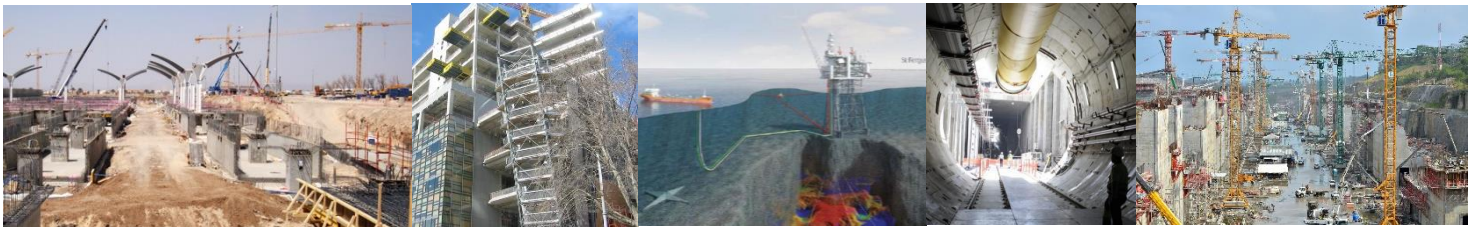


# **Network of National Construction Technology Platforms**

**Newsletter No.4  
April, 2015**



**Edited by PTEC**

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## **PRESENTATION**

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This is Newsletter No.4 of the network of National Construction Technology Platforms or similar National organizations in different countries.

As it is known, 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. At present, there are contact persons in this network in 20 European countries

In this newsletter, there are contributions from:

- Christophe Lesniak on the relevance to increase energy efficiency in buildings and the role of NTPs network with this regard.
- European Commission, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, on the Construction2020 Forum where all stakeholders recognised that a local approach to both policy-making and implementation in the construction sector is needed.
- ECTP on the four Coordination Support Actions within the PPP Energy Efficient Buildings.
- NTPs from Greece, Poland, Spain and Portugal on some national or transnational initiatives.
- NTP network activities with a summary of the last network meeting and the ongoing activities,

The next newsletter (Newsletter No.5) will be published by mid-June 2015.

**Jesús Rodríguez**  
[director@plataformaptec.es](mailto:director@plataformaptec.es)

## **PERSONAL OPINION. C. LESNIAK**

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### **Increasing energy efficiency in the buildings sector**

After the 20/20/20 targets for 2020 we should have in mind now the 40/27/27 targets for 2030. The European Council set in October 2014 an indicative target at the EU level of at least 27% ( 30 % for energy efficiency by 2030 seems to be also possible) for improving energy efficiency (EE) in 2030.

We have to contribute significantly to reach such new objective notably with the collaboration of energy efficiency in existing buildings. Energy efficiency in buildings is a low hanging fruit and many concrete actions are mainly independent from future energy decision or policies to be taken, it will always help these decisions to have results. It is also without saying that EE contribute to the climate change policy.

I think that EE in existing buildings cannot be driven only by a top down approach, although top-down is necessary for establishing standards, labelling, etc... Each building needs some specific diagnosis depending of its technology, usage, comfort requirements, operational costs, location, small-scale financing, regional or local constraints etc....

In another words « one size doesn't fit all » and it's why actions particularly at the local and regional levels, are needed to exploit the full EE potential of buildings.

Local or national organization such NTPs could help to identify best solutions and expertise which could be replicated in another place.

By dedicating a full paragraph on Increasing energy efficiency in the buildings sector a recent European publication « the Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy » highlighted the importance of the buildings contribution in order to meet the EE target. While Heating and cooling is mentioned as the major source of energy demand in buildings in Europe, other EE gains remain possible for example at district level.

The construction sector has already started to implement some energy efficiency technologies; we should speed and scale up the renovation or retrofitting of the existing buildings stock. I am looking forward to hear the NTPs contribution to these challenges.

