sweden that are reliant on the built environment.

Renewal of the innovation area, as well as the greatest impact, will occur when Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Building Information Modelling (BIM) and industrialized construction are interconnected so that 1) information can flow smoothly along the entire value chain of independent stakeholders and IT systems; 2) this takes place in processes that ensure experience feedback and product orientation; and 3) a business logic is applied that is both legally viable and which provides good financial incentives for every stakeholder. The trend, which has so far been incremental, technology driven and divided between different stakeholders and stages, will become integrated, client-driven and will happen in leaps.

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NTPS NETWORK ACTIVITIES

In October 28th, from 09:00 till 12:00, a meeting through Internet (webex) will be carried out with one representative per NTP or similar National organization plus ECTP and EC representatives. A preliminary draft programme is the following:

- Opening and presentation of participants
- Objectives of the NTPs network and planned activities for 2014
- Organization of the network
 - Relation with ECTP
 - Funding of the network
 - Planning of activities for 2015: web, newsletters, meetings and other events.
 - Coordination of the network

Up to now, confirmations for the participation in this meeting have been received from Denmark, Greece, Finland, Italy, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Poland, Portugal, Sweden and ECTP. Confirmations from other countries require informing PTEC secretariat (ptec@plataformaptec.es) **before Thursday October 23rd**.