



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting number: 8 Date: 18 March 2022

(virtual meeting)

Attendance:

Kyriazis Pitilakis (KP), President
Atilla Ansal (AA), Vice President
Radu Vacareanu (RV), Vice President
Andreas Kappos (AK), Secretary General
Alain Pecker (AP) Secretary
Christoph Butenweg (CB) Treasurer
Mauro Dolce (MD)
Rita Bento (RB)
Katrin Beyer (KB)
Maria José Jiménez (MJ), ESC Representative

Apologies:

None

Due to the restrictions imposed because of the pandemic, the eighth meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCo) of the European Association for Earthquake Engineering for the 2018-2022 period, was held as a teleconference on Friday 18 March 2022 between 12:00 and 13:45 CET.

The Executive Committee meeting was chaired by the President and coordinated on MS Teams by the Secretary General.

Agenda:

1. President's welcome
2. Update on the 3ECEES (RV)
3. Eurocode 8 webinars update (RB)
4. EAAE statutes (AK)
5. New WG (Combined seismic and environmental upgrading of buildings)
6. Miscellaneous

7. Date of the next meeting

Item 0:

The agenda was approved without amendments.

Item 1:

The President welcomed the participants and referred to the relatively small number of contributions from the Seismology (ESC) side. The issue was further discussed under Item 2 and is reported therein.

Item 2:

RV on behalf of the Organising Committee of the 3rd ECEES (which he co-chairs with C. Ionescu from ESC) briefed the ExCo on the progress of the work related to the Conference. He stressed that the LOC is preparing for a hybrid format (physical+virtual), with a preference for a fully physical one if the situation regarding the pandemic allows it. He referred to the difficulties encountered (primarily arising from the pandemic), but also noted some encouraging developments like the large number of submissions to most of the special sessions.

A general discussion followed on several items related to the ECEES. An issue that was discussed in some length was the relatively small number of contributions (currently about 50) from the Seismology (ESC) side. MJ noted that there are different practices among the two communities, e.g. ESC does not have theme lectures in their conferences; she also suggested a meeting with the LOC and some of the ExCo members next week. AK reminded that theme lectures are specifically included in the guidelines for the joint ECEES. It was clear that there was a major concern regarding whether an in-person conference would be feasible and apparently some of the convenors of the ESC sessions were considering to cancel them if a hybrid conference was not held. There was even a reflection among the ExCo whether the joint conference should be continued. MJ noted that she see a lot more pros than cons on having joint EAEE-ESC conferences; AK made a similar statement.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the critical decision regarding the hybrid format will be made at a joint meeting of the LOC and the presidents and secretary generals of the two associations in mid-April, time that was deemed appropriate by the organisers too. Decisions regarding the future of the ECEES will be made at the joint meeting of the two executive committees to be held (as per usual practice) just before the conference.

Item 3:

RB made a detailed update on the EC8 webinars, the first of which (on Part 1-1) will take place at the end of the month (30/3/22). The webinars are fully booked (300 attendees, 86 of whom are EAEE members), which is a very encouraging development. Places have also been saved for the ExCo members; invitations and Zoom links will be sent in due course.

AK noted that it is now time to start organising the second webinar which should be the one on Part 5, as this is the second one that proceeded to the ENQ stage (KP and AP are the coordinators). RB noted that this will start immediately after the 30th of March.

Item 4:

AK presented a detailed proposal for amending the EAEE statutes (see Annex 1) to explicitly include Subscribing Individual members (currently only mentioned in the minutes of a past ExCo meeting). AA noted that currently such members are only from the UK (SECED) and indeed SECED seems to have second thoughts and may discontinue this scheme. This being a possible development, AK suggested that the amendment could be decided at a later time, taking into account whether there are still such members. So, a decision on this was deferred until then.

Item 5:

AK briefly presented a proposal for a new WG on 'Combined seismic and environmental upgrading of buildings', put forward by P. Negro, after discussing it with KP and others. After a brief discussion the proposal was approved (with some minor edits, see final text in Annex 2). CB and RV will send to P. Negro (with cc to AK and AP) names of additional suggested members from Germany and Romania.

Item 6:

There were no Miscellaneous raised under this item.

Item 7:

The time and format of the next meeting of the ExCo will be decided among the president, vice-presidents and secretary general, according to the needs arising ahead of the ECEES.

The meeting ended with the thanks of the President to all participating members.

