



Survey

on Architectural Policies in Europe



European Forum for Architectural Policies
Forum Européen des Politiques Architecturales



**EUROPEAN FORUM FOR
ARCHITECTURAL POLICIES
FORUM EUROPÉEN DES
POLITIQUES ARCHITECTURALES**

The European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP-FEPA) is an international network devoted to foster and promote architecture and architectural policies in Europe, bridging public governance, profession, culture and education. For more information on European Architectural Policies, visit www.efap-fepa.eu

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Credits

The survey was undertaken on behalf of the EFAP by João Ferreira Bento, PhD researcher at the Bartlett School of Planning – University College London.

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- Österreichisches Bundesministerium für Unterricht, Kunst und Kultur | *Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture* (Austria);
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Introduction

1

Council Directive 85/384/EEC of 10 June 1985 on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in architecture, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services.

The European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP-FEPA a.i.s.b.l.) is an international network devoted to foster and promote architecture and architectural policies in Europe, bridging public governance, profession, culture and education. Among several objectives, the EFAP aims to disseminate knowledge and best practice on architectural policies through meetings of experts, public events and publications.

The EFAP Survey on Architectural Policies in Europe reviews the impact of the *Council Resolution on Architecture Quality in Urban and Rural Environments* (2001/C 73/04) ten years after its adoption by surveying policies and initiatives implemented by the Member States of the European Union (EU). The EFAP Survey also reviews the impact of the *Council Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development* (2008/C 319/05) adopted in 2008. This will provide a panoramic view on architectural policies in order to advise European, national and local authorities.

The present publication describes the context, method and main findings of the EFAP Survey and makes a summary conclusion. All the correspondents' replies can be consulted in the Survey annexes available for download on the EFAP website: www.efap-fepa.eu.

Background

The first official document on architectural policy at a European level was the EU *Directive on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in architecture*, approved in 1985¹.

Inspired by the first article of the 1977 French Law on Architecture², the EU Directive states that *“architecture, the quality of buildings, the way in which they blend in with their surroundings, respect for the natural and urban environment and the collective and individual cultural heritage are matters of public concern”*.

In November 2000, under the French EU Presidency, the Ministers of Culture adopted the proposal of a *Resolution on Architectural Quality in Urban and Rural Environments*. The Resolution was formally adopted by the EU Council on 12th February 2001 (2001/C 73/04). The Resolution recognizes the importance of architecture to improve the quality of the day-to-day environment in the life of European citizens³.

In May 2007, the European ministers responsible for Urban Development approved the *Leipzig Charter of Sustainable European Cities*. Within the scope of an integrated urban development policy it mentions that the *“quality of public spaces, urban man-made landscapes and architecture play an important role in the living conditions of urban populations”*⁴.

In February 2008, the European Parliament approved a resolution on the follow-up of the Territorial Agenda and the *Leipzig Charter of Sustainable European Cities*, which calls on Member States to pay greater attention to the creation of a culture of a high quality built environment *“giving particular attention to the quality of the public space, notably in terms of architectural design quality, as a means of improving the well-being of European Union citizens”*⁵.

In December 2008, under the French EU Presidency, the European Council of the EU adopted a second resolution on architecture entitled *Council Conclusions on Architecture: Culture’s Contribution to Sustainable Development* (2008/C 319/05), which calls on the Member States to *“make allowance for architecture and its specific features, in particular its cultural aspects, in all relevant policies, especially in research, economic and social cohesion, sustainable development and education policies”*⁶.

2

French Law on Architecture
no.77-2 of 3rd January 1977.

3

Council Resolution on
Architectural Quality in the
Urban and Rural Environments
(2001/C 73/04).

4

Leipzig Charter of Sustainable
European Cities adopted by the
European ministers on 24 May
2007.

5

European Parliament Resolution
on the follow-up of the Territorial
Agenda and the Leipzig Charter.

6

Council Conclusions on
Architecture: Culture’s
Contribution to Sustainable
Development (2008/C 319/05).

7

EFAP, *A Chronological History*,
available on the EFAP website
www.efap-fepa.eu.

8

Council Resolution on
Architectural Quality in the
Urban and Rural Environments
(2001/C 73/04).

9

For more information:
www.efap-fepa.eu.