**Christophe Lesniak**  
[christophe.lesniak@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:christophe.lesniak@europarl.europa.eu)



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND CONSTRUCTION UNIT

#### **"Construction2020" Forum calls for greater Member State involvement**

Construction industry stakeholders including industry, Member States and European institutions met for the 3<sup>rd</sup> High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum (HLF) on 25th March 2015 in Brussels, in the context of "Construction2020" (the short name for the Communication on "Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises" (COM (2012) 433 final).

The meeting was hosted by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.

Director General Daniel Calleja opened the meeting thanking the 5 Thematic Groups for the specific proposals made to the Forum, in particular regarding financial instruments, construction and demolition waste recycling and the fitness check for EU legislation. He called on all Forum members to join forces to ensure effective follow-up of the proposed measures by all stakeholders at national, regional and local level, including a stronger commitment from Member States to engage more intensively in the dialogue with the HLF.

MEP Catherine Stihler highlighted the sector's high potential in transforming the economy in terms of decarbonisation, resource efficiency and digitalization. She spoke about the "Cost of non-Europe" and the need of a better coordination amongst various ongoing legal initiatives to ensure legal certainty for construction businesses. She also referred to the potential of the Digital Single Market for the construction sector not only in terms of business opportunities and innovation but also in terms of administrative compliance and simplification.

The meeting was held to examine the activities undertaken, the progress achieved and the recommendations formulated by the five Thematic Groups (TGs), established under the framework Construction2020. These five TGs cover the topics of investments and innovation (TG1), skills and

qualifications (TG2), sustainable use of natural materials (TG3), the Internal Market (TG4) and international competitiveness (TG5). The TGs' main objective is to map construction sector needs and identify barriers to the implementation of the Strategy. Based on these discussions, the TGs make recommendations to the HLF on how to proceed with concrete proposals and solutions. Below is a summary of the progress achieved on the recommendations from the HLF in its report from February 2014.

#### Priorities of the Thematic Groups in 2014

Following the recommendations from the HLF February 2014, TG1 focused particularly on financial instruments, property valuation, life cycle costing and public-private partnership models. TG2 focused on EU funding schemes and EU level initiatives for training, guidelines for innovative partnerships and the mobility of construction professionals. TG3 focused on the environmental performance of buildings and construction & demolition waste. TG4 prioritized fitness checks concerning the Internal Market, national contact points, cross-border insurance services, Eurocodes and effective market surveillance of construction products. Lastly, TG5 prioritized work towards selected international partners, access to finance and guarantees as well as international cooperation on standards and regulation beyond Eurocodes.



#### Progress on recommendations from the HLF in 2014

With experts from TG1, financial instruments for energy efficiency schemes were discussed and comments and recommendations were formulated on a report by the Energy Efficiency Financial Instruments Group. Two reviews were provided on "Mapping of EU funding opportunities for training activities" and "Good Practices examples", directly benefiting the work of TG2. In the context of TG3, expert industry stakeholders discussed economic incentives and the

recycling market for Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste. In addition, a case study and analysis of economic framework conditions surrounding the C&D waste market in the EU contributed to focusing discussions. In TG4 an overview of EU legislation related to the construction sector was developed for the 'fitness check'. Lastly, in TG5 an analysis on internationalization of EU construction firms was discussed.

#### Recommendations from the Thematic Groups to the High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum

The TGs provided the HLF with a number of recommendations in order to make progress towards meeting the objectives of the Strategy. In general, all stakeholders recognize that a local approach to both policy-making and implementation in the construction sector is needed as the market situation and needs differ from region to region (with respect to markets, finance availability, skills and training). As a result, national, regional and local authorities play an important role in policy making. This is why TG stakeholders have joined the Commission in calling for more Member State involvement in the Governance Structure, including at political level. Moreover, all TGs underline that the power of the Construction2020 initiative lies in communicating good practices and raising awareness of initiatives across the EU. The EC proposes to have the Construction Competitiveness Observatory pay particular attention to communicating and upscaling information and good practices - either from EU, national or regional level – to other regions or Member States in the EU. Lastly, more focus on the opportunities provided by research (funds, partnerships, etc.) in various fields (recycling, fitness checks, skills, financial instruments) is recognized by TG stakeholders as having the potential to provide various layers of the construction industry with new sources of growth. On the functioning of the Governance Structure, TG members also recommended to now focus discussions even more in small, ad-hoc expert groups on detailed topics as well as provide a more interactive meeting setting to form common views more effectively and efficiently.

