

# ECTP Conference 2018 report: presentations and photos available!

The 8th ECTP Conference took place at the [Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels](#) on November 13-14, 2018. More than 170 stakeholders from the whole construction value-chain and representatives of the European Commission shared their experience and discussed how the EU construction industry is shaping a high-tech Sustainable Built Environment.

- Links **within the programme** to the presentations (when available) per session [here](#).
- Links **within the programme** to photos [here](#).

*NB: The above links lead to a PDF version of the programme and you should **roll the mouse over the title of each session and click** to download corresponding presentations or photos, including pictures from the exhibition & catering area.*

The conference **opening session**, chaired by Emmanuel Forest, CEO of Bouygues Europe and ECTP President, and Alain Zarli, ECTP Secretary General, introduced the main expectations and challenges of the built environment and the construction sector. In his keynote speech, Jürgen Tiedje, Head of Unit at the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, gave a focus on how digitalisation and industrialisation are supporting construction activities, while Haitze Siemers, Head of Unit at the European Commission, DG Energy, placed the construction industry within the wider Smart Cities and Communities context.

Kjetil Tonning, President of the European Construction Industry Federation ([FIEC](#)), then discussed the integration of the construction industry within the upcoming [Horizon Europe](#) research and innovation programme that will succeed to Horizon 2020 and the challenges related to it. Marie Yeroyanni, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation, then presented the new EU strategic Research and Innovation agenda on Cities.

Antoine Aslanides, EDF, co-chair of the [EeB cPPP](#), provided an overall update on the impacts achieved by the R&I projects supported by the cPPP, all projects being featured in the [2018 edition of the EeB PPP Project Review](#) published by ECTP, and introduced to a potential vision for future R&D beyond Energy-efficient Buildings

Last but not least, Emanuela de Menna, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation, concluded the opening session with a focus on R&I topics and actions for Cultural Heritage being supported under Horizon 2020, 2018 being the [European Year of Cultural Heritage](#).

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**9 parallel sessions** over the two days of the conference covered a wide range of topics, innovation and market foresight trends addressed by the five ECTP committees as follows:

- A session on **Construction Innovation for the Transport Infrastructure of the Future**, chaired by Miguel Segarra, DRAGADOS, ECTP Vice-President on Infrastructures & Mobility, and Clemente Fuggini, RINA. The session featured presentations from Network Rail, Rijkswaterstaat, VTT and FEHRL. The need for innovation and experimentation to deliver solutions for the future was highlighted. Speakers also stressed the lack of a comprehensive European strategy supporting funding priorities for innovation in construction and maintenance of transport infrastructure. Finally, the key role of the public sector to maintain innovation in transport infrastructure was also mentioned. More details about innovation priorities for transport infrastructure are further detailed in the [I&M Position Paper](#). The Infrastructure & Mobility Committee also hold a joint plenary assembly with the Energy efficient Buildings Committee.
- A session on **Materials and Sustainability Innovation in Construction**, chaired by Christian Artelt, HeidelbergCement, ECTP Vice-President on Materials & Sustainability, and Gian Marco Revel, Universita Politecnica delle Marche. The session was introduced by Olga Rio Suarez,

European Commission, DG Research & Innovation, who reminded the importance of this materials and sustainability topic for the commission. The session featured presentations from Università Politecnica delle Marche, LafargeHolcim, Keraben and Fundacion Tekniker. Presentations stressed the importance to consider the entire lifecycle of construction products and highlighted innovative approaches on the reuse and recycling of construction materials. Such topics are further addressed in the recent [Position Paper released by the ECTP M&S Committee](#). Potential synergies with the [European Technology Platform for Advanced Engineering Materials and Technologies \(EuMaT\)](#) were also emphasized.