European Forum for Architectural Policies

The European Forum for Architectural Policies (EFAP) originated from an international meeting on architecture policies promoted by the Dutch EU Presidency in 1997, which gathered representatives from governmental agencies, cultural institutions and professional organizations to exchange views and experiences on architectural policies.

In 1999, under the Finnish EU Presidency, a second edition of this meeting produced a document of conclusions, which was presented to the EU Council of Ministries of Culture. These conclusions expressed the need to “*establish a European network for the diffusion of architectural culture, to raise awareness among decision-makers and the general public, and to encourage public participation*”⁷. This European network would evolve into a Forum, where the Member States would share experiences and advocate for the implementation of architectural policies.

In July 2000, under the French EU Presidency, the first EFAP conference was held in Paris leading to a draft *Resolution on Architectural Quality in Urban and Rural Environments*, which was discussed and amended during the conference sessions. In November 2000, the EU Ministers of Culture adopted this Resolution, which was later formally adopted as a Resolution of the Council of the European Union on February 12, 2001⁸.

In the following years, the EFAP conferences continued to be organized every six months by the Member State that held the EU Presidency. In 2006, an international non-profit association, based in Brussels - Belgium, was established to support the EFAP activities entitled *European Forum for Architectural Policies a.i.s.b.l.*

Currently, the EFAP association has more than 70 members from all over Europe, composed of governmental departments, professional bodies, cultural organizations and individual members⁹.

Resolution on Architectural Quality in Urban and Rural Environments

Although the 1985 *Directive on the mutual recognition of diplomas in architecture* recognized the public interest of architecture, its scope was restricted to the mutual recognition of qualifications on architecture between the Member States of the EU. Therefore, the *Council Resolution on Architectural Quality in Urban and Rural Environments* was the first comprehensive policy document on architecture with a global approach at the European level. Its adoption by the EU Council was the political recognition of the value of architecture for the quality of life of European citizens.

Key extract Council Resolution on Architectural Quality

Hereby affirms that

- a. architecture is a fundamental feature of the history, culture and fabric of life of each of our countries; that it represents an essential means of artistic expression in the daily life of citizens and that it constitutes the heritage of tomorrow;*
- b. architectural quality is a constituent part of both the rural and urban environment;*
- c. the cultural dimension and the quality of the physical treatment of space should be taken into account in Community regional and cohesion policies;*
- d. architecture is an intellectual, cultural, artistic and professional activity. Architectural service therefore is professional service which is both cultural and economic.*

Hereby expresses its attachment to

- a. the common characteristics shared by European towns and cities, such as the importance of historical continuity, the quality of public areas, the social mix and richness of urban diversity;*
- b. the fact that good quality architecture, by improving the living context and the relationship between citizens, and their environment, whether rural or urban, can contribute effectively towards social cohesion and job creation, the promotion of cultural tourism and regional economic development.*

Hereby encourages the Member States to

- a. intensify their efforts to improve the knowledge and promotion of architectural and urban design, and to make contracting authorities and the general public more aware of and better trained in appreciation of architectural, urban and landscape culture;*
- b. take into account the specific nature of architectural service in the decisions and measures which require it;*
- c. promote architectural quality by means of exemplary public building policies;*
- d. foster the exchange of information and experience in the field of architecture.*

Calls on the Commission to

- a. ensure that architectural quality and the specific nature of architectural service are taken into consideration in all its policies, measures and programmes;*
- b. seek, in consultation with the Member States and in accordance with the rules governing the Structural Funds, ways and means of ensuring in the application of those Funds a wider consideration of architectural quality and the conservation of cultural heritage;*
- c. in the context of existing programmes:*
 - foster measures to promote, disseminate and raise awareness of architectural and urban cultures with due respect for cultural diversity;*
 - facilitate cooperation and networking between institutions devoted to upgrading cultural heritage and architecture and support incipient European scale events;*
 - encourage, in particular, the training and mobility of students and professionals and thus promote the dissemination of good practice;*
- d. keep the Council informed of the implementation of such measures.*

Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development

The *Council Resolution on Architecture Quality* has broadened the European architectural agenda to include the importance of the cultural dimension of architecture, and has urged the EU Member States to intensify their efforts to improve the knowledge and promotion of architecture and to promote architectural quality by means of exemplary public building policies.