During discussions in the meeting, the HLF raised points that the TGs have not yet examined: 1. Investment in infrastructure; 2. More training for implementing 'lean construction'; 3. Counterfeit construction products compromising safety both during construction and in the use of buildings and 4.

The choice between renovating or demolish and build new.

[antonio.paparella@ec.europa.eu](mailto:antonio.paparella@ec.europa.eu)  
[GROW-CONSTRUCTION-FORUM@ec.europa.eu](mailto:GROW-CONSTRUCTION-FORUM@ec.europa.eu)



#### **ECTP**

#### **Four Coordination and Support Actions (CSA's) recently launched to support impacts of the PPP EeB**

The EC has already supported more than 100 projects through the PPP EeB activities under FP7.

In continuation of the successful activities implemented under the PPP EeB in FP7, the EC and the Private side of the PPP, namely E2BA as representative of industry, signed a contractual arrangement in December 2013 for the continuation of the cPPP EeB under Horizon 2020. Therefore additional projects are being launched today through the first calls of H2020.

One of the main obligations and benefits of the contractual arrangement between the EC and E2BA is to monitor and exploit the results of the projects supported in this framework. Therefore, the EC launched in February 2015, the implementation of 4 CSA's that will support the EC in monitoring the results of the projects and foster the dissemination and exploitation of these results.

These 4 CSAs are:

- EeB-CA2 (coordinated by CSTB on behalf of E2BA), which will consider the whole set of projects,
- EEBERS (coordinated by VTT), which will focus on ICT-related projects,
- SWIMing (coordinated by Trinity College Dublin), which will focus on Interoperability, Data Models and BIM aspects,
- AMANAC (coordinated by NTUA), which will focus on material-related projects.

During the two coming years, these 4 CSAs will be interacting with all PPP EeB projects. More particularly EeB-CA2, which will act as a kind of Umbrella of the four CSAs, will be in charge of gathering information related to the FP7 projects running under the overall activities of the EeB area.

#### **EeB-CA2**

The EeB-CA2 initiative is to provide the right set of instruments supporting technology-clustering and geo-

clustering upon the whole set of PPP EeB EC-funded projects related to energy efficiency in the built environment, with the following primary ambition: to enhance and rationalise coordinated and broader dissemination, technology transfer and future exploitation activities of clustered projects, so as to help them better promoting and marketing their achievements and deliverables. The projects will be clustered along the value-chain approach used in the PPP EeB Roadmap.

### **EEBERS**

The EE ICT clusters (EEBERS) mission is to identify opportunities for synergies in ICT related RTD in the EeB (energy efficient buildings) domain. The aim is to effectively engage stakeholders in networking for future RTD and exploitation of results. The cluster activities will involve EeB projects, or projects' activities, that address ICT solutions for EE buildings as one of their key priorities. The ICT clusters will connect relevant innovation stakeholders through R&D results and with the EU, national and regional levels initiatives within the construction, energy and ICT sectors. The target is to impact on speed up technology readiness and wide-scale deployment of solutions and services for building energy-efficiency.

### **SWIMing**

The 'SWIMing' project will support EeB projects to enhance the impact of their results by making their data models open and accessible. It will develop a data modelling cluster where projects can share their use cases, data modelling requirements and get access to expertise in the area of open data models. The cluster will be structured by stages of the building life cycle (BLC) the projects results are applied, its particular domain, and the differing data requirements. By making project outcomes open and accessible to multiple stakeholders across the BLC, SWIMing will impact on the ease and efficiency with which these outcomes will be exploited across BLC energy management processes.

