

# EAAE and ACE join forces in EU funded strategic partnership

In August we received the good news that the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project application named "Confronting Wicked Problems: Adapting Architectural Education to the New Situation in Europe" received 285 000 Euros from the EU for a three year period. EAAE and ACE (Architects' Council Europe) are partners in the project alongside eight European schools of architecture, The project is coordinated by the Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO).

## Wicked problems in architectural education

The project's point of departure is the acknowledgement that architecture as an education, a discipline and a profession has to redefine and release its potential for problem-solving and innovation within a new economic and societal context. This *new normal* implies that the knowledge basis, teaching methods and role models transferred in architectural education have to be adapted to a new reality. There is a strong demand for diversification both in architectural education and in practice.

Generally the project raises the question of how to teach architecture today in Europe, and especially how curriculum and teaching should be adapted to the new societal and professional situation. The project aims at strengthening the architectural graduates' ability to face this *new normal* and thus improve their social impact and employability.

## Think tank model

The project identifies three subtopics, or *wicked problems*, that will undergo investigation: (1) Teaching Architectural Design and Professional Knowledge (TADPK), (2) Sustainability and (3) Heritage. Three separate think tanks are set up to deal with each wicked problem. The think tanks have the following configuration:

Sustainability:

- The Faculty of Architecture at the Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- The Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at the Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
- The Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucuresti, Romania
- EAAE
- ACE

Heritage:

- The CTU Faculty of Architecture in Prague, Czech Republic
- The Department DSA of Sciences for Architecture (Polytechnic School) at the University of Genoa, Italy
- The Faculty of Architecture and Arts, Hasselt University, Belgium
- EAAE
- ACE

## TADPK

- Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona, UPC, Spain
- The Oslo School of of Architecture and Design, Norway
- EAAE
- ACE

The think tanks will go directly into relevant architectural studios taking place at the participating schools. These will serve as local “teaching laboratories” where innovative practices will be tested and developed. The activities will be organized as different short term intensive programmes hosted by the participating schools for pilot projects and discussions.

The sustainability think tank will arrange three Sustainability Charettes where 5 students and 2 teachers from each participating school + 2 academics/teachers from EAAE and 2 professionals from ACE will participate.

The TADPK, and Heritage think tanks will arrange short term staff training events involving 2 teachers from the participating schools, 2 academics/teachers from EAAE and 2 professionals from ACE will participate. The TADPK think tank will put a special focus on addressing the needs of young architects in both the Northern and Southern contexts in education. The Heritage think tank will focus on each schools particular competence within architectural heritage; conservation, industrial heritage and adaptive re-use.

Based on the activities and experiences from the short term intensive programmes the think tanks will discuss pedagogical methods and structure of curriculum for teaching within the relevant fields.

## **What’s in it for the members?**

EAAE and ACE are active partners in the project, but do also serve as infrastructures for dissemination of the project results to relevant stakeholders in academia and profession. The project partners will produce *Teaching Wicked Problems Reports* that are distributed ahead of the annual EAAE event in August/September. The reports will also be published on EAAE’s and ACE’s websites, and in the EAAE yearbook. At the annual EAAE event the project partners will organize *EAAE and ACE Academies*; seminars/workshop based on the teaching wicked problems reports.

The work in the think tanks will add professional content to the annual event by creating conditions for broad discussions on how to teach architecture. Strengthening the EAAE’s position as a hub of resources for its member institutions, the projects provides input to teaching methods, curriculum development and continuous professional development.

An important impact is also to establish closer bonds between ACE and EAAE through opening up several areas of cooperation and exchanging experience, expertise and networks. With both EAAE and ACE on board the project has the potential to reach wide target groups within both the professional and academic sectors.

