

Network of National Construction Technology Platforms

Newsletter No.3

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Edited by PTEC

PRESENTATION

This is the third newsletter of the network of 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) 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:

- Greece, Spain and UK
- ENCORD Group
- NTP network activities

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

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GREECE

HELLENIC CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM (HCTP)

Workshop: University Engineering Education and Skills for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Creativity

In the recent past, HCTP disseminated its activities in the following event: “University Engineering Education and Skills for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Creativity” was held in Athens (Tuesday December 16th 2014) on the initiative of the SEFI Vice President and Coordinator of Hellenic Construction Technology Platform (HCTP) Antonia Moropoulou.

The event was co-organized by National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and its Employment and Career Structure, Municipality of Athens - Athens Development and Destination Management Agency

(ADDMA), Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG), Hellenic Construction Technology Platform, European Society for Engineering Society (SEFI) and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

During the workshop, leading experts from Engineering Education, International Associations, Technical Chambers, Industry, Construction Sector and local authorities discussed 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.

In particular, the base over which TCG and HCTP will develop a National Plan for the Sustainable Construction and the Cultural Heritage was established by introducing the following innovations: 1) the adoption of standards, procedures and specifications related to the management of construction 2) proclamation and funding of Research Programs always complied with the Research priorities of HCTP and ECTP and 3) the promotion and strengthening of political cooperation with Research Entities (Universities, Research Institutions etc).

Open call initiative for the participation in a proposed Large-scale Distributed Research Infrastructure (RI):

European Research Laboratories and Research Centers are invited to participate in the proposed Large-scale Distributed Research Infrastructure titled “SUDEN - Durability and sustainability of construction materials and works under the influence of environmental actions”, coordinated by the National Technical University of Athens, in which the Hellenic Construction Technology Platform participates, and regards the extension and improvement of a Research Infrastructure that is available within a collaborating network of 60 Greek partners consisting of 55 Laboratories from 12 Academic Institutions, 2 Research Centers and 3 Organizations/Authorities.

The scope of the SUDEN RI is to provide *Research & Innovation* relevant to the sustainability of physical

objects of the Construction Sector, under the influence of environmental actions.

The field of application of SUDEN RI covers existing and new structures, large civil infrastructures and the protection and preservation of the built cultural heritage. The activities of the RI will be organized under five main thematic nodes and three horizontal thematic nodes, specifically: 1) Sustainable materials, elements and Works (Preventive maintenance of buildings, systems and infrastructures; Environmental impact, decay, damage assessment; Quality systems; Green materials), 2) Materials and multi-functional elements for energy efficiency: Envelope and structure solutions; Low energy optimized lifecycle buildings; Systems, 3) Design, development and characterization of novel materials and elements, 4) Protection of Built Cultural Heritage: (Documentation; Risk and environmental impact, decay, damage assessment; Interdisciplinary diagnostics/pathology; Evaluation of compatible and performing materials and intervention techniques; Lifecycle optimization; Traditional and advanced intervention materials and techniques; Preservation and management), and 5) Archaeometry (Dating and Provenance of archaeological remains; Ancient Technologies used).

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SPAIN

PTEC. SPANISH CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM

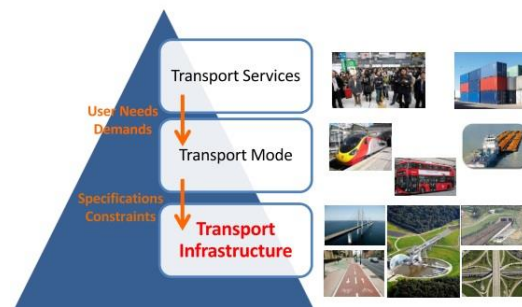


Role of PTEC at REFINET CSA

At the end of January 2015, the European Commission has announced the approval of the Coordination Support Action REFINET “Rethinking Future Infrastructure Networks” under the call on *Smarter design, construction and maintenance* (Mobility Programme MG. 8.1, Horizon 2020).

The coordinator of REFINET is CSTB, as General Secretary of ECTP, and PTEC will participate as member of the consortium with the main role to establish links

with National Construction Technology Platforms. Besides, the consortium is formed by FHERL, UIC and members from Spain, UK and Italy.



REFINET aims to create a sustainable network that integrate relevant stakeholders’ representatives of all transport modes (road, railway, maritime, fluvial, ...) and transport infrastructure sectors in order to create a shared European vision of how should be specified, designed, built or renovated, and maintained the multimodal transport infrastructure network of the future in order to enhance the effectiveness of the sector.

REFINET CSA will be involved in:

- Creating the Network
- Defining the Vision about the multimodal European transport infrastructure network of the future
- Deploying the Vision through a Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP)
- Communicating and Disseminating REFINET activities and achievements to create synergies with other initiatives

Best practices in design and construction of new transport infrastructures and maintenance of the existing ones, analysis of available technologies, analysis of the state of development of transport infrastructures in different European countries, monitoring of R&I projects, etc. will be carried out by REFINET partners and the network of experts plus the participants in thematic workshops. NTPs should play a relevant role in some of these actives.

PTEC will coordinate the WP on Communication and dissemination and will stablish links between this CSA and the National Platforms Network, collecting contributions from NTPs to the CSA and disseminating

the information generated in the CSA among the Platforms.