The 2001 Council Resolution failed, however, to embrace the emerging sustainable development agenda that would become one of the key concepts of the European urban policy in the subsequent years, portrayed by the *Leipzig Charter of Sustainable European Cities*. Therefore, in 2008, the EU Council adopted a second policy document on architecture with a reinforced object and aim: *Council Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development* (2008/C 319/05).

Key extract Council Conclusions on Architecture

4. POINTING OUT THAT:

- *architecture, as a discipline involving cultural creation and innovation, including a technological component, provides a remarkable illustration of what culture can contribute to sustainable development, in view of its impact on the cultural dimension of towns and cities, as well as on the economy, social cohesion and the environment,*
- *architecture is also an example of the cross-cutting nature of culture, being affected by a number of public policies and not just cultural policies.*

5. CONSIDERING THAT:

- *Europe's towns and cities today face major challenges: demographic change and its implications for urban sprawl, environmental issues and climate change mitigation, maintaining social cohesion, particularly against a background of economic and cultural change, and the protection and development of architectural and cultural heritage,*

- *the way to respond to those challenges is by means of sustainable urban development, a creative, integrated approach under which culture, economics, social affairs and the environment each play an equally important part,*
- *sustainable urban development means:*
 - *paying particular attention to architectural quality and diversity as aspects of cultural diversity, to heritage conservation and enhancement and to the individual identity of natural or urban landscapes,*
 - *contributing to the management of projects to use and convert land and buildings, in particular industrial wasteland, control energy resources in the context of climate change and reduce pollution,*
 - *reflecting, through innovative approaches to architecture and urban planning, developments in population lifestyles, particularly issues of mobility and demographic change, as well as objectives of social cohesion, social mix, intercultural dialogue and civic involvement,*
- *architecture can play an integrating and innovative role in implementing sustainable urban development, in particular by:*
 - *encouraging high-quality architectural creation as an economic stimulus and tourist attraction for towns and cities, reconciling the sometimes differing requirements of building and landscape conservation and contemporary creation or of inhabitants' legitimate aspirations and controlling urban sprawl,*
 - *contributing, by its diversity, quality and creativity, to the urban population's cultural enrichment and quality of life and to the economic, commercial and tourism-related vibrancy of towns and cities, in particular by serving as a breeding ground for small and medium-sized businesses,*
- *sustainable urban development, lastly, provides an opportunity for creation, innovation, renewal architectural styles and the reappropriation and reinterpretation of traditional practice.*

6. NOTING WITH INTEREST:

- *initiatives by many European towns and cities, in particular as European cultural capitals, to use culture and especially architecture as a major means of regeneration,*

- *the emergence of creative towns and cities, whose sustainable urban development is based on new competitive factors, including urban infrastructure quality and interaction between culture and industry.*

7. CALLS ON MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION, WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE SPHERES OF COMPETENCE AND WITH DUE REGARD FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY, TO:

- *make allowance for architecture and its specific features, in particular its cultural aspects, in all relevant policies, especially in research, economic and social cohesion, sustainable development and education policies,*
- *devise for architecture, apart from technical standards, an approach involving overall economic, social, cultural and environmental objectives,*
- *encourage innovation and experimentation in sustainable development in architecture, urban planning and landscaping, particularly within the framework of European policies or programmes and when commissioning public works,*
- *improve knowledge of the architectural sector and its contribution to sustainable development, particularly in terms of statistics,*
- *raise public awareness of the role of architecture and urban planning in the creation of a high-quality living environment and encourage public involvement in sustainable urban development,*
- *consider the feasibility, in cooperation with professionals and in the light of experience in a number of Member States, of an annual European architecture 'event',*
- *work together to ensure that these conclusions are acted upon and take stock of their implementation in 2012.*

8. CALLS ON MEMBER STATES TO:

- *endeavour to have architecture play an integrating and innovative role in the sustainable development process, beginning with the design stage of architectural, urban planning, landscaping and rehabilitation projects,*
- *help develop the economic growth and employment potential of architecture, as a creative, cultural industry,*
- *promote education in architecture and heritage, and in the living environment, in particular through artistic and cultural education,*

- *promote the initial and further training of architects, urban planners and landscapers as regards sustainable development,*
- *highlight architecture in implementing the European Year of Creativity and Innovation (2009),*
- *where appropriate, apply the open method of coordination for culture.*

