

# **ECCE BRIEF ACTIVITY REPORT**

## **OCTOBER 2020 – JUNE 2021**

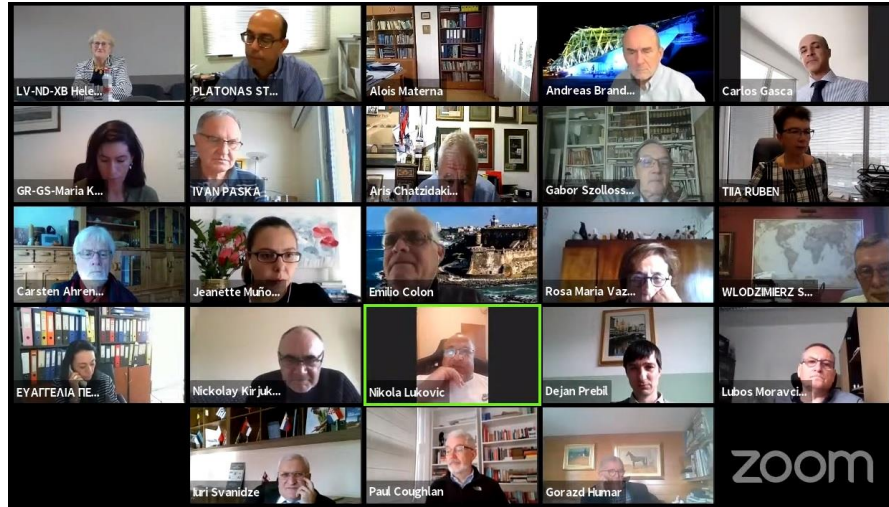
*by Aris Chatzidakis, ECCE President*

*&*

*Maria Karanasiou, ECCE General Secretary*

11 June 2021





- The 71<sup>st</sup> ECCE General Meeting was held on Friday 23 October 2020, from 11:00 to 16:30 EEST in a virtual environment via Zoom.
- The 71<sup>st</sup> ECCE General Meeting gathered delegates from 22 out of the 23 Full ECCE Members as well as representatives of some of its Associate Members, Individual Associate Members and invited guests from its partner organizations.
- 47 delegates attended the meeting.

- During the 71<sup>st</sup> ECCE General Meeting the Position Paper [“The need for Structural/Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings, in parallel with Energy Efficiency Improvements”](#) was presented and officially adopted by the ECCE General Assembly.
- The presentation of the Position Paper was broadcasted and can be watched at the link <https://youtu.be/acGE4CTWdmU>



# ECCE's participation in meetings/events

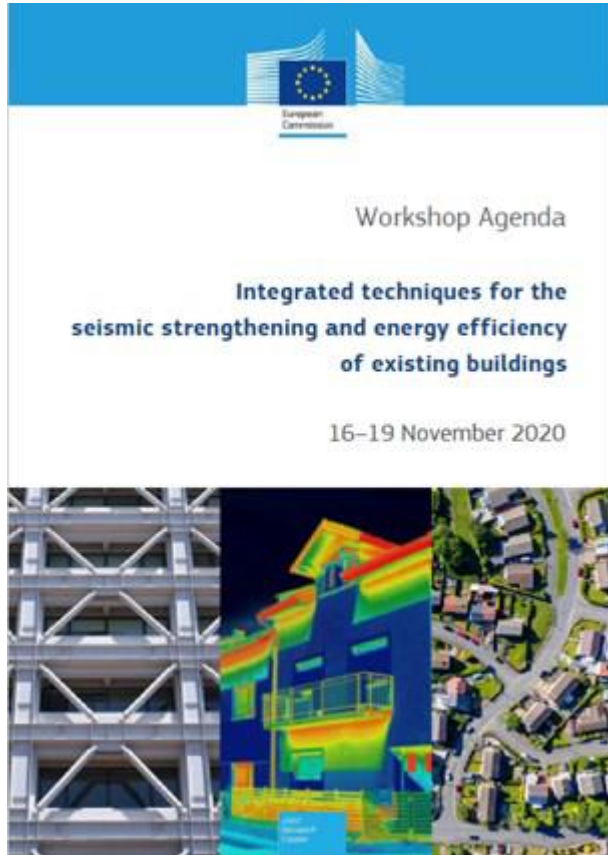




European Council  
of  
Civil Engineers

# ECCE participates in the European Commission's (1) Joint Research Center Pilot Project Workshop" Integrated techniques for the seismic strengthening and energy efficiency of existing buildings"

