

# **Network of National Construction Technology Platforms**

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## **PRESENTATION**

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This is the second newsletter of the network of the National Construction Technology Platforms or similar National organizations in different countries.

This network aims to promote synergies on R&I in the construction sector between European countries in collaboration with ECTP ([www.ectp.org](http://www.ectp.org)) and the European Commission. National initiatives and events are published in order to facilitate the interaction between R&I stakeholders from different countries.

In this newsletter, some contributions are included from:

- The European Commission (DG Move and DG Enterprise and Industry)
- The European Construction Technology Platform ECTP
- Seven countries: France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Slovenia, Spain and Portugal
- NTP network activities

The next newsletter will be published by mid- February 2015.

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## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

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### **DG MOVE**



The European Union's Horizon 2020 R&I Framework Programme has extended its scope further than the previous Framework Programmes, including the support to market uptake of research results in order to cover the full innovation chain.

The "Smart, Green and Integrated Transport" Societal Challenge of Horizon 2020 has the objective to complete a European transport system that is resource-efficient, climate-and-environmentally-friendly, safe and seamless for the benefit of all citizens, the economy and society.

The achievement of this objective includes a radical innovation in construction, maintenance and management of transport infrastructure. Today's infrastructure is no longer suited to 2050 transport needs. R&I need to anticipate the change and take into consideration the evolutions brought by ITS, V2I, V2V and autonomous driving technologies, as well as by supply and recovery of energy.

Many technological solutions are already available, resulting from past research projects. But decision-makers are often unaware of the availability and efficiency of high innovative solutions

The challenge consists in convincing the public sector to act as launching customer / early adopter / first buyer for innovative products and services that are newly arriving on the market and in overcoming a highly fragmented demand.

The Horizon 2020 'Mobility for Growth' 2015 call foresees the application of the new instrument of Public Procurement of Innovative Solution to support a more open approach to contracts in the public sector, major customer for transport infrastructure solutions.

The Topic MG 8.3, "Facilitating market uptake of innovative transport infrastructure solutions", addresses the challenge to overcome a highly fragmented demand and deploy available innovative solutions, focussing on capacity building in the field of cross-border public purchasing of innovative solutions in transport infrastructure leading to implementation of available RTD projects results.

The activity aims at achieving a better coordinated dialogue between procurers and suppliers; at competence building in public sector; at the creation of a coherent basis for progressive step changes to regulation, standardization and public procurement practice.

Detailed information on the content, requirements and deadlines for the call can be found in the Research Participant Portal:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>

**Cristina Marolda**  
Policy Officer

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DG ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY**



Constructing today ... for tomorrow! The European Commission welcomes the National Construction Technology Platforms (NTPs) network initiative. The newly created Directorate General for Internal market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROWTH) recognises the importance of such a network in fostering transnational and transregional collaboration to further strengthen EU wide competitiveness and sustainability policies for the construction sector.

Buildings use 40% of total EU energy consumption and generate 1/3 of greenhouse gas emissions in Europe. Therefore, the construction sector has an important role to play as an engine of the real economy but also as a key deliverer for the low carbon economy. However, the economic crises has affected entire value chains of the construction sector, with special impact on the SMEs that make up 95% of the sector and provide solutions for our daily lives at home, in the office or on the road.

To address these challenges, the Commission has launched in 2012 the Construction 2020 initiative which has gathered together approximately 500 EU experts in different domains such as digitalisation of the construction sector, building renovation, infrastructure maintenance, skills and qualifications, resource efficiency, internal market and international competitiveness.

This knowledge hub has generated a series of recommendations with respect to the Action Plan of Construction 2020 and to a number of follow up actions.

However, in order to better implement EU legislation and financial instruments and programmes, efforts at national and regional level are necessary. Initiatives such as the NTPs network are therefore most welcome.

2015 will be an important year for construction, with the taking office of the new Commission, the readiness of a variety of instruments to stimulate investments and renewed efforts towards further integration of the

EU Single Market. Therefore, it is important that the construction sector embraces change and that it contributes to our societal challenges.

**Marzena Rogalska**  
Head of Unit

**EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION  
TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM**



**TOWARDS MERGING ECTP AND E2BA**

On November 26, 2014, the Energy Efficient Buildings Association (E2BA) held an Extraordinary General Assembly, which was an important step towards its merging with the European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP). Unanimously, present or represented E2BA Members, accounting for more than 80 % of Association Members, decided to adopt new Articles of Association.