9. *CALLS ON THE COMMISSION TO:*

- *take architecture into account in preparing its Green Paper on cultural and creative industries,*
- *involve networks of public and private-sector architectural experts and practitioners, such as the European Architectural Policy Forum, in work and consultations on issues and/or matters relating to architecture,*
- *in cooperation with those networks and the European network of schools of architecture, encourage:*
 - *the provision of information and sharing of good practice and research among architects, developers and users,*
 - *the training of young architects, urban planners and landscapers in sustainable development, promotion of their work and access for them to public or private Commissions.*



Survey

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The Report of the EFAP Survey conducted in 2005 is available for download on the EFAP website: www.efap-fepa.eu

Aims

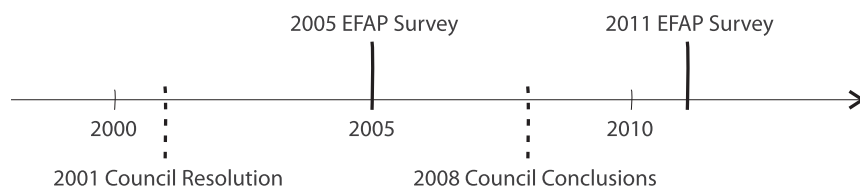
The Survey aims to measure the implementation progress of architectural policies by individual Member States in order to review the impact of the *Council Resolution on Architectural Quality in Urban and Rural Environments* (2001/C 73/04) ten years after its adoption.

The Survey also aims to review the impact of the *Council Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development* (2008/C 319/05) adopted in 2008.

Timeline

In 2005, the EFAP undertook a Survey to review the impact of the *Council Resolution on Architectural Quality in the Urban and Rural Environments* (2001/C 73/04). The Survey concluded that the Council Resolution has had a positive impact on the development of architectural policies by individual EU Member States since it was formally adopted in 2001¹⁰.

In 2011, six years after the first Survey, the EFAP repeated the Survey in order to measure the impact of the *Council Resolution on Architectural Quality in the Urban and Rural Environments* (2001/C 73/04) ten years after its adoption. The Survey also reviews the impact of the *Council Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development* (2008/C 319/05) 3 years after its adoption.

Diagram 1 Timeline: EFAP Surveys and *Council Resolution and Conclusions*

The current Survey was developed in 3 periods:

- 2nd Semester 2010, where the structure / content of the questions was prepared / discussed and the questionnaire was disseminated in December;
- 1st Semester 2011, where the answers were received by the EFAP secretariat and the preliminary results were presented at the Budapest EFAP conference in May;
- 2nd Semester 2011, where the Survey report was developed and a draft version was circulated to the members of the EFAP a.i.s.b.l. for comments and corrections in October.

Scope

The Survey covers 33 European countries: 27 Member States of the European Union, 4 official EU candidate countries (Croatia, Iceland, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) and 2 outside EU countries (Norway and Switzerland). In Belgium and in the United Kingdom, their regions have replied separately. As a result the Survey target group increased to a total of 37 administrative structures.

Map 1 Countries that participated in the Survey.



Methodology

A questionnaire was emailed to governmental departments responsible for architectural policy within each Member State of the EU¹¹. To optimize the reliability of the information collected, the questionnaire was only sent to governmental departments. This represented a challenge because in several countries architecture policy is a shared responsibility. Consequently, it would not be easy to identify the most appropriate correspondent in each of the countries. To overcome this difficulty, a first list of governmental departments and contacts was created by the EFAP secretariat. The contact list was later publicized in the EFAP newsletter where confirmation of the national governmental contacts was asked for.

The structure of the questionnaire and the content of the questions were built on the 2005 questionnaire so it could be possible to draw a comparison between the results of 2005 and 2011. However, two modifications to the original questionnaire were made:

- Firstly, the initial part of the 2005 questionnaire was simplified where questions about contacts of other bodies (non-governmental) with a scope in architectural policy were removed. The initial part of the 2005 questionnaire was devoted to assembling all the public and other private institutions responsible for architecture policy within the Member States. However, for the present Survey it was decided to simplify this first part of the questionnaire and only collect information about governmental departments responsible for architecture policies;
- Secondly, a new group of questions was added at the end of the 2011 questionnaire about initiatives and actions in support of the *Council Conclusions on Architecture: Culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development* (2008/C 319/05).

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In 2005, the questionnaire was disseminated to all relevant bodies, including governmental institutions, cultural bodies, professional chambers and associations.