*16-19 November 2020, Online event*



Earthquakes threaten a large percentage of homes and public buildings across the EU. At the same time, inefficient energy consumption from these outdated buildings is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

**The pilot project puts forward a holistic approach to improve simultaneously the seismic safety and energy efficiency of the European building which is completely aligned with ECCE's 3S Initiative and the recent ECCE Position Paper on "The Need for integrating Structural / Seismic Upgrade of Existing Buildings, with Energy Efficiency Improvements".**





European Council  
of  
Civil Engineers

## ECCE participates in the European Commission's (2) "Joint Research Center Pilot Project Workshop" Integrated techniques for the seismic strengthening and energy efficiency of existing buildings"

*16-19 November 2020, Online event*

The workshop had the following objectives:

- Create awareness among participants of the issue's challenges and opportunities
- Engage stakeholders to create a network for information exchange
- Present the pilot project and share the knowledge produced
- Exchange ideas on technical/scientific and policy issues
- Collect feedback on needs, knowledge gaps and expectations to inform efforts in the second phase of the pilot project.

**ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis participated as speaker on the first day of the Workshop** where he presented the main points of ECCE's Position Paper on the need for integrating seismic upgrade of existing buildings with energy efficiency improvements. ECCE President in his presentation **stressed the importance of the holistic view of the problem of maintaining and upgrading the performance of existing buildings and infrastructure and the need that this approach is integrated in the European Commission's Renovation Wave Initiative.**

The Workshop's report can be accessed [here](#)



# ECCE participates in the Construction 2050 Alliance Webinar “The role of Construction in the national recovery plans”

*2 December 2020, Online event*



- ECCE participated in the Construction 2050 Alliance Webinar “The role of Construction in the national recovery plans”. ECCE was represented in this webinar by the **Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brandner and the General Secretary Maria Karanasiou.**
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, the Construction 2050 Alliance brought together experts from all over Europe, including representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament and national governments. They discussed the important role that the construction sector may play as the European economy recovers slowly from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **The Alliance’s key message is that the built environment must be a key priority in all national Recovery plans and in the new EU funding initiatives.**
- The recording of the event is available [here](#).



# ECCE participates in the Thematic Group 1 (1) meeting

*3 December 2020, Online event*



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Sustainable Industry and Mobility

**Circular economy and Construction**

- ECCE has been participating in the Thematic Group 1 “Stimulating investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation” since its establishment. In the latest Thematic Group 1 ECCE was represented in this meeting by its **Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brandner**.
- The meeting consisted of the following parts:
  - **Part 1 – Digitalization of Construction – Towards a digital transition**
    - ✓ Updates on the Renovation Wave
    - ✓ The Digital Europe Programme
    - ✓ Horizon Europe – A new way to build
    - ✓ Reflections from stakeholders and Member States: Opportunities and challenges in the digitalisation of companies and public administrations







# ECCE participates in the Thematic Group 1 (2) meeting

*3 December 2020, Online event*

## **- Part 2 – Initiatives and practical implementation of digitalization**

- ✓ The power of AI in construction and R&D
- ✓ An Update from the work of the EU BIM Task Group
- ✓ A discussion on the potential of Digital Building Permits
- ✓ Towards an EU Framework for digital building logbooks from stakeholders and Member States: Opportunities and challenges in the digitalisation of companies and public administrations
- ✓ Towards an EU digital platform for construction

- *The concluding remarks of the meeting are as follows: The necessary elements for successful digitalisation of the sector are standardisation, a common approach to data and processes, language and classification systems. In this context, harnessing the power of data and using open source approaches that can be shared among all the stakeholders across the building lifecycle are of utmost importance. Upskilling and retraining of the workforce and culture change in the sector are indispensable in this transformation. The process can only succeed if stakeholders cooperate across the supply chain and between Member States. The change should be driven by the sector itself, including SMEs, with the support of the public authorities. Construction-specific DIHs and other PPP initiatives could play crucial role in this.*

- The Agenda of the meeting is available [here](#).
- The minutes of the meeting are available [here](#).
- The presentations of the meeting are available [here](#).