These new Articles, simpler than previous ones and therefore completed by Internal Rules, will enlarge the scope of the Association in order to include all domains and issues dealt with by ECTP so far.

The new Association, named "European Construction, Built Environment and Energy Efficient Buildings Technology Platform (ECTP)" will therefore include, in addition to the E2BA domain, the Infrastructures and Active Ageing in the Built Environment initiatives, as well as the Materials and Cultural Heritage Focus Areas. This merging should facilitate a new move towards the promotion of a more comprehensive approach for a better Built Environment in cities and outside cities. This change should be now endorsed by ECTP and officialised according to the Belgian law governing associations, before being implemented in mid-2015.

Of course, the new structured Association will stay the "co-contractor" of the Research PPP on Energy Efficient Buildings with the European Commission, and will remain committed to the success of this initiative within the framework of Horizon 2020.

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## **FRANCE.**



### **ADVANCITY**

#### **About Advancity, The Smart Metropolis Hub**

Advancity, the Smart Metropolis Hub, offers firms, teaching and research centers and territories to cooperate and to set up sustainable urban innovations. The 240 members of its ecosystem (170 Small and Medium Enterprises, 13 world business leaders, 31 academic partners, 30 local governments) investigate the following innovative fields within Strategic Committees which are complete workshops of project's emergence:

- Urban planning, Driving Tools, Decision Support Systems (EcoCity)
- Smart and Efficient Transportation Systems, Accessibility, Mobility (EcoMobility)
- Sustainable Buildings & Infrastructures (EcoConstruction)
- Urban Technologies (water, waste, atmosphere...) & renewable energies including photovoltaic (EcoTechnologies)

#### **GONTRAND project**

Among the most innovative solutions helping cities to get smarter, GONTRAND, a project on smart energy management supported by Advancity is initiative that has to be pointed out.

In France, the growth in the number of gas injection points of varying quality into distribution networks is becoming more apparent. Whereas in the past gas came only from national transmission systems, in the future gas distributors will be providing network access to a host of local biomethane producers. With system operators currently considering plans for some 500 new connections, the number of installations is expected to rise steadily. The energy forecast of the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) estimates green gas penetration at 14% by 2030 and 56% by 2050.

The injection of variable-quality green gas at multiple points into the distribution network will radically change how the network is operated. In the context of such a significant change, a balance must be struck between the variations in gas consumption and the

production of green gas to maximize the integration of that gas into the network. To this end, in future gas utilities will need to find a way of determining and managing in real time the quantity and quality of gas injected at each point on a given network.

The aim of the GONTRAND (Real-time Management of Gas Distribution Network) project is to develop and validate four original technological components vital for the effective real-time management of distribution networks carrying variable-quality gas from multiple entry points:

- A processor core integrating dynamic behaviour models for gas networks with decentralised biomethane injections and demand response
- An interoperable platform or cockpit for managing a gas distribution network
- A Machine To Machine platform open to heterogeneous connectivity (multi-operator and multi-technology)
- A system for analysing gas in real time and in situ, enabling the continuous analysis of biomethane composition, among other things.

The GONTRAND project entails not only the development and unit-by-unit validation of these technological components, but also their integration into a real-life demonstrator to ensure their operational functionality under actual conditions.

Particular attention will be paid to the security of the developed solutions as well as their integration, including during the demonstration phase which will involve testing the security of the various telecoms, IT and industrial components across the entire chain.

These tools will also provide a better oversight of the network, thereby aiding decision-making during emergency response management and strengthening network safety and security.

Labelled by 5 energy or technology clusters TENERDIS, ADVANCITY, CAP ENERGIES, DERBI and SYSTEMATIC under the 17th FUI call for projects, GONTRAND is conducted by GDF SUEZ and a consortium of 9 industrial and academic partners in the fields of computer science (ARTS/LSIS, EURIWARE CAPGEMINI), security and cyber security (LEXSI), telecom (J&P GEO, ORANGE, SIGFOX) and in-situ gas analysis (APIX ANALYTICS, EIF ASTUTE, CEA-LETI).

With a duration of 36 months and a budget of € 4.3 million, the project is partly funded by the French State, Rhône-Alpes, PACA and Midi-Pyrénées regions, Seine Saint-Denis and Bouches-du-Rhône counties and the city of Grenoble.