### **AMANAC**

AMANAC is a long lasting collaboration and coordination platform aiming to maximize the impact towards the European Industry and Society of Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology projects targeting development of (nano) materials, components and systems for the improvement of the

energy efficiency in the built environment. Horizontal interactions are supported by a Joint Action Plan that encompasses actions that amplify synergies and common practices in cross-cutting issues e.g. LCA/LCC and fire safety. Hurdles that delay market exploitation are analyzed to create frameworks for effective business roadmap and help projects with potential commercialization of research results. Publicity materials and organization of joint large scale event participation are envisaged for speeding-up the global impact of the research results coming from the Cluster projects.

**Luc Bourdeau**

[luc.bourdeau@cstb.fr](mailto:luc.bourdeau@cstb.fr)  
[secretariat@e2b.ei-eu](mailto:secretariat@e2b.ei-eu)

### **GREECE**



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

#### **Workshop: Sustainability and Compatibility of Advanced Materials and Technologies for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Monuments: Development of Criteria and Assessment Methodology**

Hellenic Construction Technology Platform (HCTP) disseminated its activities in the following event: "Sustainability and Compatibility of Advanced Materials and Technologies for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Monuments: Development of Criteria and Auditing Methodology" that was held in the Byzantine Museum of Thessaloniki on Monday 30th of March, 2015) on the initiative of the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG) Vice President and Coordinator of Hellenic Construction Technology Platform, Professor Antonia Moropoulou. The event realized in the framework of the Project Thales COMASUCH and was co-organized by the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and the Laboratory of Building Materials of the Civil Engineering School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

The main subjects discussed in the workshop concerned: 1) Materials and construction of historical manufacturing systems 2) Materials wearing mechanisms 3) Advanced technologies and intervention materials 4) Criteria and parameters for

assessing intervention materials 5) Compatibility and Sustainability of advanced materials and intervention techniques and 6) Development of knowledge platform for decision making interventions. During the workshop, leading experts from Engineering, Education, Technical Chamber, Industry, Construction Sector, Local Authorities and the Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs discussed on global problems, trends and policies in the base of Cultural Heritage Protection and the utilization of compatible and sustainable materials.

### **Forthcoming European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI) Debate (November-December 2015)**

On April 7th 2014, SEFI organized and coordinated a debate with subject: "Engineering Education Facing the Challenge of the Crisis in Europe" at Brussels, Belgium. On December 16th 2014, SEFI and the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) co-organized a workshop with title: "University Engineering Education and Skills for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Creativity" at Athens, Greece. Within the same framework and the spirit to promote positive growth in the field of Educational Engineering, SEFI will organize the 2nd Debate by the end of 2015 at Brussels. Purpose of the debate is to open a dialogue among the different communities (coming from the sectors of technical growth and education) in order to highlight the qualifications that education asserts over the needs of the industry sector. SEFI Vice President and Coordinator of HCTP participates in the organization and with this short note wants to inform the ECTP and NTPs representatives and simultaneously invite them to the event. The exact dates of the event will be announced in due time.

**Antonia Moropoulou**  
[amoropulo@central.ntua.gr](mailto:amoropulo@central.ntua.gr)

## **POLAND**



### **PPTB: Polish Construction Technology Platform**

#### **New approach to public procurement in construction within the framework of the PAPIRUS project**

In the framework of the PAPIRUS project a call for four, large international public procurements has been

announced on 17th March 2015! The tenders are addressed especially to small and medium enterprises from all around the Europe who deliver energy saving building solutions. The uniqueness of the project, however, is not the scale of the order but the new approach to public procurement. Within the tender documentation the awarding party will not as usually describe in detail the requirements of each sought product but will describe the effects that are expected after their application. This approach will hopefully motivate innovative SMEs to take part in the PAPIRUS procurements.

PAPIRUS ("Public Administration Procurement Innovation to Reach Ultimate Sustainability) project is one of the pilot projects in the area of Public Procurement of Innovation (PPI) which is co-financed by the European Commission (CIP). The project implies an introduction of a new public procurement process focused on providing materials characterized by nearly zero energy consumption for the repair and construction of buildings in four European countries: Germany, Italy, Norway and Spain.