# ECCE participates in the 15<sup>th</sup> WCCE General Assembly

*26<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Online event*



- ECCE was invited to the 15<sup>th</sup> WCCE General Assembly and was officially represented by the **ExBo member Helena Endriksone who acts as ECCE's liaison to WCCE and is also a member of the WCCE ExCo since ECCE is an international member of WCCE.** ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis and General Secretary Maria Karanasiou also attended the meeting.
- The Assembly was welcome by OEPT's President Carlos Mineiro. Attendance at WCCE activities by WCCE delegates was enriched by the attendance of WFEO Vice President, Mustapha Shehu. 15 organizations from 14 countries attended this 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in difficult circumstances such as these.
- The General Assembly showcased the activity of WCCE's Standing Committees within the pandemic period and how it has overcome the isolation through new initiatives and member's collaboration.



# ECCE participates in the Jury of the 2021 European Steel Design Awards

*3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, Online event*



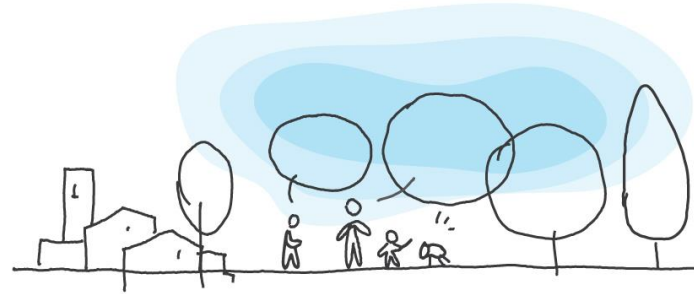
- ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis was kindly invited by the European Convention for Constructional Steelwork (ECCS) to participate in the Jury for the 2021 European Steel Design Awards (ESDA). Aris Chatzidakis participated for the first time in the Jury for the ESDA in 2018 and he was honored to be invited again.
- The International Jury took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, in a virtual environment.
- The European Steel Design Awards are given by the European Convention for Constructional Steelwork (ECCS) every two years to encourage the creative and outstanding use of steel in architecture. The awards are dedicated to the owners, the architects, the engineers, the general contractors and the steelwork contractors.

# ECCE's initiatives and partnerships



# ECCE joins the New European Bauhaus Initiative as official partner

(1)



New European Bauhaus  
beautiful | sustainable | together 

- The European Council of Civil Engineers is joining the New European Bauhaus movement promoted by the European Commission, a network of thinkers, planners, architects, designers, businesspeople, students and citizens who, through a process of collective creation, will work to carry out innovative initiatives and solutions that encourage inclusive, accessible, sustainable and pleasant environments in which to cohabit after the pandemic.
- As the President of the European Commission Ursula Von der Leyen stated in her inaugural speech *“The New European Bauhaus movement is intended to be a bridge between the world of science and technology and the world of art and culture... it is about a new European Green Deal aesthetic combining good design with sustainability.”* The New European Bauhaus is a project designed to transform the built environment (housing, infrastructure, architecture) into one fit for the future, with fewer emissions, and long-term social value.

#NewEuropeanBauhaus 



- The idea behind the New European Bauhaus movement is that the climate emergency can be faced from a multidisciplinary perspective and with the ultimate goal of reaching a circular economy bringing together the construction and the culture sector, thus considering beauty and humanity values together with a greener architecture. So, it opens the door to a more **holistic approach** to our built environment.
- The European Council of Civil Engineers would like to bring forward and highlight the **importance of structural safety** of the buildings which unfortunately has not been considered at least to the necessary extent.
- ECCE President participated in an online event that was organized for the new partners where he briefly presented the European Council of Civil Engineers and our approach towards the NEB.
- ECCE's statement on the New European Bauhaus can be found [here](#).

