

## **EAAE COUNCIL 2013 – 2015**

### **REPORT TO THE EAAE/AEEA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MILANO**

Sunday 30th of August 2015

#### **The Council 2013 – 2015 has been consisting of the following members:**

Karl Otto Ellefsen (EAAE President), Oslo School of Architecture and Design

Adalberto del Bo, (EAAE Vice-President), Politecnico di Milano

Koenraad Van Cleempoel, (Treasurer), University of Hasselt

Ivan Cabrera i Fausto, (Web Editor), Universitat Politècnica de Valencia

Herbert Buehler, Münster School of Architecture

Nur Çağlar, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara

Manuel Couceiro da Costa, Universidade de Lisboa

Zdenek Zavrel, Czech Technical University in Prague

Susanne Komossa, Delft University of Technology (from 2014)

Lucina Nyaka, Gdansk University of Technology (from 2014)

Vasileia Trova, University of Thessaly (from 2014)

Gunnar Parelius, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (2013-2014)

Ferran Sagarra, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya: Escola Tècnica Superior D'Arquitectura de Barcelona (2013)

#### **Secretary of the EAAE/AEEA:**

Inge Lens, University of Hasselt (from 2014)

Lou Schol , KU Leuven (- 2014)

Erling Rognes Solbu, (Secretary to the President), Oslo School of Architecture and Design (2013 – 2014)

The Council was elected at the GA in Leuven in 2013 following a conflict that divided the organization.

Complementing elections were handled by the GA in Hasselt in the summer of 2014 and in Chania in

September 2015. Ferran Sagarra left the council due to his research leave in 2014. Gunnar Parelius left the

Council in 2014 continuing as a project leader of the EAAE.

### **General Assemblies 2015 – 2017**

GA Leuven, June 2013

GA Hasselt, March 2014

GA Chania, September 2014

### **Council meetings 2015 – 2017**

Leuven, June 2013

Milano, July 2013 (including some invited project leaders)

Chania, September 2013 (including project leaders)

Barcelona, November 2013

Prague, January 2014

Hasselt, March 2014 (including project leaders)

Ankara, May 2014 (including some invited project leaders)

Lisbon, October 2014

Chania, September 2014 (including project leaders)

Oslo, January 2015 (leader group)

Valencia, March 2015

Antwerp, June 2015 (including project leaders, and additional invited resource people)

The minutes from all these meetings are posted on the EAAE – website.

### **General evaluation**

The Council has reflected upon its achievements related to our objectives presented at the GA in Leuven in 2013. The main intention of reuniting the organization seems to be more or less achieved. The process of rebuilding and restructuring the organization has started and shows acceptable progression. However, the process includes discussions of the basic mission and role of the Association, as well as questions of organization, economy and way of working. Therefore the process will take more time and will involve the members also during the period of the next Council/President from 2015 – 2017.

In his “note from the president” of March 2015, Karl Otto Ellefsen states:

*“When elected in the summer of 2013 this EAAE Council gave itself two years to re-establish the organization. The EAAE Conference 2015 in Milano will be the start of a new series of annual EAAE events following the tradition of the Rectors meeting in Chania.”*

*“The Conference and the GA marks the end of the two-year period for this Council. We have been able to meet the accusations raised to the questions of EAAE and ENHSA economy and organizational procedures. This has been done by careful investigations and professional auditing, The Council has also been able to start a reconciliation process within the organization that proved itself during the marking of the conclusion of the EU-financed ENHSA project.”*

*“EAAE is gaining members that left or have been reluctant to the organization since the 2013 conflict. The challenge is however, to restart the organization and make it into a both productive, disciplinary relevant, representative and politically active organization for the European schools.”*

*“The Council is convinced that more than ever, there is a need for the EAAE as an “umbrella organization” covering the European map of schools of architecture.”*

#### **EAAE/AEEA Economy**

#### **EAAE/AEEA Membership**

The Association is financed by membership, directly by membership fees, and indirectly when schools permit academics to use time for the EAAE, subsidize events and meetings, and by financing their travels and other expenses. The EAAE is therefore rather sensitive to changes in the amount of schools being members of the organization.

The numbers of schools being full members 2010 until 2015:

2010	111
2011	141
2012	148
2013	126
2014	119
2015	105 (members that have paid and confirmed membership before August 2015)

The Council estimates that more of the schools paying in 2014 will stay on as members. Adding new membership this means that the EAAE will have at least 130 member schools at the end of 2015.

