

## PRESS RELEASE

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### 67<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting 31<sup>st</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018, Tallinn, Estonia



*67<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting group photo*

under the umbrella of the ECCE Initiative [“2018 European Year of Civil Engineers”](#).

The [67<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting](#) was held on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018, in Tallinn, Estonia at the Tallink Spa & Conference Hotel hosted by the Estonian Association of Civil Engineers (EEL). On 30<sup>th</sup> May, the ECCE Executive Board meeting was held. The 67<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting was organized in conjunction with the International Conference “Civil Engineering and Cultural Heritage” that was held

The 67<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting was very well attended with delegations from almost all of the ECCE Member organizations. The meeting was chaired by the ECCE Acting President Włodzimerz Szymczak. The opening speech was made by the President of the Estonian Association of Civil Engineers Mr. Margo Dengo who welcomed all the participants and introduced to them the structure and functions of the Estonian Association of Civil Engineers and presented the challenges that civil engineers in Estonia are facing.

Among the distinguished guests were EEL President Margo Dengo, EEL President Elect Kaspar Ots, ECCE Honorary President Yrjö Matikainen, WCCE Past President Emilio Colon, EAMC President Adil Al Hadithi, and EAMC Secretary General Nicola Monda.

During the 67<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting the Russian Society of Civil Engineers – Moscow Department re-established its membership in the European Council of Civil Engineers and the Russian delegation was warmly welcomed by the ECCE Members aspiring to joint work and fruitful cooperation from now on.

In the meeting, the [ECCE activity report October 2017 – May 2018](#) was presented by the ECCE Acting President Włodzimerz Szymczak together with ExBo members describing briefly the ECCE activities since our last meeting in October, in Vienna. The main activities of ECCE during this period of time were focused mainly on the organization of the [“2018 European Year of Civil Engineers”](#), the finalization of the Position Paper “Appropriate regulation for the practice of civil engineering in Europe”, the assessment of new proposals



*EEL President Margo Dengo at the opening of the 67<sup>th</sup> ECCE GM*

for Position Papers, ECCE's membership issues, ECCE's relationship with other European and World organizations, ECCE's participation in several initiatives from cooperating Associations as well as matters of internal organization and function. During this period, ECCE ExBo members and other ECCE representatives participated in various events organized by ECCE Members and other Associations with which ECCE cooperates.

The [2018 EYCE status report](#) on the progress of the [ECCE Initiative "2018 European Year of Civil Engineers"](#) was presented by the ECCE Acting President who briefly presented all the events that have already been organized under the umbrella of the 2018EYCE.

A presentation was delivered by Ingrid Farmer (UK delegate) on the progress of the organization of the [Global Engineering Congress](#) that will be held in London from 22 – 26 October 2018 celebrating the bicentennial of the ICE, the 50<sup>th</sup> WFEO Anniversary, the Triennial with the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, as well as the 68<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting which will also be the closing event of the 2018EYCE.

During the 67<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting the ECCE General Assembly ratified ECCE's subscription to the European Construction Forum (ECF) [Manifesto on Digitalization](#). ECCE is a member of ECF and Paul Coughlan (UK National Delegate) participated in the working group for the preparation of the Manifesto on Digitalization which will be circulated in the following weeks.

Furthermore, the ECCE General Assembly ratified ECCE's subscription to the [Madrid Declaration 2018 Water: the future we want](#). The Madrid Declaration has been jointly signed by the following organizations WFEO, WCCE, FEANI, ECCE, CICPC-CECPC, OdE Portugal, CICCPC, AICCPC, IIE Spain in order to meet the challenges of engineering for climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions, focusing on the field of water, one of the most sensitive sectors for sustainable development and the adaptation to it.

The ECCE General Assembly also ratified ECCE's participation in the [World Construction Forum 2019](#) as a co-organizer. The World Construction Forum 2019 "Buildings and Infrastructure Resilience" will be held from 8 – 11 April 2019, and will be accompanied with the Annual Meeting of the WFEO Executive Board. The Forum will be organized under the auspices of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) by the Slovenian Chamber of Engineers and the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering (UL FGG). The Forum is dedicated to the centennial of the organized integration of chartered engineers in Slovenia into chambers and to the centennial of the foundation of the University of Ljubljana and its Technical faculty, forerunner of UL FGG.