Dissemination events in PTEC

PTEC organises dissemination events to inform on:

- R&I policies and opportunities for construction sector
- PTEC strategies and activities

Conferences

They are events looking for a wide dissemination of the activities and consequently, those events are open for any entity interested in participating in it. They are a good tool for increasing the relationship among PTEC and its members and because of that, those events are organised in different Spanish cities, trying to favour the participation of members in different regions.



A large participation of construction entities is expected (usually, the number of people registered exceeds the 120 participants)

Through these conferences, PTEC wants to promote:

- The relationship with National and Regional Public Administrations
- The interaction with all stakeholders interested in R&I in construction

PTEC conferences are 5 or 6 hours public events that started in 2013, each one focussed to a specific R&D construction item. Until now, conferences related to City of the Future (Valladolid), Construction Processes (Valencia), Transport Infrastructures (Madrid and Málaga), R&I Internationalization (Madrid) and Innovation in construction (Santander) have been organized. Now, two conferences are planned on Innovation in Public Procurement (Madrid, March

2015) and on the City accessibility, cultural heritage preservation, etc. (Bilbao, November 2015).

The conference on “Innovation in the Public procurement” (10th of March, 2015) will be opened by the State Secretary on R&I and will include one session on Policies about the innovation in the public procurement at European, National and Regional levels, and other session on the opportunities for the innovation in the public procurement in infrastructures.

Workshops

Workshops are 3 hours events oriented to PTEC members with the objective to favour the debate among the participants. They started last year and until now, Protection of the innovation (IPR) in construction, promotion of participation or PTEC members in H2020 and in National R&I programs have been carried out.

These workshops are organised for 20-50 participants and the structure is similar in all cases: During the first part, a representative of the Public Administration explain the main items to be discussed (for example, opportunities for the sector in H2020, the presentation of the R&D National call, etc.) and during the second part, some PTEC members explain their experience in the topic by showing successful cases.

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UK



Strong support for UK National Platform

A reinvigorated UK National Platform met in December 2014 to consider the representation for UK research priorities and activities at a European Level. 20 individuals drawn from across government, academia and industry met to discuss the future direction of the UK National Platform.

The National Platform is chaired by Jeremy Watson CBE Vice-Dean and Professor of Engineering Systems at UCL and chief scientific advisor to BRE. Jeremy is very keen to lead the revitalised National Platform to deliver

more effective representation of UK priorities at a European level.

The meeting included input from the key research funders and policy-makers for the UK. The Department for Business Innovation & Skills reaffirmed the important role that the National Platform plays in shaping the innovation priorities for Construction 2025 the Industrial Strategy for Construction that was launched in 2013. Representatives from the Department of Energy & Climate Change confirmed the significant role that research and innovation plays in helping achieve secure, clean, affordable energy in the UK. Both Innovate UK who fund business-led innovation and the EPSRC who fund academic led research are highly supportive of the key role that the National Platform plays in bringing key stakeholders to the table to confirm and validate main priorities.

There was a strong commitment for the important role that the National Platform plays in providing a cohesive voice for the research needs of the UK industry in Europe. The National Platform will focus on aggregating and signposting the many relevant strands of work being carried out across the UK. This will be pulled together into a living roadmap for the UK industry, which will be updated on a regular basis to reflect how previous research has plugged the gaps in previous roadmaps.

The meeting covered the four key areas of Energy Efficient Buildings, ReFINE, Smart Cities & Communities and Active Ageing. The National Platform website is currently being revitalised to more effectively signpost research and capabilities across these four areas. The National Platform is keen to work with partners in Europe to help make the UK aware of pan-European activities and encourage collaborations.

The National Platform will work with all the relevant networks and groups, including the Knowledge Transfer Network, to engage wider audiences in opinion forming and communications. Further details are available from the National Platform website www.nationalplatform.org.uk

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ENCORD GROUP



The European Network of Construction Companies for Research and Development ENCORD was founded in 1989 as a Europe's forum for industry-led research, development and innovation in the construction sector. The members are leading construction companies and suppliers from all over Europe.



Recently, a new Presidium was elected with Ferrovial from Spain as President and General Secretary and with Bouygues Travaux Publics from France, Uponor from Finland, Strabag/Zublin from Austria/Germany and Royal BAM Groep from The Netherlands as Vice-presidents and treasurer, respectively.

ENCORD will contribute to REFINET CSA through DRAGADOS, member of ENCORD and REFINET CSA.

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NTP NETWORK ACTIVITIES

During 2014, two meetings have been carried out of the NTPs network. The first one in June in Brussels during the ECTP conference and the second one in October 28th, through Internet (Webex), 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.

Besides, two Newsletters were published, by mid-October and mid-December, respectively, with the contributions from about ten countries, ECTP and EC.

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

In **February 24th meeting**, between other subjects, we will deal with:

- ew members of the network
- Organization of the Collaborative Workspace (CWS) at ECTP; links between ECTP web and NTPs webs in each country; etc.
- REFINET Coordination Support Action and potential contributions from NTPs will be identified.
- Other future initiatives for the Network at Cost, CSAs, etc.
- Planning of activities for 2015

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