GONTRAND is also actively supported by major gas utilities in France, GrDF, REGAZ and Réseau GDS, which will accompany the consortium in the phases of the business needs expression and in the field tests.

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**FINLAND**

**RYM OY – FINNISH CONSTRUCTION  
TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM**



RYM Oy is the National Construction Technology Platform of Finland whose 53 shareholders represent broadly the construction and real estate sectors. RYM Oy is also the Strategic Center for Science, Technology and Innovation of the Built Environment in Finland (so called SHOK company).

During its five years of operation, RYM Oy has launched three broad business-oriented multidisciplinary research programs in which over 100 organizations, both private and public, have participated. The programs have focused on development of BIM-based operating and business processes, productive and healthy indoor environments, and urban development.

The operations of RYM Oy are guided by the strategic research agenda (SRA) which has been recently updated. New central themes are wellbeing enhancing spaces, resource wisdom improving productivity and competitiveness, and an investment inducing built environment. The research strategy and research programs based on it enable us to produce diverse information that can be exploited by the ECTP cooperation network.

RYM Oy is also actively involved in the NCP (National Contact Point) network's support group in the following subareas: research infrastructure, smart and green traffic, inclusive, innovative and reflective society, and nanomaterials and products. We

encourage Finnish built environment actors to get involved in NCP networks and the research themes of the Horizon 2020.

RYM Oy has also joined the JPI Urban Europe CSA Group where it has highlighted urban development based on partnership. As a result, it has been able to involve many Finnish cities, enterprises and researchers in European-level cooperation.

Finland has five other Strategic Centers for Science, Technology and Innovation (SHOK companies) besides RYM Oy. We encourage companies at the interface of built environment sector companies to join common research activities in Finland and the rest of Europe. Three Finnish SHOK companies are making preparations for the Healthy Urban Living research program.

RYM Oy exploits effectively the national foresight network in its strategy development and refines insights on the future of construction from the information produced by the network. As a member of the NTP network, we wish to share this operational model and the forecast information it produces with our colleagues at ECTP.

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**GERMANY**

**NATIONAL LIAISON POINT**

Recently, there have been few activities concerning contributions to both the German National Technology Platform and especially to the NLP Germany for the E2BA. Nonetheless, quite a number of issues should be discussed at such level where industry must play a key role in defining research themes for the building sector in Europe.

Today, most of these activities are conducted in Germany on National boards with open connections and open discussions of industry and academia and in most cases there is no need to redefine these structures. However, the decreasing awareness of and input to GCTP and NLP could be stopped, if a true benefit will occur.

A solution could be combining GCTP and NLP in one single board for European research to prevent doubling of topics at EC-level and to connect it with national developers of research programmes. Hereby, truly supplementary research topics could be addressed.

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## **GREECE**

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### **HELLENIC CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM (HCTP)**



Hellenic Construction Technology Platform (HCTP) is an active National Technology Platform being under the administration on Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE-TCG) and it is accounting 180 members (68 Industrial organizations, 39 Research organizations and 73 others).

Main platform's activities and tasks concern the working groups of Cultural heritage, Culture and education, Construction, Urban planning, Infrastructures, Energy, Standardisation – Measuring Technologies, Materials, Networks (Informatics – Telecommunications). All of the HCTP's activities are European economic crisis facing orientated as the impact of crisis on the Constructions is more prominent.

The proposed strategic priorities in order to deal with the crisis are: 1) The interconnection among Innovation, Research and Enterprise 2) Extroversion (interest for new ideas and activities) 3) Enhance the Engineers position in the Constructions (e.g. Disclosure of Professional Rights) and 4) Assure Engineers Involvement in important Construction Sectors.

HCTP supports projects regarding Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Extroversion by promoting Engineers to be involved in special projects concerning restorations works and revitalization of historic cities; works that strengthen architectural and cultural identity which in turn attracts other economies. Due to the general economic crisis in Greece, this period of time there has been lots of discussions about the Engineers' Professional Rights especially in the Construction Sector concerning restoration. Accounting the fact that there will be changes in the

institutional framework surrounding the Professional Rights, HCTP have an active role into all of these processes. To further support its purposes, HCTP organizes and actively participates in conferences, workshops and events taking place in regional and international level.