The new public procurement process evolved by experts within the PAPIRUS is based on a approach where the awarding party determines the effects expected after the implementation of the solution, rather than specific requirements for the product which is available on the market. This approach gives bidders more flexibility in presenting their innovative solutions. A new approach to public procurement means the introduction of a modern system, in which the essential elements for awarding public contracts are: innovation and social and environmental criteria instead of price only – explains Ewa Wojtczak, project manager at ASM – Market Research and Analysis Center, Partner in project Consortium.



According to project partners, the proposed approach to procurement process will increase the demand for innovative construction materials, which will lead to increase of resources devoted to research and development in small and medium enterprises.

One of the key tasks of the public sector is to support and stimulate activities aimed at the development of innovation and new technologies using public

procurement procedures. The objectives of these activities should be the improving R&D investment in Europe, stimulating innovation and creating groundbreaking solutions to major challenges the public institutions are facing.

#### Small and Medium Enterprises with a high chance of winning

Since there are still many barriers discouraging suppliers from responding to public tenders, when elaborating the PAPIRUS procurement process, the Consortium put great attention on the participation of SMEs in the project.

Small and medium enterprises interested in the public procurement often complain that they are excluded from the possibility of applying for public contracts simply due to lack of sufficient capacity to bid for the implementation of the whole order.

Therefore, the PAPIRUS tenders will be divided into lots. This clearly facilitates the access for SMEs, in both terms quantitative (the volume of individual lots can meet the SME's manufacturing capabilities) and qualitative (scope of individual lots can respond better to the industry in which operates particular SME). Dividing the purchase into lots and thereby encouraging SMEs to participate in the tender is a great tool for boosting competition, which is beneficial for the contracting authorities.

Because of the impact on buildings energy performance, PAPIRUS will focus on technologies and solutions that:

- Reduce the energy losses through buildings opaque envelope;
- Reduce energy losses in winter and solar gains through window in summer;
- For light weight prefabricated panels with low specific CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Provide good quality natural day-lighting;
- Store thermal energy increasing the thermal comfort and shifting heating and cooling peak loads.

However, in the tenders the last two technologies have been left out due to lack of feedback from the market, lack of efficiency due to the high price for poor performance or lack of enough developed solutions that are not ready yet to be applied to construction sector.

Companies are invited to offer products classified in three technologies. Given the coordinated nature of the PAPIRUS tender, all four contracts follow the same or very similar object, similar requirements and solutions. A common evaluation methodology will be established for all four different pilot cases and tenders, while respecting the technical and legal specifications of each pilot building. This will facilitate the bidders to submit bids in more than one tender and in addition encourage SMEs to increase their activities on foreign markets.

Furthermore, in the process of tender evaluation each national evaluation committee will be supported by the Joint Cross-Border Evaluation Team (JCBET). The JCBET established for the project purposes will consist of seven members representing project public procurers, project coordinator and experts (technical and legal from each institution). The main task of the team will be to assess the technical aspects of the submitted bids.

#### Market consultations

In line with Public Procurement of Innovation best practices, the PAPIRUS Consortium started informing potential suppliers about the coming tenders long before the official tender publication. In 2014 five Market Events have been organized in Turin, Oslo, Bilbao, Enzkreis and in Brussels.



*Market Event - Bilbao (12.06.14)*

The aim of the Market Events was to inform the potential suppliers about the Contracting Entities' expectations and to discuss the opportunities and solutions that could contribute to the achievement of the expected results of the demonstration buildings.



Participants of the Market Events received detailed information about the PAPIRUS project and the pilot buildings. The suppliers were encouraged to discuss the evaluation criteria and to have influence on the criteria weight during an interactive dialogue with public procurers.

More information about the PAPIRUS project as well as tenders' documentation is available on: [www.papirus-project.eu](http://www.papirus-project.eu).

### **NTPs funding**

National Technology Platforms acting as clusters and business networks are key elements in a regional innovation system. Representing the education institutions, research centres, business organisations, public authorities, etc. they can have a key influence on the economy development. The importance of clusters and business networks is underlined also in EU strategy expressed in its objectives: assisting regions and Member States in developing more world-class clusters in the EU for the benefit of SMEs and promoting cluster cooperation at EU level to facilitate SME internationalisation and growth and support the development of new competences and emerging industries.

