



## ECTP Conference 2024 report

The **10th ECTP Conference** took place at the Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie in Brussels on March 5&6, 2024. The event celebrated the 20th anniversary of ECTP, with the motto "*ECTP @ 20. Two decades shaping a smart and green built environment*".

It revealed to be a great success with more than [170 stakeholders](#) from the whole construction value-chain sharing their experience and representatives of the European Commission informing the attendees about the latest policy development related to the sector. The conference outlined how the EU Construction Industry is at the heart of the Built Environment green and digital transitions.

The conference **opening session**, chaired by Paul Cartuyvels, Director of European Affairs at Bouygues Europe and ECTP President, and Alain Zarli, ECTP Secretary General, welcomed the attendees and introduced the main expectations and challenges of the built environment and the construction sector.

In his keynote speech, Thibault Roy, Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG Energy, provided an overall update on the EU Policies sustaining energy efficiency, decarbonisation and circular economy in the construction and built environment sector. He then gave a focus on the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), which contributes directly to the EU's energy and climate goals and will be formally adopted during the following months.

Martina Desole, Director at the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL) presented the Living Labs approach during her keynote. She made a special mention to the so-called 'quadruple helix' composed by Industry, Academia, Public Authorities and Citizens, highlighting the importance of users being placed at the heart of the innovation system.

Alain Zarli concluded the opening session by introducing the agenda.

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During the first day of conference, **2 plenary sessions and 4 parallel sessions** covered a wide range of topics:

- A plenary session on [NETWORKING CLUSTERS THROUGH EUROPE TO REACH THE AMBITIONS OF THE B4P PARTNERSHIP AND OF THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS](#), chaired by Karine Laffont-Eloire (DOWEL Innovation), Isabel Pinto-Seppä (VTT), Anastasiya Yurchyshyna & Alain Zarli (ECTP). The session was introduced by Isabel Pinto-Seppä and featured presentations about the Horizon Europe Work Programme with a focus on Built4People by Eleftherios Bourdakos (Project Adviser at CINEA - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency), as well as the New European Bauhaus by Emilie Vandam (Policy Officer at Joint Research Center, Unit B.4 - New European Bauhaus). Karine Laffont-Eloire and Anastasiya Yurchyshyna presented the NEBULA project as a bridge between the B4P Partnership and the New European Bauhaus, where ECTP plays an active role. Finally, Claudia Hunziker Keller (NOBATEK/INEF4) and Noelia Ortiz Santiso (BUILD:INN) introduced the B4PIC Aquitaine-Euskadi(-Navarra), the first Built4People Innovation Cluster, and shared some of the main hurdles to overcome.
- A plenary session on [NEXT: A JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE OF CONSTRUCTION & BUILT ENVIRONMENT](#), chaired by Rita Moura (PTPC, ECTP Vice-President, *Digital Built Environment* Committee Chair), Agnieszka Kowalska & Joanna Syrda (ASM Research Solutions Strategy). The session started with a presentation from Christina Claeson-Jonsson (Chair of ENCORD, the European Network of Construction Companies for Research & Development, and Head of R&I at NCC), who presented the main challenges Europe is facing and how they can be addressed through sustainability, digitalization and innovation. Agnieszka Kowalska and Joanna Syrda gave then a focus to the future landscape of the built environment and presented the COGITO Digital Construction 4.0 Toolbox which will deliver a "Digital Twin" of construction operations. To conclude, a panel session was held, moderated by Rita Moura with the participation of Christina Claeson-Jonsson, Ilari Aho (Uponor Corporation, ECTP Presidium) and Nedin Muratovic (Umdasch Group), with interactive participation from the audience.