# ECCE's statement on the New European Bauhaus Initiative

(1)

*A Resilient New Bauhaus: the need for safe, sound and sustainable buildings*

The European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) has been the active voice of Civil Engineers across Europe since 1985. It represents the Civil Engineering professional associations from 23 countries. Civil engineers fully support and welcome the *New European Bauhaus* initiative put forward by the President of the European Commission as part of the Renovation Wave strategy.

As the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen stated in her inaugural speech “The New European Bauhaus movement is intended to be a bridge between the world of science and technology and the world of art and culture... it is about a new European Green Deal aesthetic combining good design with sustainability.” The New European Bauhaus is an initiative designed to transform the built environment (housing, infrastructure, architecture) into one that is fit for the future, with fewer emissions, greater resilience, and generating long-term social value. At the heart of the New Bauhaus is the belief that the climate emergency can be faced from a multidisciplinary perspective and with the ultimate goal of reaching a circular economy. It will bring together the construction and the culture sectors, thus considering the values of beauty and humanity together with a greener architecture. So, it opens the door to *a more holistic approach to our built environment.*

*A Resilient New Bauhaus: the need for safe, sound and sustainable buildings*

A sustainable built environment must be resilient, and, in that context, ECCE would like to bring forward and highlight the importance of structural safety of buildings which we believe has not been adequately taken into account to date:

### **Aging building stock: a challenge for energy efficiency and structural/seismic safety**

The majority of the existing building stock in most European countries built in the 80s, 70s or earlier does not meet modern design standards including the requirements for seismic safety and energy efficiency. For this “aging” group of existing buildings, key challenges lie ahead regarding their structural safety, sustainability and energy performance. Society and its engineers have the responsibility to address this multidimensional challenge and to maintain this “aging” building stock in an operational, reliable and resilient state, in order to ensure firstly the safety and comfort of the users and secondly the enhancement of its architectural character and energy efficiency.





*A Resilient New Bauhaus: the need for safe, sound and sustainable buildings*

## **Structural/Seismic safety: a basic requirement for buildings**

For buildings, structural/seismic safety is one of the essential requirements of EU policy and legislation for construction works, which demands that technical specifications shall be based on these seven requirements:

- Structural resistance and stability
- Safety in case of fire
- Hygiene, health and the environment
- Safety and accessibility in use
- Protection against noise
- Energy economy and heat retention
- Sustainable use of natural resources

## **Sustainable Structural Design (SSD): a holistic approach to building renovation**

Currently, from a sustainability perspective, emphasis is placed on developing an integrated holistic design methodology for new buildings that should be preferred over individual actions to ensure a Sustainable Structural Design (SSD).



*A Resilient New Bauhaus: the need for safe, sound and sustainable buildings*

Such approaches like the SSD methodology will ensure that new buildings satisfy aesthetic aspects, structural safety, energy efficiency and that meet the needs of the owner and user while minimizing the environmental impact and conserving resources where possible. For existing buildings SSD means that a conceptually similar approach is required to provide a holistic upgrading solution. Therefore, when renovation projects of a certain scale are undertaken, structural upgrading should be considered and funded jointly with functional, aesthetic and energy efficiency upgrading.

## **Recent Developments: a pilot project for integrating seismic strengthening and energy efficiency**

Only the last few years it has been acknowledged that independent retrofit actions should be integrated to enhance the overall performance of buildings. It started with an effort to relate seismic efficiency with environmental benefits where works were being carried out to mitigate damage and/or demolition caused by earthquakes. This was succeeded by a multidisciplinary approach to improve building performance taking both seismic and energy efficiency into consideration. In this light, the European Commission's Joint Research Center (JRC) is carrying out the Pilot Project "Integrated techniques for the seismic strengthening and energy efficiency of existing buildings".





# ECCE's statement on the New European Bauhaus Initiative

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*A Resilient New Bauhaus: the need for safe, sound and sustainable buildings*

This Pilot Project puts forward a holistic approach to improve simultaneously the seismic safety and energy efficiency of the European building stock. This sustainable approach will combine renovation efforts that reduce building vulnerability to protect lives and will update the energy efficiency of ageing structures to significantly reduce CO2 emissions and tackle energy poverty. The Pilot Project directly supports several European Commission priorities including the Green Deal's call for renovating in an energy and resource efficient way. It provides the technical background in support of the Renovation Wave initiative and an EU Action Plan to modernise the European building stock.