Involvement in EU calls can bring several benefits for the cluster. It can help the business networks to identify and build partnerships with other networks or clusters that have similar interests, increase visibility and network of the cluster. Through its membership of the cluster, the SME can benefit from the sharing of common objectives and collaboration with other cluster members in the same sector, as well as from opportunities related to training and technological development. As a key benefit for the company, such increased collaborations can lead to increased business opportunities. Cluster support can also provide possibilities for research and innovation projects at national, regional and European level, as well as a steady flow of information that helps to develop an international commercialisation strategy.

Business networks can benefit from several funds available in the new programming period 2014-2020. Below is a short list of example programmes presented that should be taken into account by National Technology Platforms willing to

internationalize their activities and cooperate with other European networks.

- Horizon 2020 – Call H2020-INNOSUP-2015-1 Cluster facilitated projects for new value chains will support the development of new industrial value chains calls for the collaboration and integration of different innovation actors, including large enterprises and especially SMEs, across different sectors towards the implementation of a joint vision. The deadline for submission of 1st-stage proposals for this call is 30th April. There is an initiative coming from the Slovenian Construction Cluster on common submission of proposal involving business networks established within the ECTP NTPs Network. The idea of the proposal is to create the network of clusters and other organisation interested in circular construction close to eco-industries supporting construction or construction actors going to green construction, sustainable construction etc. acting as an agency funding innovative projects. All NTPs and clusters in this proposal are kindly asked to contact Vladimir Gumilar ([vladimir.gumilar@sgg.si](mailto:vladimir.gumilar@sgg.si)) who is coordinating the proposal preparation.
- COSME – Cluster Excellence Programme supports the cluster organisations willing to improve their cluster management practices and skills. More information can be found on the EASME website: <http://ec.europa.eu/easme/node/26>.
- COSME – Cluster Internationalisation Programme for SMEs promotes cluster cooperation in EU countries towards setting up European Strategic Cluster Partnerships and implementation of the cooperation agreements through cluster matchmaking events for SMEs. The deadline for submission of proposals is 21<sup>st</sup> April. More information can be found on the EASME website: <http://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/cos-cluster-2014-3-03-cluster-go-international>.
- CORNET stands for COLlective REsearch NETworking supports SMEs in their transnational innovation activities, helps them to acquire technological know-how, extend their networks across Europe and bridge the gap between research and innovation. Programme follows a bottom-up approach and supports consortia of associations, clusters, federations or ad hoc groupings of industrial enterprises, SME associations and research organisations from at least 2 European countries. The closest deadline

for submission of proposals is September 2015. More information can be found at [www.cornet-era.net](http://www.cornet-era.net).

- INTERREG Central Europe programme supports cooperation beyond borders “to make central European cities and regions better places to live and work” by implementing smart solutions answering to regional challenges in the fields of innovation, low - carbon economy, environment, culture and transport. Within this programme projects which demonstrate the translation of outputs arising from “soft” actions (surveys, studies, etc.) into concrete, visible and sustainable results. Those have to lead to a change (improvement) of the initial situation. Priority 1 - SO 1.1 To improve sustainable linkages among actors of the innovation systems for strengthening regional innovation capacity in central Europe mentions the participation of clusters. The SO 1.1. “will be achieved through transnational and internationalised regional networks and clusters fostering technology transfer and the development and implementation of new services supporting innovation in businesses”. More information can be found at: <http://www.central2020.eu/>

European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) supports networking activities for European researchers, engineers and scholars to jointly develop their ideas and new initiatives across all scientific disciplines through trans-European coordination of nationally funded research activities. The next proposal submission deadline is envisaged for September 2015. More information can be found at [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu).

National Funding Programmes – example: POLAND. The Ministry of Economy launched a competition for the National Key Clusters (NKC). The purpose of this activity is to identify clusters that are of highest importance to the economy, as well as are able to compete on international markets.