In the recent past, HCTP disseminated its activities in the following events:

- 2014-2015 Researchers' Night: The Greek events, 26.09.2014. Call: HORIZON 2020-Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) – NIGHT – 2014. The particular event is under the call of Horizon 2020, is a Marie Sklodowska Curie Action (MSCA) and takes place every year on the last Friday of month September in many cities around Europe. It was organized by the Laboratory of Material Science and Engineering of the School of Chemical Engineering of National Technical University of Athens, with Scientific Responsible and Coordinator Professor Antonia Moropoulou.
- 2nd Greek multi-sector Investment and Entrepreneurship Mission in Kenya. On February, people from Kenya will come to Greece to present to Greek Engineers and Construction companies their construction projects in order to attract interest from the Greek Construction sector. Within this framework a Workshop will be organized by the HCTP at the TCG headquarters.

In the coming future, HTCP will disseminate its activities in the following events:

- University Engineering Education and Skills for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Creativity Workshop, 16.12.2014. Organized by: SEFI (European Society for Engineering Education), OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), HCTP (Hellenic Construction Technology Platform), Technical Chamber of Greece, Municipality of Athens and DASTA NTUA (Employment and Career Structure Program of the National Technical University of Athens)

Leading experts from Engineering Education, International Associations, Technical Chambers, Industry, Construction Sector and local authorities will discuss on global problems, trends and policies on "University Engineering Education and Skills for

Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Creativity”, aiming at strengthening and fostering Academia connection with the local labor market and the knowledge alliance with industry, by integrating Education and Employability of Engineers with Sustainable Development requirements.

- Cooperation for the dissemination of a EUROMED with the subject of city revitalization. Coordinator is NTUA and HCTP participates. 9-10 January of 2015.

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## SLOVENIA

SLOVENSKI GRADBENI GROZD.  
CONSTRUCTION CLUSTER OF SLOVENIA



SLOVENSKI GRADBENI GROZD (CONSTRUCTION CLUSTER OF SLOVENIA, CCS) was - as Economic Interest Grouping (not-for-profit) - established in 2004 by construction companies and institutions in the fields of building design, consulting, engineering, contracting and production of building materials and products. The main goal of the cluster was to improve domestic and international competitiveness of its members through commercial cooperation and networking, R&D and innovation, education, training and policy action.

In October 2004, the Slovenian Construction Technology Platform (SICTP) has been established and became a member of the European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP). **CONSTRUCTION CLUSTER OF SLOVENIA** has been nominated to become the secretariat of the SICPT and has been representing the national platform in different EU activities since 2004. Even all funding from national sources ended soon after 2004, the SICTP and cluster members had to support these activities.

CCS also joined the E2B EI (Energy Efficient Buildings European Initiative). CCS also supports the Slovenian involvement in the EUREKABUILD EUREKA Umbrella project.

The cluster is open organization to all interested stakeholders in the construction sector and related



technological domains. R&D and innovation consortia are dynamically formed when a new opportunity is identified by a cluster member. New companies and R&D organization beyond the cluster members are invited to participate at project implementation to assure optimal and interdisciplinary competences. With that a broader, innovation network has been established, including representatives from wood sector, plasttechnics, and other sectors (smart building).

### CCS as innovation cluster

According to this situation, there is an evident need for the development of collaborative schemes in the innovation practices, based on the assumption that individual organizations cannot possess in-house all the required knowledge to develop new advanced and complex products and processes. Industry and research institutions both need to be more open and flexible in partnerships – beyond the cluster membership. To make the knowledge transfer more effective, to reduce time to market and optimise R&D costs, the concept of open innovation needs to be implemented.

To respond to the crisis, to get new members and to implement the open innovation paradigm CCS re-organised to innovation cluster, supporting networked innovation focused on stakeholders` needs, with strong emphasis on innovation competences development, stakeholders` involvement, interdisciplinary approach and international collaboration. CCS is now open and dynamic organization which adapts to particular situation depending on the interests and needs of its members, financing opportunities and general situation in the construction sector.

Construction Cluster of Slovenia as an Economic Interest Grouping coordinates the R&D activities of 15 business and R&D organizations in Slovenian construction sector, and collaborates with more than hundred national and European R&D partners. It collaborates with renowned R&D organization such as Gradbeni inštitut ZRMK or fast growing SMEs such as ROBOTINA. CCS has developed intensive linkages with national ministries and agencies (*government*) and European construction associations such as ECTP (European Construction Technology Platform) and Energy Efficient Building (E2B).