## **A Resilient New Bauhaus: the need for safe, sound and sustainable buildings**

The New European Bauhaus is a transformational crossroads project which leads the way to a holistic approach to our built environment, proposing new dimensions and considerations that are the main drivers for quality planning processes and quality projects. It constitutes a source of inspiration and innovation as well as critical thinking and problem solving. In that context, investing in siloed energy efficiency renovation schemes while overlooking building safety is unwise, particularly in regions with seismic hazard, where the first seismic episode after renovation may lead to the damage or collapse of energy-efficient renovated buildings that are unsafe.



*A Resilient New Bauhaus: the need for safe, sound and sustainable buildings*

Last year ECCE launched a campaign declaring 2020 as the Year of the 3S approach which stands for Safe, Sound and Sustainable buildings. We strongly believe that the European New Bauhaus initiative should take into account the need to integrate the structural/seismic upgrade of existing buildings with energy efficiency and aesthetic improvements. Building safety is a critical factor which needs to be part of a holistic approach to our common efforts to ensure a safe, beautiful and sustainable built environment.

## **The European Council of Civil Engineers: ready to support the New Bauhaus initiative**

ECCE is ready to support the development of the New Bauhaus initiative, notably by:

- acting as an information platform and facilitating dissemination and dialogue through the broad ECCE network (we are able to reach a large audience via our 23 national member organisations);
- enabling contact with renowned professionals and experts, who would be able to give greater visibility to the initiative;
- offering a knowledge and expertise hub, to help the European Commission to further design the initiative and ensure that its process delivers the desired outcomes;



# ECCE's statement on the New European Bauhaus Initiative

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*A Resilient New Bauhaus: the need for safe, sound and sustainable buildings*

- obtaining inputs from public authorities and decision-makers;
- acting as a partner for co-organising consultations, co-creation initiatives, and awareness-raising events targeting professionals;
- offering The European Engineers' Day – a regular European Engineering event co-organized with other European Engineering Organisations – as a platform to discuss and disseminate the projects and results of the New European Bauhaus.

ECCE is committed and offers its help and support towards optimizing the planning and organization of this initiative and we will follow up with some further suggestions. We are very much looking forward to collaborating with the European Commission and its stakeholders to make this initiative a success.

[Download the ECCE Statement on the New European Bauhaus](#)



# ECCE participates in the dialogue with the EC (1) on Professional liability insurance for cross- border services



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
AND SMES

Services in the Single Market and Digitalisation  
Services **Directive and Policy**

- ECCE was invited by Mr. Henning Ehrenstein, Deputy Head of Unit for Energy Intensive Industries & Raw Materials, to participate in the dialogue on the professional liability insurance for cross-border services.
- The 2020 European Commission's Single Markets Barriers Report identified a range of obstacles in the European Union's single market from the perspective of businesses and professionals that seek to provide their services in other EU Member States. One of these obstacles pertains to professional indemnity insurance and the access to adequate insurance coverage for their business activities in other Member States.
- The European Commission has been assessing the availability of professional liability insurance for service providers in the context of their cross-border activities in the European Union.





## ECCE participates in the dialogue with the EC (2) on Professional liability insurance for cross- border services

- The EC is aware that professional liability rules and corresponding insurance products vary widely between Member States. As a result, service providers might find it difficult to obtain reasonable insurance coverage for their activities in other Member States.
- In that regard, they would like to find out whether civil engineers from our member organisations experience difficulties in obtaining insurance coverage and should this be the case, they would be interested in exploring together different potential options of addressing such difficulties.
- ECCE President had a conference call with Mr. Ehrenstein and Mrs. Brigita Sabaliauskaite, Legal Officer of the Unit. During this call the EC officers further explained the topic and a first round of discussions was held where Mr. Chatzidakis expressed his views and experience on the topic.
- After deliberations within the ECCE Executive Board, some of our members and some additional input from an expert on the field of Professional Liability Insurance a letter was sent to Mr. Henning Ehrenstein expressing our views on the topic.
- ECCE's input in the dialogue can be found [here](#).