Clusters selected in this competition will have a unique chance to apply for projects aiming at its internationalization and development from dedicated to NKC funds, as well as benefit from preferential evaluation of projects submitted in response to Structural Funds calls. Although the competition will be launched in April the Polish NTP has already started a preparatory process of applying for the NKC status.

Funding opportunities for NTPs are published also at the European Cluster Collaboration Platform ([www.clustercollaboration.eu](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu)).

In most of above mentioned programmes there is a formal requirement towards applicant organisation referring to its legal form. In order to increase chances for NTPs to participate in EU projects with this newsletter we would like to encourage all NTPs to apply for legal status.

In coming newsletters further possibilities for NTPs cooperation will be presented.

**Aleksandra Oleksik**

[a.oleksik@asm-poland.com.pl](mailto:a.oleksik@asm-poland.com.pl)

## **PORTUGAL**



### **PTPC: PLATAFORMA TECNOLÓGICA PORTUGUESA DA CONSTRUÇÃO**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Forum: Motivation of the new generations to Engineering**

The Portuguese Construction Technology Platform held its 4<sup>th</sup> Forum on March 19<sup>th</sup> under the theme "Motivation of the new generations to Engineering" at the National Civil Engineering Laboratory (LNEC) in Lisbon.



The opening session was hosted by the President of LNEC, Carlos Pina, and President of PTPC, Rita Moura, from Teixeira Duarte who presented the framework for



the chosen theme - the drastic reduction of students enrolled in civil engineering courses in recent years which compromise to the quality of human capital that we will have in the short term.

There followed a presentation by the Executive Board of PTPC - showing last year's activity and Strategic Vision (Environment, BIM, LEAN and Risk Management), in which was revealed the Observatory for Technology Surveillance project, to organize technological knowledge relevant for innovation in the construction industry. This digital tool already exists, however it still needs to be fed content in a systematic and more professional way. The goal is to share individual contributions for the benefit of all.

In the last year, PTPC has promoted initiatives to strengthen relationships with universities, streamlining the contact between them and the companies in the sector, through joint initiatives such as: Forums and thematic workshops; development of theses with universities for industrial propose, technological summary reports, contact network consolidation through Working Groups and promotion of RDI projects.

It was also evidenced the importance of strengthen the relationship with the European Technology Platform Construction, in conferences and meetings, in the National Platforms (NTP's) relationship with counterparts in other countries and companies and in the context of applications to "Horizon 2020".

The most important project for PTPC in the near future is its recognition by the Portuguese Government, as managing entity of a Portuguese Cluster AEC - Architecture, Engineering and Construction, as we believe it is essential to join efforts for a stronger, united and global industry. The application strong point is that, just counting with the four construction companies from the Executive Board of the Platform, they represent 5.4% of national exports. The cluster will be a way to professionalize the activity of PTPC. We want to be a catalyst for innovation, knowledge, technological development and international projection of Portuguese Engineering and Architecture.

The first part of the work ended with the Prof. Vasco Peixoto de Freitas presentation, from Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto, on the theme "The rehabilitation of buildings requires a strategic plan for 2015-2025"; also presented the Technical Summary Report that is being developed under the PTPC Rehabilitation Working Group.

In the second part of the event, the Roundtable "Motivation of the new generations for Engineering",

was moderated, and featured a panel of experts invited guests on matters related to the theme.



Carlos Matias Ramos, the President of "Ordem dos Engenheiros" (Portuguese Engineers Council) - addressed the need for civil engineers and perspectives on the profession;

Fernando Branco -from Instituto Superior Técnico (University of Lisboa for Engineering) and immediate past President of European Council of Civil Engineers - exposed the problem of drastic reduction of applications for civil engineering;

João Santa-Rita, President of "Ordem dos Arquitectos" (Portuguese Architects Council) - presented the positive experience in architecture in terms of the high number of students enrolled;

Isaura Vieira, from "Direção Geral de Educação" (Ministry of Education Department) - addressed the motivation of high school students for math and physics and exchanges with professional practice;

Teresa Oliveira, from Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics - spoke about the professional motivation and involvement of human resources managers.