- A selection of the **Most Promising Technologies developed by the projects supported by the EeB cPPP** were presented in a specific session chaired by Javier Bonilla (ACCIONA, ECTP Vice-President on Energy Efficient Buildings) and Carlos Saraiva-Martins (European Commission, DG Research & Innovation). The session featured presentations by ACCIONA, CETMA, HELIOPAC, Cork Institute of Technology, TECNALIA and AMIRES who presented promising innovations for a sustainable and energy efficient building stock from the SUSCON, SCORES, TOPAs, and EFFESUS projects. The [EffiBUILDING](#) platform was also presented: it is a tool to support further dissemination and exploitation of such innovations. EeB PPP most promising innovations are presented in [an updated set of 5 brochures](#) recently published by the ECTP E2B committee.
- A session on **Building an Age-friendly Europe**, chaired by Alexander Peine, Utrecht University, ECTP Vice-President on Active Ageing & Design, and Gian Marco Revel, Università Politecnica delle Marche. Horst Kraemer, European Commission, DG CONNECT, introduced the session with a presentation of the work conducted in the context of the [European Reference Framework for Age-friendly Housing](#). The session featured presentation from Università Politecnica delle Marche on smart environments for ageing people, RMIT Europe on age friendly cities, and AGE platform which brought the perspective of older persons to the discussion. A new H2020 Coordination and Support Action (CSA) called Homes4Life was introduced throughout the presentations: it will start as of December 2018 and it will be supporting investment in smart living environments for ageing well through certification. ECTP is a partner of this CSA together with several Active Ageing & Design ECTP Committee members (TECNALIA, Utrecht University, Certivéa (CSTB group), Università Politecnica delle Marche, TNO, R2M Solution) as well as AGE platform and EUROCARERS.
- A session on **Positive Energy Districts, combining technologies for a higher quality of life**, chaired by Paul Cartuyvels, Bouygues Europe, ECTP Presidency, and Yrsa Cronhjort, VTT. The presentations highlighted innovative approaches and returns of experience from BOUYGUES Immobilier, VTT, and CITYDEV on urban development resulting in improved citizen quality of life and low environmental impact. The various examples outlined that a positive energy district should interact with a wider energy system. The concept of Positive Energy Districts (PED) developed and grown in the context of ECTP was adopted and integrated into the latest Smart Cities and Communities H2020 Topic ([SCC1](#)): VITO presented the [Smart Cities Information System \(SCIS\)](#) that all projects supported under this call are invited to use. Eventually BPIE concluded the session with an overview of innovative solutions to facilitate energy efficiency deployment in district and cities with a financial constraint: it was acknowledged in the panel discussion that new return on investment and profitability calculation methodologies are required to take into account additional benefits (e.g. increased quality of life) which go beyond energy savings.
- A session on the **industrialisation of the Construction Sector**, chaired by Sue Arundale, ECCREDI President and FIEC TEC Director, and Johan Vyncke, ECCREDI/BBRI. The session included presentations from KAMP C, McKinsey & Company Inc, and Stroom Versnelling on innovative constructions techniques such as 3D printing and other new technologies and their impacts for the construction industry and stakeholders. Although the construction sector accounts for 13% of the global (world) GDP, its productivity decreased in the last decades. Thus, speakers outlined the impact of industrialisation to fill this productivity gap. The interdependence with digitalization to increase productivity was also emphasized.
- A session on the **Digitalisation of the Construction Sector**, chaired by Isabel Pinto-Seppä, VTT, and Rita Moura, Teixeira Duarte/PTPC. Presentations from ENCORD, Federconstruzioni, IES,

Universita Politecnica delle Marche, VTT and Ferrovial highlighted the latest trends and innovative technologies for smart buildings, cities and infrastructures. ENCORD and Federconstruzioni presented the construction sector challenges and drivers towards digitalization and future R&D priorities and alignment with the EC agenda. IES, Ferrovial, VTT and Politecnica delle Marche introduced real tools and cases of digitalization for user-centric buildings, districts and infrastructures as well as the business ecosystem to develop, test and upscale related innovations.