- A parallel session on [NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND RENATURING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT](#), chaired by Camilla Lanfranconi (RINA Consulting) and Beatriz Pineda (RMIT Europe). The chairs kicked off the session by introducing the ECTP BED Committee Position Paper on Nature-based Solutions: "[Embracing Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable Development](#)". During the session, a wide range of topics were discussed, including the synergies between NBS and the New European Bauhaus by Eleni Goni (E<sup>2</sup>ARC) who delved into innovative approaches to urban development. Thierry Kandjee (TAKTYK) dived into landscape as capital, exploring the role of landscapes in regional development strategies, especially in Luxembourg. Then, Sara Van Rompaey (E<sup>2</sup>ARC) and Constanze Fuhrmann (German Federal Environmental Foundation - DBU) emphasized the importance of integrating cultural heritage with nature-based solutions for sustainable urban planning. Lastly, Wendy Steele (RMIT Europe) highlighted the necessity of reintroducing natural elements into urban environments to promote both human health and biodiversity.
- A parallel session on [MATERIALS AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR A CIRCULAR BUILT ENVIRONMENT](#), chaired by Gian-Marco Revel (Università Politecnica Delle Marche, ECTP Vice-President, *Materials & Sustainability* Committee Chair) and Javier Bonilla (ACCIONA Construction, ECTP Vice-President, *Built Environment Decarbonisation* Committee Chair). The session featured presentations from Magnus Österbring (NCC, WG Sustainability leader and co-author of the report), who introduced the [Circularity report by ENCORD](#), and Thaleia Konstantinou (TU Delft), who put the focus on building component design as an enabler for a circular built environment. To conclude, a round table discussion took place, moderated by Gian-Marco Revel and Javier Bonilla, with contributions from Antonio Ferrandez Garcia (I'M 4EU, European Commission, Policy Officer - Research in manufacturing and energy intensive industries), Christian Artelt (Heidelberg Materials), Alfonso Cortés Izurdiaga (Cosentino), and Petr Hradil (VTT).
- A parallel session on [HYDROGEN AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT, PAVING THE WAY FOR A DECARBONIZED FUTURE](#), chaired by Carmine Pascale (STRESS) and Giannicola Loriga (STAM). The session was introduced by Carmine Pascale and Nicola Di Giulio (STRESS) who deep dived into the objectives and priorities of the Hydrogen Task Group within the ECTP *Built Environment Decarbonisation* Committee. Furthermore, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership was presented by Nicolas Bellomo (Hydrogen Europe), and how it aims at scaling up the development and deployment of the European value chain for safe and sustainable clean hydrogen technologies, strengthening its competitiveness. Lastly, Angelo Moreno (STRESS), Antoine Aslanides (HYNAMICS), Ioannis Paspaliaris (NTUA), Javier Bonilla (ACCIONA Construction), Jesus Isoird (TECNALIA) and Nicolas Bellomo (Hydrogen Europe) shared their views on bridging the gaps through a coordinated and synergistic agenda during a round table discussion moderated by Giannicola Loriga.
- A parallel session on [INCLUSIVE BUILT ENVIRONMENTS : INTEGRATING SOCIAL SCIENCES AND USER-CENTRIC APPROACHES](#), chaired by Masi Mohammadi (TU Eindhoven, ECTP Vice-President, *Built4Life* Committee Chair), Beatriz Pineda (RMIT Europe), Agnieszka Kowalska & Joanna Syrda (ASM Research Solutions Strategy). The session featured presentations from Isabel Rodriguez-Maribona (Tecnalia), Ignacio Pedrosa (CTIC), Beatriz Pineda and Agnieszka Kowalska addressing crucial topics such as heritage preservation in rural areas, optimizing well-being and energy efficiency in the built environment, and addressing the digital gap to promote healthy living and ageing. The audience also had the opportunity to engage into in-depth discussions on user-centric approaches within the built-environment and explore potential synergies between user-centric innovation and European initiatives.

The first day concluded with the special session **ECTP: 20 years young and looking (ahead) at the future**, chaired by Paul Cartuyvels (Bouygues Europe, ECTP President), which counted with the participation of four relevant figures of the creation (in 2004) and history of ECTP: Emmanuel Forest (ECTP President from 2013 to 2020), Luc Bourdeau (ECTP Secretary General from 2007 to 2016), Jesus Rodriguez (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Chairman of ECTP Support Group from 2004 to 2007) and Antoine Aslanides (Hynamics, EeB cPPP co-chair from 2015 to 2020). They offered invaluable insights and their experiences from the early days, and shared different anecdotes that shed light on the organization's journey and development.