The main competences of the CCS as innovation cluster are:

- National and international networking, policy actions (ECTP, E2B)
- Support preparation of RTD proposals for national and EU public and private funding
- Expert knowledge (cluster office) in the fields of:
  - Cluster development and management, networked cooperation,
  - Innovation management
  - RTD and implementation of technologies related to energy efficiency.
- RTD projects implementation, representing industry association and industry needs and expectations
- Support for the innovation: dissemination and exploitation results of the European RTD projects, consultancy in technology transfer and intellectual property issues.

CCS provides its members infrastructures, services and coordination of different R&D and other development projects and activities. With services offered, network established and competences acquired CCS became an important and well known partner in different national and international projects, mainly R&D ones. CCS is opening or can open many opportunities for R&D and business cooperation on national and international level.

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## **SPAIN**

### **PTEC. SPANISH CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM**



PTEC was born in 2004 and it started in 2010 with a legal status as Foundation. At present, it has about 75 member organisations with the following composition:

- Universities and research centres 26%
- Large companies 31%

- SMEs 18%
- Industrial Associations 17%
- National and Regional Administrations 8%

PTEC is organized in five Working Groups: City of the Future, Transport Infrastructures, Construction Processes (including Health and Safety and BIM Groups), Innovation and R&I Internalization. These WGs are involved in the elaboration of documents, organization of conferences and workshops and other activities.

PTEC organises some public conferences with the objectives:

- To interact with the stakeholders involved in the innovation of the construction sector
- To disseminate the policy of the Public Administrations oriented to encourage the development of R&I activities

PTEC also organizes workshops on R&I topics oriented to PTEC members.

Examples of conferences and workshops in 2014 are:

- Innovation conference that took place last February in Santander. Topics related to the innovation metrics, the protection of research results, the innovation assurance and technical evaluation of innovation among others were discussed
- Construction Processes conference that took place last June 2014 in Valencia. Topics related to RIS3 from two Spanish Regions and construction processes R&D projects on ICT and machinery were commented.
- Transport Infrastructures conference that took place last November 2014 in Malaga with the participation of DG Move (EC), that covered the R&I fields in roads, railways and ports.
- IPR workshop (Madrid, June 2014) where different examples of innovation protection were presented by PTEC members, with the collaboration of the Spanish Patent Office.

- Horizon 2020 proposals workshop (Madrid, December 2014) where some PTEC members explained their strategies when preparing R&I proposals, with the collaboration of CDTI.

Documents are being edited on R&D opportunities in H2020, in Europe (outside Horizon 2020) and in other continents.

In 2015, these are some planned activities:

- Conferences on Innovation demand from the Public Authorities (March 2015) and on Heritage and Accessibility in the cities (November 2015)
- Workshops on Spanish public-private R&I programme, on innovation (assurance, technical evaluation, etc.) and on R&I opportunities outside Europe.
- Guidelines on innovation (assurance, protection and technical evaluation).

#### **PTEC conference**

(Málaga, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014)



PTEC organizes three times per year conferences in different Spanish regions in order to interact with Public Authorities and all the stakeholders interested in innovation in the construction sector.

Each time the subject and organization involved one of PTEC Working Groups. The interest of PTEC in the field of transport infrastructures justified the organization of a conference on the R&I in this field in Málaga after a previous one organized in Madrid in June 2013 in the same subject.

The conference was attended by 130 persons (70% from outside PTEC) and it was opened by the Mayor of Málaga and the General Director of Infrastructures, Autonomic Government in Andalucía. During the morning session, Cristina Marolda from DG Move (European Commission) presented the Transport Programme within Horizon 2020, the 2015 calls and the roadmap for future calls (2016-2017). She pointed out the high interest of priority 8.3 (see Cristina's contribution to this Newsletter).

There were also presentations on the RIS3 in Andalucía from IDEA Agency and on the future of the future of railways from ADIF (Spanish Public Company responsible of railways infrastructures).

In the afternoon session, innovations applied in transport infrastructure contracts were presented by Cemosa on pavements, by Dragados, Acciona and Vorsevi on bridges, by Acciona on ports, by Sacyr and IETcc on the concrete for Panama Canal, by Ferrovial and OSSA on tunnels and by Vías on railways.

Besides, an exhibition of more than 20 posters on R&I Nationals and European projects was organized with projects of Adif, Ayesa, Cemosa, Dragados, Puma Group, IETcc, OSSA, Sando, Vías and Universities of Cantabria, Granada and Málaga.