The conflict that reached its peak in 2013 led to schools leaving the Association. This included French schools (nearly all), German schools, Swiss schools, Austrian schools and English schools (never many members). The Council has taken initiatives to bring these schools back to the organization. Swiss and Austrian academics are working in networks, initiatives and projects of the EAAE. At the same time more formalized procedures have been started to bring the French, English and German schools back.

The Council looks at these processes with optimism. If the EAAE is able to prove itself as an operational, inspirational and, in due time, well-functioning organization, we see no reason for these schools to remain non-members. For the Council it has been important to invite the lost sons and daughters back home as soon as possible, and not wait until the Association has been rebuilt by the family that stayed.

The EAAE at the moment also recruits new schools that have never been part of the Association. This includes schools from the eastern and south-eastern part of Europe, but also schools in central Europe and the Mediterranean (Portugal, Spain, Italy) that somehow never took part in EAAE activities.

### **Actions taken to reconcile the organization**

(1)The Council has clarified the economic procedures, the financial actions and the EAAE/ENSHA relationship. The report to the GA in Hassel in March 2013 (EAAE Website) followed the order of the strongly critical report on EAAE economy and EAAE/ENHSA relationships from the former Council and includes the themes:

- EAAE financial relationship with ENHSA
- EAAE accounting & administration
- EAAE secretariat and agreement with KU Leuven
- Notes on EAAE travel expenses
- Notes on the EAAE lawyer

In order to prepare the reply to the former Council, information was gathered from various sources:

- Audit ordered by the present council from PriceWaterHouseCoopers, titled: *EAAE-AEEA: Review of international cash transactions* (PWC report from now onwards)
- Discussions with accountant De Kleine Prins, appointed by the former Council
- EU administration
- Interviews with Lou Schol and Herman Neuckermans
- Previous reactions to the outgoing council's report (KUL & ENHSA in particular)

In the report the Council states:

*“The present Council takes notice of the Report of its predecessors dated 15/06/2013. The Council will use the opportunity of the GA to provide answers to the accusations of “improper financial conduct” and other eventual irregularities.*

*The present Council regrets the course of actions that have created tensions and rapture within the EAAE. The council will distance itself from allegations and suggestions of financial fraud. Generally our opinion is that personal conflicts and conflicts of interests have eclipsed objective facts.”*

The report concludes that most of the accusations from the former Council are invalid.

However, the critique of lack of clearly formalized practices, and lack of formalized agreements between EAAE and ENHSA in questions concerning economy, meeting the present EU-regulations, was correct.

(2) At the GA in Chania in September 2014 the EAAE marked the termination of the EU-financed ENHSA project and the celebration of the history of ENHSA, the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Heads and the ENHSA coordinators.

The EAAE/ENHSA relationship was for more than a decade quite decisive for the actions taken by the organization, the reason being that ENHSA through EU-projects was able to finance activities that European Schools took part in as members of ENHSA (EAAE also being a member of ENHSA). At the same time ENHSA showed great initiative and ability to put ideas into action. The meetings of Heads in Chania, and the establishment of thematic networks was probably the most notable achievement of ENHSA. For the EAAE might be seen as a “machine” moving the organization forward in directions decided upon in the EU-applications. This proved extremely valuable for the EAAE, but created a situation where specific initiatives from the Association seemed to be less needed.

ENHSA is an organization that was initiated from the EAAE and EAAE is one of a many members. EAAE members have cooperated in ENHSA in a multitude of networks of project. ENHSA is however a separate economic entity financed as EU-projects, with its own accounting system through the University of Thessaloniki and subject to defined EU regulations for auditing.

The present Council has a good relationship with the ENHSA coordinators and the prevailing ENHSA activities (e.g., the mapping of European master-programs in Architecture and of PhD-programs).

(3) The former President and Council had to leave their positions due to lack of confidence from the majority of members. Due to a variety of reasons the conflict was orally and in writing played out rather fiercely.

The present Council is of the opinion that the reason for the lack of confidence was the former Council's accusation on EAAE economic procedures and the EAAE/ENHSA relationship, including the accusations towards former EAAE Presidents and the ENHSA coordinators.

The present Council will underline that valuable initiatives for restructuring the EAAE were taken by the formal conflict and that the conflict meant a set-back for the organization during the year that followed the conflict.