Rita Moura, President of PTPC , from Teixeira Duarte, addressed as may be valued profession, the role of PTPC in its promotion and a vision of the construction activity in the future.

The debate ended with the consensus that there is an essential need to change the way this generation faces engineering and attract them to the profession. Civil engineering is much more than construction, is the concern for the people's well-being.

**Rita Moura**  
[rd@teixeiraduarte.pt](mailto:rd@teixeiraduarte.pt)

## SPAIN



### PTEC. SPANISH CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM

#### 8<sup>th</sup> PTEC conference on innovation in the public procurement

PTEC organises three conferences per year to interact with the construction R&I stakeholders in different geographical areas in Spain.

In March 10th, the 8<sup>th</sup> PTEC conference on Innovation in the Public Procurement was organised in Madrid. It was attended by 130 persons (40% from outside PTEC) and it was opened by the Secretariat of State of Research, Development and Innovation, the PTEC President and the Assistant Vice President for Knowledge Transfer from CSIC.



The General Director of Assets from the Spanish Ministry of Finance was the chairman of the first session with PTEC Managing Director. This session was focussed on the policy on innovation in public procurement where National tools for promoting the innovation at public procurements were presented by the General Director of Innovation and Competitiveness. Besides, the structural funds connected to RIS3 and applied to innovation were presented by a General Director representing the *Generalitat Valenciana* regional government. It was also commented the European



Public Procurement Directive that includes the association for innovation.

At the end of this session, the European project PAPIRUS “New Public Procurement Process dedicated to promoting, implementing and validating innovative solutions for the achievement of sustainable construction” was presented with comments on the preparation of the innovative public procurement process dealing with demonstrators in four European countries.



The second session was a round table with two representatives from the Ministry of Public Works and two other ones from the construction sector, representing the engineering firms and the contractors, respectively. It was focused on the opportunities for innovation in public procurement in infrastructure and it finished with an exchange of comments between the Public Administration and the sector well represented in the participants.



**Elena Gayo**

[ptec@plataformaptec.es](mailto:ptec@plataformaptec.es)

## **NTPs NETWORK ACTIVITIES**

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In February 25<sup>th</sup>, the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the NTPs network in 2015 was carried out through Internet with the participation of representatives from ECTP and 11 countries: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and UK.

In this meeting:

- ECTP presented the upcoming E2BA/ECTP governance structure. The “European Construction, Built environment and Energy efficient building Technology Platform” will be legally constituted as the new ECTP through enlarging the scope of E2BA. Five Committees or WGs will be on Energy Efficient Buildings (E2B), Infrastructure (reFINE), Active Ageing (AABE), Materials (FA MAT) and Cultural Heritage (FACH). Probably, NTPs network would be an additional Committee/WG.
- ECTP and Spain presented REFINET CSA “Rethinking Future Infrastructures Networks” that will formally start in May 2015 (Kick-off meeting in May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015) and where PTEC will establish a link between this CSA and the NTPs network.

- Poland made a detailed presentation on upcoming calls where NTPs could participate and it is summarized in this Newsletter.
- Slovenia presented an initiative within the call Cluster facilitated projects for new industrial chains: H2020-INNOSUP-2014-2015 and invited other NTPs to join it. The challenge of this call is to develop new cross-sectorial industrial value chains across the EU, by building upon the innovation potential of SMEs. There are ongoing contacts with interested members in Italy, Poland and Spain and other interested participants should urgently contact V. Gumilar ([vladimir.gumilar@sgg.si](mailto:vladimir.gumilar@sgg.si)).

In February 10<sup>th</sup>, Newsletter No. 3 was published with contributions from Greece, Spain, UK and Encord network.

Finally, some NTPs network activities for 2015 are:

- Two Webex meetings that are planned for **June 17<sup>th</sup>** and by November, respectively.
- Four newsletters that will be published by mid-April, June, October and December, respectively.

**Jesús Rodríguez**  
[director@plataformaptec.es](mailto:director@plataformaptec.es)