The second day of conference began with a session chaired by Javier Bonilla (ACCIONA Construction, ECTP Vice-President, *Built Environment Decarbonisation* Committee Chair). In her keynote, Miimu Airaksinen (Senior Vice President, Development, SRV Group Plc.) gave an overview on [Industry experiences on the acceleration of low-carbon buildings](#).

It was followed by 4 parallel sessions and 1 plenary session described below:

- A parallel session on [ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS AND DISTRICTS WITHIN THE SET PLAN](#), chaired by Cornelia Partsch (ECTP) and Nicolas de la Vega (EUREC). Anna Sobczak (European Commission, DG ENER) opened the session introducing the SET-Plan and the new elements included in the revised version from October 2023. Then, Cornelia Partsch and Nicolas de la Vega presented an overview of the SET-Plan IWG5 (Implementation Working Group on *Energy Efficiency in Buildings*) and the 2023 National Energy and Climate Plans drafts for R&I measures in buildings. The session also featured presentations from Alessandro Pracucci (Focchi Group), Gian-Marco Revel (Università Politecnica delle Marche) and Huub Keizers (TNO), who covered three different solutions: active modules, materials and sustainable solutions for a circular built environment, and digitalization of buildings.
- A parallel session on [INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT RESILIENCE TO MAN-MADE AND NATURE EVENTS](#), chaired by Miltiadis Kontogeorgos (RINA Consulting) and Miguel Segarra (DRAGADOS, ECTP Vice-President, *Infrastructure & Mobility* Committee Chair). The session featured presentations from Miltiadis Kontogeorgos, Livia Pardi (Autostrade per l'Italia), Thierry Goger (FEHRL), Jesus Isoird (TECNALIA) and Stergios Mitoulis (University of Birmingham). They covered a range of topics related to resilience and sustainability in transport infrastructure. Presentations included discussions on the evolution of safety to resilience in the past two decades, strategies for enhancing the resilience of road infrastructure, the transition from resilience strategies to their practical implementation, as well as the sustainability and climate resilience metrics, along with trade-offs involved in the recovery of transport infrastructure assets.
- A parallel session on [INTEGRATED DIGITALISATION FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT](#), chaired by Joao Moutinho (PTPC), Noemi Jimenez Redondo (CEMOSA) and Johanna Kuusisto (VTT). João Moutinho opened the session introducing the ECTP Digital Built Environment (DBE) Committee foundations, from the ECTP DBE Committee to the DBE Position Paper and DBE topics within the [ECTP SRIA](#). Through their respective presentations, Gloria Calleja Rodríguez & Jose Solís Hernández (CEMOSA), Johanna Kuusisto (VTT), and Ignacio Pedrosa & Irene López de Vallejo (CTIC) explored different advancements in digital twin systems for managing buildings and civil infrastructure assets, smart and sustainable urban transformations, and the utilization of data analytics for real-time decision-making and empathic architecture in buildings. To conclude, Gaspard Demur (European Commission, DG CNECT), Luigi Perissich (Federcostruzioni) and João Moutinho (PTPC) presented the European Digital Innovation Hubs for Construction and showcased two of them, the Portuguese Construction EDIH and the Digital Italian Hub for Construction and Built Environment.
- A parallel session on [THE POTENTIAL OF CIRCULARITY IN DISTRICT RENOVATION](#), chaired by Clara Mafé (Housing Europe) and Nerea Gómez (ECTP). Mona Nasserredine (CSTB) presented how the building sector is changing in order to transition from a linear to a circular thinking, taking into account the different challenges derived from the complexity of the sector to ensure a successful transition at construction materials, product and assembly level, building level and district and territory level. Then, the session featured two presentations from lighthouse projects on circular district renovation from François Coltelloni (La Méta), who introduced La Méta, urban renewal projects of social housing providers in Lille, and from Arild Gustavsen (NTNU), who showcased 6 demonstration Climate-Positive Circular Communities in Europe. Clara Mafé presented the e-marketplace, a window to all innovative services, products and knowledge generated as part of the ARV project to plan, design and deliver Climate-Positive Circular Communities in different climates, regions and markets in Europe. Furthermore, Nerea Gómez introduced part of the work done by the European Affordable Housing Consortium within [SHAPE-EU project](#), as part of the Affordable Housing Initiative, highlighting the blueprints developed within the project for replicating lighthouse districts, especially the chapter on applying a circular approach.  
To conclude, Clara Mafé and Nerea Gómez moderated a business speed dating, encouraging the participants to find a partner and discuss for 7 minutes how their respective organisations were engaged in circularity and how they could work together towards circularity.