#### **PTEC workshop on R&I European proposals**

(Madrid, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014)

One of the pillars of PTEC strategy is the promotion of the participation in international R&I initiatives. With this regard, a workshop has been organized in Madrid, in December 2<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with CDTI (Spanish Public Agency) with the participation of more than 50 PTEC members.

The first part of the workshop included a presentation by CDTI on the first results in NMBP program and it was complemented by a presentation carried out by a speaker with experience in the evaluation of European projects. She gave detailed recommendations on how to succeed in the Excellence, Impact and Implementation items when preparing the European R&I proposals.

The second part included presentations from three PTEC members with high experience on European Projects. The vision from SMEs, large contractors and

research organizations were presented by Cemos, Acciona and Tecnalia, respectively.



After each presentation and at the end of the workshop, there was an active participation of the attendants with a high number of questions addressed to the speakers.

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## **PORTUGAL**

**PTPC. Plataforma Tecnológica Portuguesa da Construção**



The PTPC is one of the latest platforms to be created under the NTP's because its constitution became a reality only in late 2011.

It has a legal status of non-profit association, nationwide and brings together as partners the main partners of the construction sector in Portugal (large enterprises, SME, R&D entities, public bodies and associations).

PTPC mission is to promote innovation, competitiveness and sustainable growth in construction industry in Portugal.

Among the various actions that have been committed to show the organization of events such as the annual Forums PTPC which is shared with the general public, the PTPC activity as well as short-term goals, the meetings between Partners and members of Working groups in which the actions to be undertaken are discussed, related to immediate realization of

objectives, Workshops - more technical nature that focus on specific areas related to issues in development in the Working Groups or cross-cutting themes of major importance.

The PTPC has participated in numerous national and international meetings and conferences, in the construction sector, at the invitation of the respective organizations allowing up so expand your network of contacts and information sharing.

PTPC has developed a series of specific research and innovation Working Groups (WG), led by its private and public sector members. These include the following:

- WG BIM - Building Information Modeling
- WG Rehabilitation
- WG Road Pavements
- WG ISC – Information Systems in Construction
- WG Dams
- WG Geotechny
- WG Maritime and Port Infrastructures
- WG Water Infrastructures

The Portuguese construction engineering is highly prestigious worldwide. Our universities are, by tradition and by the standards and current rankings of excellence. We are engaged in design and construction of large projects.

There are numerous strengths of Portuguese engineering: flexibility, capacity to adapt [to different geographies and cultures], ability to work, resilience, and creativity, strongly connected to our history as a People of navigators with roots all over the world. As less positive aspects, compared to other European countries, is the lack of size and the need for improvement in terms of construction processes and resource optimization.

The success of Portuguese companies in the very demanding international market, depends on the competitive advantages that are able to create: reduction of production costs (process improvement) and looking for differentiation factors (sometimes decisive in the technical merit or even the viability of a solution).

Until now research in Portugal was very centralized in universities, detached from the needs of industry,

which resulted in a low economic return of this activity. More cooperation between universities and companies (and also these to each other) should be encouraged and promoted.

PTPC emerges as a movement from "inside-out" of construction companies, with an unprecedented / massive involvement of staff in companies and universities and research institutions for innovation, which traditionally have not been done in the past.

The PTPC has about 100 members (experts from companies, universities, laboratories and work of owners) actively involved in eight working groups in various areas of engineering, enabling a full discussion at the highest level, with technicians who traditionally didn't interact, resulting in new directions, consistent and consensual.

The Secretary of State of Portugal on Regional Development, Dr. Castro Almeida, at the close of the 3rd Forum PTPC: "If it is true that the construction sector is now very internationalized, it would be good to take advantage and apply competitiveness and innovation. The PTPC has an important role. "

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## **NTP NETWORK ACTIVITIES**

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In October 28<sup>th</sup>, a meeting through Internet (Webex) was carried with participation of ECTP and representative persons from 16 countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and UK. Some actions will be carried out in order to integrate other countries in this network.

The objectives of the NTP network, the organization and coordination of the network and its integration within ECTP strategy, the activities for 2014 and the planned activities for 2015 were commented.

Two Webex meetings of the network will be carried out in the first half of 2015, in February 24<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Besides, newsletters will be published by mid-February, April, June, October and December.

Common interests were detected between the members of the network on sharing activities and information between countries, on pushing National members (mainly SMEs) to EU opportunities and on facilitating contacts in order to build partnerships with members from different countries for R&I initiatives.

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