- A session on the **Promotion of Innovative Business Models for Energy Efficient Renovation**, chaired by Karine Laffont-Eloire, DOWEL Management. Under the umbrella of the [STUNNING](#) Coordination and Support action, this session featured presentations from RINA, UniSmart, GreenFlex / EnergieSprong France and Rockwool. An introduction was made to the STUNNING project and its collaborative platform (the [Renovation Hub](#)), aiming at sharing knowledge about various refurbishment packages, business models and business cases. The first findings of STUNNING with regard to innovative business models for the energy efficient renovation of building were then presented by RINA Consulting, and were concretely illustrated in the three following presentations. UniSmart highlighted the objectives of the recently funded PVadapt project and how new business models will make it possible to engage SMEs along the value chain. The replication of the Dutch [EnergieSprong](#) business model to France was presented by GreenFlex, who stressed the importance of providing simple, clear and radical messages to promote renovation. Rockwool introduced BetterHome, a business model which is being successfully rolled out in Denmark for single family houses thanks to its efforts to improve the “renovation journey”. The potential replication of innovative business models such as [EnergieSprong](#) and [BetterHome](#) was finally discussed during the panel discussion following the presentations. A key outcome of the discussion was that each business model is optimized for a specific market segment (e.g. single-family houses, social housing) and a specific country (in terms of culture, regulation, market structure). Replicating these business models to other market segments and other countries is therefore not straightforward and requires a dedicated and highly motivated local team to adjust the business model to the local context and convince the first clients.
- A session on **Boosting Innovation with Living Labs**, chaired by Kristina Mjörnell, RISE, President of ENBRI, and Peter Richner, ENBRI / Empa. The session gave an overview of the different incarnations of living labs which have or are in the process to be established across Europe, describing their characteristics, partnerships, and their innovation impact for the building sector. The session featured presentations from Marc Pallot, ENSAM describing the history of living labs and the EU Living Lab initiative, Peter Richter from Empa talked about the NEST building, Johan Van Dessel, BBRI presented a logistic hub for material and equipment in the city of Brussels and Julia Jonasson, RISE presented a bulky waste collection and transportation service in form of a Re-Cycle.

The two days of the conference offered plenty of networking opportunities and exchanges of best practices around the hall of **innovation cases exhibition** with its booths and posters. EPFL, TWI, Nobatek/INEF4, FENIX TNT, Fundación Cartif, Demo BV, Steinbeis 2i, ASM, Greenovate! Europe, ACE, CNR-ISAC, UTRC Ireland, CENTI, STRESS and Mostostal Warsawa exhibited examples of innovation and promising results developed within their projects (see list of exhibitors’ contacts and projects [here](#)), and SCIS which is a knowledge platform to exchange data, experience and know-how and to collaborate on the creation of smart cities, providing a high quality of life for its citizens in a clean, energy efficient and climate friendly urban environment, was also represented.

**Plenary assemblies** of the five ECTP Committees: Active Ageing & Design (AA&D), Energy Efficient Buildings (E2B), Heritage & Regeneration (H&R), Infrastructure & Mobility (I&M) and Materials & Sustainability (M&S) were also conducted in conjunction with the conference.

The **closing session** of the conference chaired by Emmanuel Forest, CEO of Bouygues Europe and ECTP President, and Alain Zarli, ECTP Secretary General, started with the signature of two Memorandums of Understanding (MoU): one with [FEHRL](#), the Forum of Europe’s National Road Research Centres, represented by Thierry Goger; and the other one with [ENCORD](#), the European Network of Construction Companies for Research and Development, represented by Juan Elizaga. Both organisations are willing to reinforce their cooperation with ECTP in several areas identified in each MoU – see further details [here](#).

Sara Van Rompaey, E<sup>2</sup>ARC, presented the role of cultural heritage in re-naturing cities, highlighting the work conducted in the [THINKNATURE](#) H2020 project (whose ECTP is a partner of): a multi-stakeholder platform to share knowledge and promote innovation with Nature-Based Solutions (NBS).

Joanna Syrda from ASM then gave a focus on how user-centered design and approaches can stimulate the development of innovations for the built environment.

Finally, a concluding round table moderated by Emmanuel Forest, ECTP President, with Christian Artelt (M&S Committee Chair), Antoine Aslanides (EeB cPPP co-Chair), Javier Bonilla (E2B Committee Chair), Isabel Rodriguez (H&R Committee Chair), Miguel Segarra (I&M Committee Chair) discussed the future RDI needs, priorities and partnerships for the built environment. They particularly highlighted the need to establish a post-2020 vision for the construction sector, with a service-oriented approach and an enlarged scope from energy efficient buildings to sustainable and circular blocks of buildings and cities.

***About ECTP, driving innovation and change in the construction sector through research, to help create a better future for the Built Environment industry in Europe.***

*ECTP facilitates research on current challenges and foresight for the future. Through engagement with stakeholders and members, the association can influence and respond to the research agenda of the European Commission, on behalf of the Built Environment sector. By joining ECTP you and your organisation become a Member of a large network of diverse organisations that are all working towards the same shared priorities.*

*The ECTP conference is organized every 2 years in Brussels and ECTP Members benefit from a reduced registration fee.*

*Discover all [benefits of ECTP Members](#) and contact the ECTP Secretariat at [secretariat@ectp.org](mailto:secretariat@ectp.org) for further information.*

Source: ECTP Secretariat