Andreas Kappos
Secretary General

Annex 1

Proposal for amending the EAEE statutes

- 6.2. Individuals who are prohibited to become a member of associations, and those whose memberships were terminated permanently for reasons other than not paying their membership fees (as decided by the Executive Committee) shall not be members of the Association.

Membership Types

ART. 7: Association has five types of memberships.

- 7.1. INDIVIDUAL MEMBER: Individuals interested in the earthquake engineering activities in Europe, provided they possess the requisite scientific and technical knowledge may be admitted as members to the Association.

7.2. INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIBING MEMBER: Same as Individual members, but with no voting right at the National Assembly; lower membership fees apply for these members. To become a Subscribing Member one has to be also a member of a national association of Earthquake Engineering (see 7.4).

- 7.3. CORPORATE MEMBER: National and international foundations, companies, associations, societies, education and training institutions, government enterprises, governmental and professional organisations that are active in the field of earthquake engineering may become Corporate Members of the Association. Each Corporate Member shall designate a Delegate and a Deputy Delegate to represent them in the Association.

- The rights (and benefits) of EAEE members (like the subscription to the BEE, priority in registering for seminars, etc) are not clearly covered in the Statutes.
 - Voting rights are mentioned in other articles
 - Is this perhaps the time to include this type of information in our statutes?
- The alternative is to keep the text as it is (with the minor addition about Subscribing Individual Members) and leave the rights/benefits as part only of the ExCo minutes or indeed a separate document which will be easier to amend than the statutes.
- In such a case the provisions about Subscribing Individual Members could be:

"Subscribing Individual Members of EAEE have electronic subscription to the BEE and have their own username and password. If all members of a national association become Subscribing individual members, special membership fee will be 15.00€ per person and National Associations will not be required to pay any additional national membership fees. In order to apply for this reduced rate BEE subscription, at least half of the members of the national association with a minimum of 25 members from the national association agree to join as EAEE subscribing Individual Members".

Annex 2

Proposal for setting up an EAEE Working Group on:

Combined seismic and environmental upgrading of existing buildings

There is an increasing awareness of the importance of mitigating the effects of climate change. Buildings, and in general, the construction industry, represent the main energy consumer and a foremost contributor to greenhouse gas emission.

Europe, by means of its ambitious programmes aimed at reducing emissions and reaching carbon neutrality is currently dictating the agenda for this transformation. The analysis of the age distribution of the European housing stock shows that the challenge remains with the renovation of the existing buildings to reduce their energy consumption and to reach the goal by means of low carbon footprint technologies.

On the other hand, it is clear within the Earthquake Engineering that improving the energy performance of existing buildings without addressing the concurrent problem of the insufficient seismic safety would be a nonsense.

These concerns underline the urgent need to foster an integrated renovation of the European building stock in the perspective of a competitive, sustainable and resilient building sector, contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 – *Sustainable cities and communities* - of the 2030 Agenda action plan (UN 2015/A/Res/70/1). The challenge is tackling ageing buildings, which can shift from being contributors to issues related to unsustainable resource consumption, global warming, energy inefficiency, inadequate structural reliability and safety to becoming part of the solution, reversing into essential drivers of a sustainable built environment.

The European Earthquake Engineering is currently active in developing methods and techniques for the combined renovation of buildings.

This includes methods to identify the optimal solutions for the combined seismic and environmental rehabilitation, such as the SAFESUST approach which yields the global expected impact, expressed in monetary terms. Other methods and techniques are being developed within the European Pilot Project REEBUILD, “Integrated techniques for the seismic strengthening and energy efficiency of existing buildings”, being currently carried out by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission with the assistance of a large number of European experts.

Much impetus is also expected by the recent activation of the New European Bauhaus initiative, which is intended to “change how we treat nature, how we produce and consume, live and work, eat and heat, travel and transport”, and for which a Preparatory Action for the creation of a Knowledge Management Platform is to start.

Other important research activities are currently being conducted at national level, for instance in Italy by means of a specific work package activated by the national Department for Civil Protection.

The mission of the proposed Working Group would be to help in disseminating the technical content of those and other research activities, primarily by means of the production of independent state of the art journal papers.

The core of the proposing team has already been active in this respect, and commits itself to continue with a regular pace, by involving the necessary contributions.

Other activities of the proposed Working Group might encompass activating special sessions in the forthcoming conferences, organizing special issues in technical journals and in general putting forward the auspices of the EAEE on expected dissemination activities of the ongoing European research activities. These would be activated case by case, whereas the production of independent state of the art papers will remain the core business of the Working Group. Those will represent the expected milestones, and the progress will be checked every year.

Proposing Core Team

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