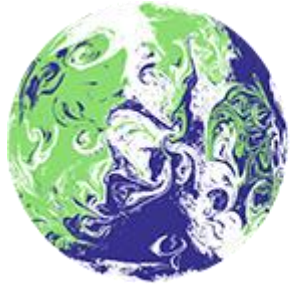
## ECCE's involvement in the "Construction 2050 Alliance"



- The Construction 2050 Alliance is a partnership established in 2020 made of 47 European organizations representing the actors of the built environment working together to advance the needs and priorities of the wider construction and built-environment sector at the European level.
- ECCE is a member of the C2050 Alliance and has been participating in the working meetings of the group and contributing to the initiatives organized by the Alliance.
- The C2050 Alliance recently released a Press Release on the EU Industrial Strategy: the construction value-chain stands ready to define a pathway for transition to achieve EU goals. The Press Release can be accessed [here](#).
- **An online event is being organized on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, 10:00 – 12:00 CET that will discuss the opportunities for new talent in the European construction sector. Information regarding the event will be released soon.**







**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

- The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) has invited ECCE to be partner in their COP26 Expression of Interest submission.
- COP stands for “Conference of the Parties”. COP refers to the decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- In November 2021, the UK will be hosting the 26<sup>th</sup> annual session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, or “COP26”, in Glasgow.
- At the summit, delegates including heads of state, climate experts and negotiators will come together to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change.
- As well as the negotiations, there will also be space for countries, international organisations and other delegates to showcase climate action, highlight diverse climate change issues and share knowledge.
- **Particularly, ICE’s focus for COP26 will be to showcase the work the infrastructure sector is doing to support achieving the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Climate Agreement.**



Institution of Civil Engineers

ICE has three key areas they wish to cover:

- Showcasing what the profession can and is doing to drive progress toward the Paris Climate Agreement/SDG 13.3 outcomes
- Supporting the infrastructure sector in the attempt to create a sector decarbonisation pathway as a contribution to national NDCs to achieve SDG 9.4
- Providing insight and guidance on how to integrate climate change measures into sub-national infrastructure policies, strategies and planning in support of 13.2
- The European Council of Civil Engineers will be a partner in the proposals No.1 and No.2 that have already been submitted by ICE.
- More information about COP26 can be found [here](#).