During the 67<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting, the progress on the preparation of the ECCE booklet "The history and the role of civil engineers through the centuries" was presented. This proposal was submitted by Platonas Stylianou (Cyprus National Delegate) to the ECCE Executive Board. A working group has been formed and is already working to complete the booklet until October when it will be presented during the Global Engineering Congress in London concluding the European Year of Civil Engineers. This booklet will be part of ECCE's contribution to the 2018 EYCE.

The ECCE Financial matters were also presented and discussed. ECCE Vice President / Treasurer Dimitar Natchev described the ECCE financial report until the end of May for the information of the members. He also presented the Year End Report for 2017 which was approved by the ECCE General Assembly.

Another interesting point during the meeting was the presentation about the [STEM & Gender Assessment \(SAGA\) Project](#), a global UNESCO project aimed at identifying and addressing gender gaps in STEM fields at all levels of education and research. This project proposal was presented by ExBo member and WCCE Executive Director Jose Francisco Saez Rubio. As civil engineers represent more than half of world population of all engineers worldwide, at national, regional and international level, UNESCO SAGA Team has offered WCCE's Standing Committee

on Women in Civil Engineering to contribute to such project by designing and carrying out this survey to collect accurate sex-disaggregated data on a specific objective of the STI GOL, the STI GOL 4.8 “Ensure gender equality in S&E professional certifications, in particular in engineering” in order to improve the measurement of the status of women and girls in engineering as an overall objective. All ECCE National Members have been requested to contribute to this project by completing an online survey which can be accessed at the link [here](#).

In addition, WCCE Executive Director Jose Francisco Saez Rubio presented the Jose Medem Civil Engineering Excellence Award which is a WCCE initiative. An open call for submission of candidacies can be found [here](#).

Finally, the ZDI representative Prof. Carsten Ahrens presented the [Foundation Prof. Joachim Lenz initiative](#) which offers an internship / practical placement for one or two students for one year in a German company.

## **International Conference “Civil Engineering and Cultural Heritage” 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018, Tallinn, Estonia**



*ECCE Acting President Włodzimierz Szymczak opening the Conference*

The International Conference “Civil Engineering and Cultural Heritage” was held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018, at the Tallink Spa & Conference Hotel, organized by the Estonian Association of Civil Engineers under the umbrella of the European Year of Civil Engineers and the European Year of Cultural Heritage. The Conference was very well attended by ECCE Members as well as by Estonian Engineers, students, professionals and academics. The Conference was moderated by Kaur Lass, MA, OÜ Head.

The Conference was opened by ECCE Acting President Włodzimierz Szymczak who presented the ECCE initiative to mark 2018 as the European Year of Civil Engineers. Włodzimierz Szymczak delivered the [presentation](#) that was prepared for this purpose and also the [proclamation](#) of the 2018 EYCE. EEL

President Margo Dengo addressed an opening speech as well.

The presentations that were delivered during the Conference are listed below:

- [History and experience of renovation of Cultural Heritages in Estonia: Restoration Works in Post-WWII Tallinn](#)  
(Kaarel Truu, MA, National Heritage Board)
- [Lessons learned. Renovation of Seaplane hangars](#)  
(Heiki Onton, PhD, Ramirent Baltic AS managing director)
- [Challenges for the structural engineer on renovation of ancient buildings](#)  
(Aris Chatzidakis, MSc Civil Engineer, ECCE Vice President)
- [History and experience of integrated renovation of Vilnius historic city centre](#)  
(Gediminas Rutkauskas, Dipl. Architect, ICOMOS international expert, Head of Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency)

- [Fire safety in historical wooden buildings](#)  
(Johanna Liblik, MSc, Tallinn University of Technology)
- [Contemporary architecture & heritage – case of Latvia](#)  
(Janis Dripe, Expert, Ministry of Culture of Latvia, Head of RISEBA School of Architecture)
- [Lessons learned. Rotermann City, Tallinn](#)  
(Martin Vaga, MSc, YIT Infra Eesti AS)
- [The possibility that technology offers: The potential of HeritageBIM](#)  
(Dr. James Miles BA (hons), MSc, PhD, MCIfA)



*Group photo at the House of Blackheads*

***The European Council of Civil Engineers would like to express its gratitude to the Estonian Association of Civil Engineers for the successful organization of 67<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting and the International Conference “Civil Engineering and Cultural Heritage” as well as for their exceptional hospitality.***