- A plenary session on [HOW OPEN INNOVATION TESTBEDS \(OITBS\) AND THE METABUILDING PLATFORM STRUCTURE AND FACILITATE A CROSS-SECTORAL EU BUILT ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION](#), chaired by Claudia Hunziker Keller (NOBATEK/INEF4), Germain Adell (Metabuilding ASBL) and Bernard Gilmont (European Aluminium Association). Introduced and moderated by Tom Messervey (R2M Solution), the session featured the presentation from two Open Innovation Test Beds projects: Metabuilding Labs, introduced by Germain Adell (Metabuilding ASBL), and MeZeroE project, by Roberto Lollini (EURAC). Following with Metabuilding, Emre Yontem (EcoWise) deep dived into the [Metabuilding Platform](#), which aims to become a virtual meeting point for the European Innovation Ecosystem of the Enlarged Built Environment Sector; whilst Claudia Hunziker Keller (NOBATEK/INEF4) highlighted the Built4People Innovation clusters and its management through the Metabuilding Platform. Lastly, Bernard Gilmont (European Aluminium Association) showcased the Open source, Open data, Open access Building Envelope Testbench (O3BETs), building envelope testbeds in different climate-zones that helps to speed up innovation, which are currently built in 7 countries throughout the Metabuilding Labs project.

The **closing session**, chaired by Paul Cartuyvels (Bouygues Europe, ECTP President), presented a keynote from Irena Kowalczyk-Kedziora (European Commission, DG Research and Innovation), [Cultural heritage research contributing to climate action: proposal for a European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage](#), which focused on cultural heritage as enabler for resilience, helping the built environment adapt to and mitigate the climate change. During her speech, she announced the proposal for a Resilient Cultural Heritage partnership as from 2025 that aims at strengthening the means of preserving and documenting Europe's cultural heritage in times of climate change and related risks. Lastly, Paul Cartuyvels and Alain Zarli thanked again all the attendees and provided a comprehensive overview of key insights of the conference.

The two days of the conference offered plenty of networking opportunities and exchanges of best practices.

**28 EU funded projects** were represented within the exhibition of roll-up posters: ARISE, BEEYONDERS, BISON, CIRC-BOOST, COGITO, COMMUNITAS, DIGIBUILD, DIGICHECKS, EASI ZERO, EXPLOIT4INNOMAT, GREEN DEAL ARV, HUMANTECH, ICLIMABUILT, INBUILT, INFRAROB, INPERSO, IWG5-CSA, JUSTNATURE, REGIONS4CLIMATE, RISKADAPT, SMARTBUILT4EU, SNUG, SYN.IKIA, VARCITIES, including 5 Built4People Partnership projects: AEGIR, MULTICLIMACT, NEBULA, REGEN and WEGENERATE.

**PHOTO GALLERY** [HERE](#).

**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 throughout Europe, 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 and ECTP Members benefit from reduced registration fees.*

*Contact ECTP Secretariat at [secretariat@ectp.org](mailto:secretariat@ectp.org) for further information.*