## ECCE joins the stakeholders community of the e-SAFE project



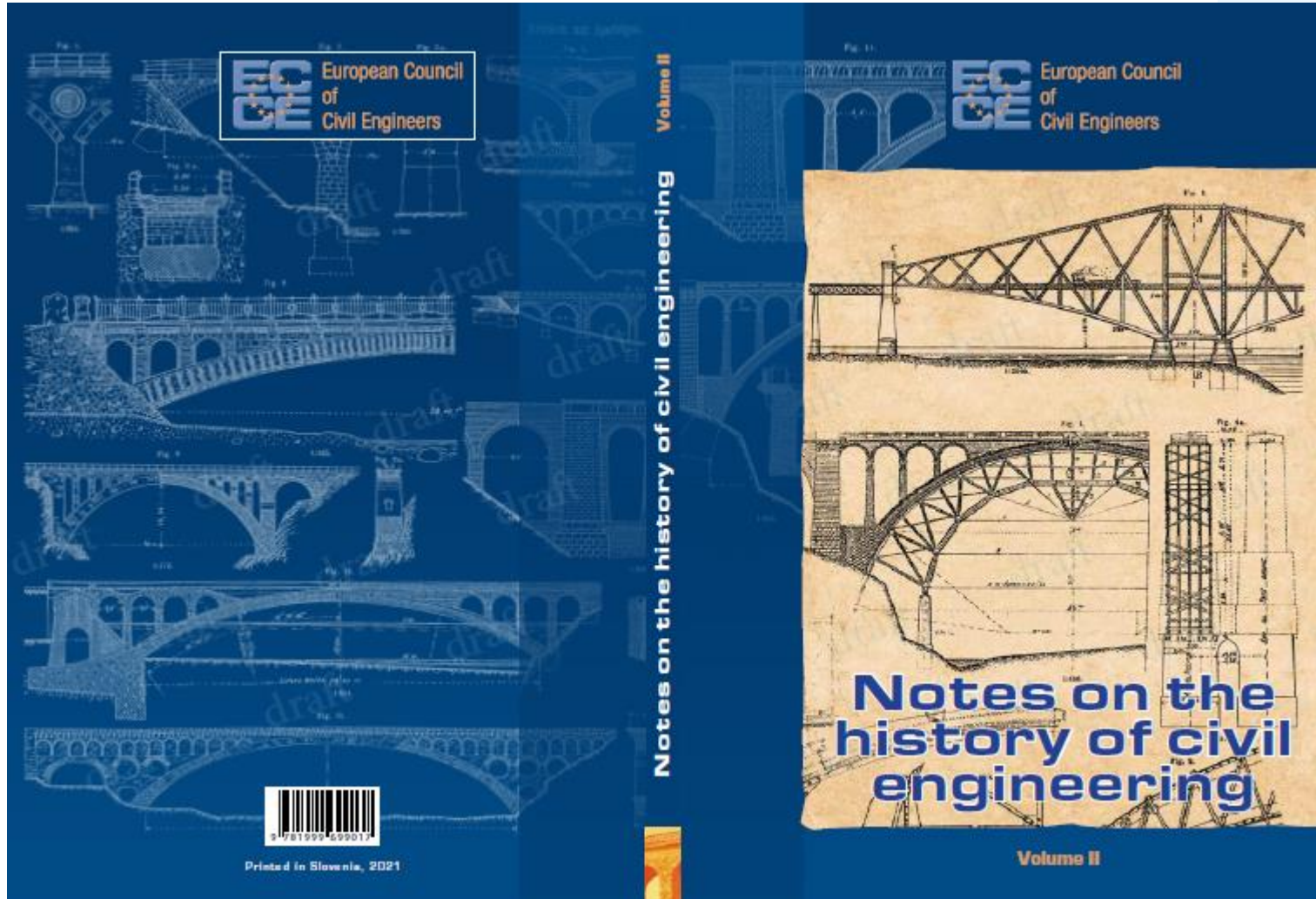
- e-SAFE is a recently launched four-year project funded under the Horizon 2020 Programme and aiming at developing and demonstrating fast, cost-effective and tailorable integrated solutions for an energy-efficient and anti-seismic deep renovation of existing non-historic buildings.
- The project will contribute to decarbonizing the EU building stock, while also making it safer in case of earthquake.
- The e-SAFE consortium is comprised of twelve partners including Universities, research institutions and small/medium enterprises, larger enterprises - from eight different countries.
- ECCE was identified as an important stakeholder for the e-SAFE project and was invited to be added in the project's stakeholder database.
- As a stakeholder of the project ECCE can gain access to the ongoing lessons learnt from the pilots and we will be consulted around aspects of the methodology that will be developed during the project.





European Council  
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# “Notes on the history of civil engineering Volume II”



- ECCE Executive Board has been meeting monthly in a virtual environment since its election in October 2018.
- Ten ECCE ExBo meetings were held during this period.
- **The main topics on which ECCE ExBo concentrated over this period are the following:**
  - Organization of the 72<sup>nd</sup> ECCE GM
  - ECCE Strategic Plan approach
  - New European Bauhaus partnership
  - 4<sup>th</sup> European Engineers' Day
  - Financial issues
  - ECCE Publications
  - ECCE partnerships
  - ECCE E-journal





- An initiative of ECCE, the issuing of periodic e-journal.
- The goal is to bring together periodically the European Civil Engineers and to be aware of their problems and their realizations, organizing a forum of ideas and of news.
- The e-journal may also act as a mean to send ideas for discussion in Brussels.
- Next ECCE e-journal will be in JULY 2021
- Find the ECCE e-journals at our website  
<http://www.ecceengineers.eu/newsletter/index.php?id=621>

**GET INVOLVED WITH THE ECCE E-JOURNAL BY SENDING YOUR IDEAS AND NEWS!**



**THANK YOU**