Actions have been taken to bring the people and schools supporting the former Council in the conflict, back to the organization. These actions include:

- Meetings with the Arena leadership to establish an EAAE/Arena cooperation
- Initiatives towards French, German and schools from Great Britain.
- Initiatives to bring academics, important for the development of the EAAE, back into projects and network.

#### **Actions taken to re-establish the Association**

(4) KU Leuven has provided the needed administration and secretary for the EAAE more or less from the start. The EAAE/AEEA is a Belgian registered Association and need a Belgian address. After KU Leuven asked to be relieved from this responsibility (retirement of the EAAE Secretary Lou Schol), Hasselt University was established as the new address for the EAAE and the host for the EAAE secretariat.

(5) As a consequence of the discussions on EAAE economical management, and recommendations in the Audit made by PWC, the EAAE has established principles for improved and more formalized economic management.

(6) New modernized statutes for the EAAE have been formulated and were finally voted upon and accepted in the Chania GA after a process of discussion during 2013/2014.

These statutes include a more precise description of the mission of the Association and more operational

rules as to how the EAAE-system should work.

(7) The Association has established new and well-functioning web-pages that are being further developed according to an ambitious plan of becoming the central web-page for exchanging information between European Schools of Architecture, <http://www.eaae.be>.

The web includes the re-established EAAE guide for Europeans Schools.

(8) The ACE/EAAE working-party is re-established with both the Architects' Council of Europe president Luciano Lazzari and the EAAE president as members. The intention is to generally strengthen the relationship between education, research and professional practice in the field of Architecture and Urbanism. The intention is also to establish a platform and more precise strategies towards EU politics and organizations.

(9) In cooperation with Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism and the Architects' Council of Europe we are launching a student competition for European Architectural Medals.

The main prize is *The European Architectural Medal for best Diploma Project*.

In addition to this three other *Theme Prizes* will be given:

*EAD-BBP - ACE prize for Societal Impact*

*EAD-BBP - EAAE prize for Intensity and Courage in Problem Solving*

*EAD-BDP - Ion Mincu prize for Artistic Quality*

The competition is launched for Diplomas from European Schools of Architecture and the Medal and Prizes will be handed out for the first time this autumn/winter.

It takes energy, time and some passion and enthusiasm to establish a yearly competition like this and Ion Mincu/ACE/EAAE are dependent on the EAAE -member schools to take part and submit their best Diploma Projects. Information on the competition is found on the EAAE-website and on <https://www.uauim.ro/en/>.

(10) According to EU-regulation, Associations like EAAE are by now permitted to apply for different kinds of EU-funding. EAAE applied in 2014 and received EU-funding for an Erasmus+ project ("Wicked problems in Architectural Educations") that involves several EAAE-schools. ACE is a partner in the project. The "Wicked themes" are Sustainability, Heritage and Professionalization. The project will be disseminated as part of the Milano program.

(11) The EAAE / ARCC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – LISBON 2016 on Architectural Research, [www.eaae-arcc2016.fa.ulisboa.pt](http://www.eaae-arcc2016.fa.ulisboa.pt) is following the earlier Conferences in Copenhagen, Milano and Hawaii. We are planning for a comprehensive and global conference. The Call for Abstracts has been launched and the Conference will take place in Lisbon in June 2016.

The title/theme will be *“Architectural Research addressing Societal Challenges”*.

This conference is calling for papers that aim to point out how research can address the challenges of a changing society. Papers may be framed within the following five subthemes: *1-A Changing Society, 2-In Transit/Global Migration, 3-Renaturalization of the City, 4-Emerging Fields of Architectural Practice and 5-Research on Architectural Education*

(12) The EAAE is continuously disseminating our activities. From the 2013-2015 Council period we will point out the publication on Research by Design and the Montana Prize, the dissemination volumes from the EAAE/ARCC Research Conference in Milano, the publications from the ENHSA conferences in Chania in 2013 and 2014 and the recent publication from the network on Architectural Heritage.

(13) The Council has made an overview of all EAAE networks, projects and strategic initiatives and in cooperation with the project leaders, decided which should continue and be given priority.

(14) This process has been part of the more substantial discussion about EAAE organization, strategies and priorities. The Council has chosen to present this discussion as a proposal for a “Work-plan 2015-2017” to the EAAE General Assembly in Milano, [www.eaae.be](http://www.eaae.be).

Oslo 21th of August 2015

The EAAE/AEEA Council 2013 – 2015

Karl Otto Ellefsen

President EAAE