## ERASMUS +

### Confronting Wicked Problems: Adapting Architectural Education to the New Situation in Europe

Project period: 1st of September 2014 to 31st of August 2017

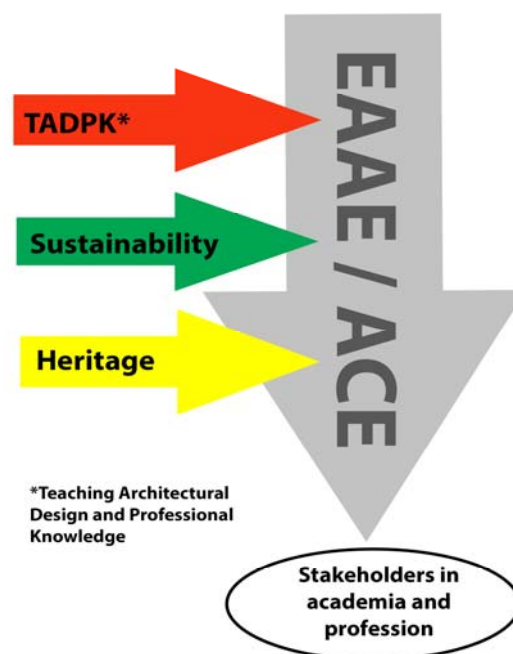
Erasmus+ funding: 285.000,00 Euro

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- ACE

### TADPK

- Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain
- Oslo School of Architecture and Design, Norway
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The Think tanks will go directly into relevant architectural studios taking place at the participating schools. These will serve as local “teaching laboratories” where innovative practices will be tested and developed. Activities will be organized as different short term intensive programmes hosted by the participating schools for pilot projects and discussions. **The Sustainability Think Tank** will arrange three Sustainability *Charettes*. **The TADPK Think Tank and the Heritage Think Tank** will arrange staff training events in each of the three years.

Based on the activities and experiences from the short term intensive programme, think tanks will discuss pedagogical methods and structure of curriculum for teaching within the relevant fields.

EAAE and ACE are active partners in the project. They will also disseminate the project results to relevant stakeholders in academia and profession. Project partners will produce *Teaching Wicked Problems Reports* which will be distributed ahead of the annual EAAE event in August/September. Reports will also be published on EAAE's and ACE's websites, and in the EAAE yearbook. At the annual EAAE event project partners will organize *EAAE and ACE Academies*: seminars/workshop based on the teaching wicked problems reports.

Reports from the project will be distributed on the EAAE webpage and on the webpages of the different partners.

The first dissemination will be part of the EAAE seminar at Politecnico di Milano/EXPO 2014 in Milan, 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2014.

	Nov/Dec 2014	April/May 2015	Nov 2015	April 2016	Nov. 2016	April 2017
TADPK	TNP meeting <b>AHO</b>	Staff training event + TNP meeting <b>ETSAB</b>	TNP meeting <b>AHO</b>	Staff training event + TNP meeting <b>AHO</b>	TNP meeting <b>ETSAB</b>	Staff training event + TNP meeting <b>ETSAB</b>
Sustainability	TNP meeting <b>Bucuresti</b>	Charette + TNP meeting <b>Delft</b>	TNP meeting <b>Milano</b>	Charette + TNP meeting <b>Ion Mincu</b>	TNP meeting <b>Delft</b>	Charette + TNP meeting <b>Pol. Milano</b>
Heritage	TNP meeting <b>Prague</b>	Staff training event + TNP meeting <b>Genoa - Conservation</b>	TNP meeting <b>Hasselt</b>	Staff training event + TNP meeting <b>Prague - industrial heritage</b>	TNP meeting <b>Genoa</b>	Staff training event + TNP meeting <b>Hasselt - adaptive re-use</b>

The kick-off of the Sustainability Think Tank and TADPK Think Tank happened in Bucuresti and Oslo in November. The Heritage Think Tank will be launched in a kick-off meeting in Prague in December.

Project Officer Anne-Marie Øveraas ([Anne.Marie.Overaas@adm.aho.no](mailto:Anne.Marie.Overaas@adm.aho.no)) is coordinating the “WICKED” project at AHO.

The EAAE president is heading the project with the EAAE Council as steering group.

Each think tank will, within the limitations of the budget and the project description, meet the challenge of defining the wicked problems, and establish a substantial focus and framework for their discussions.