Limitations

The methodology chosen for the Survey has some limitations. First, the complex administrative structures present in all the Member States makes it difficult to perceive if the questionnaire was sent to the most appropriate correspondent. Second, in half of the administrations, architecture policy is a responsibility shared by two or more departments. To have more complete and accurate information it would have been more adequate to have more than one correspondent per Member State. Third, a questionnaire with open questions may not be the best method to collect this type of information. With such a wide spectrum of administrations, the lack of knowledge about the activities carried out by distinct departments does not facilitate the collection of information, resulting in several empty replies by the correspondents. However, due to budget limitations it would have been impractical to travel to each of the Member States to collect the information in person.

Further research

In future work, it would be advised to carry out interviews with main actors and stakeholders in each of the Member States to obtain information that is not easily collected by questionnaire, for example: clarify the impact of the Council resolutions on the implementation of national policies; identify the most relevant instruments in the different domestic contexts.

Additionally, to have closer examination of the European architecture policies it would be recommendable to develop a content analysis of all the documentation received, followed by a comparative analysis of the main differences, similarities and innovations.



Findings

	Yes	No
Austria		•
BE Wallonie-Brussels	•	
BE Flanders		•
Bulgaria		•
Cyprus		•
Czech Republic		•
Denmark	•	
Estonia	•	
Finland	•	
France	•	
Germany	•	
Greece		•
Hungary	•	
Ireland	•	
Italy	•	
Latvia		•
Lithuania	•	
Luxembourg		•
Malta		•
Netherlands	•	
Poland		•
Portugal		•
Romania		•
Slovakia		•
Slovenia		•
Spain	•	
Sweden	•	
UK England	•	
UK Scotland	•	
UK Northern Ireland	•	
UK Wales		•
Croatia		•
Iceland		•
FYROM		•
Turkey		•
Norway	•	
Switzerland		•

Table 1 Does a specific department exist in charge of architectural policy?

Following the same structure of the questionnaire, the findings are organized in three sections: (1) departments responsible for architectural policies; (2) official documents on architectural policy; (3) initiatives / actions.

Departments responsible for architectural policy

In the 37 administrative structures surveyed, 16 administrations have a specific department responsibility for architectural policy. In the other 21 administrations, architectural policy is a shared responsibility between two or more departments (Table 1).

In the cases where architectural policy is under the responsibility of a specific department it is possible to observe that the scope and configuration of the departments is diverse and in most cases the departments have other assignments than solely architectural policy. Nevertheless, it is possible to verify that the responsibility for architectural policy is usually under the scope of cultural / arts departments or urban development / town planning departments (Table 2).

With the exception of Spain and France, it is worth mentioning that most of the specific departments only started to have full responsibility for architecture policy in the last ten / twenty years and some of the departments were only recently formed: Belgium / Wallonia – Brussels - created the Architecture Cell in 2007; Estonia - created the position of Adviser for Architecture in 2007; Hungary - created the National Chief Architect's Office in 2010.

Table 2 Name of specific department in charge of architectural policy.

Country / Region	Name
Belgium / Wallonie-Brussels	Architectural Cell
Denmark	Art and Education
Estonia	Department of Arts
Finland	Department for Cultural, Sport and Youth Policy
France	General Direction of Heritage
Germany	Unit Baukultur, Protection of the Architectural Urban Heritage
Hungary	National Chief Architect's Office
Ireland	The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Italy	Landscape, Fine Arts, Contemporary Architecture and Art
Lithuania	Territorial Planning, Urban Development and Architecture
Spain	General Direction for Architecture and Housing
Sweden	Division for Cultural Heritage
United Kingdom / England	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
United Kingdom / Scotland	Architecture and Place Division
United Kingdom / Northern Ireland	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
Norway	Departments for the Arts

Looking at the location of the specific departments inside the different administrative structures the majority of the departments are within the scope of the Ministries of Culture / Arts. Nonetheless, in Germany and Lithuania the competent bodies operate within the scope of the Ministries of the Environment / Urban Development; in Hungary architecture falls within the sphere of activity of the Ministry of Interior (Table 3).

In the administrations where architectural policy is a shared responsibility between two or more departments, in most cases the policy responsibility is divided between the Ministry of Culture / Arts and the Ministry of the Environment / Urban Development. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Turkey, the responsibility is shared between the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of the Environment / Urban Development. In Luxembourg, the responsibility is divided by three Ministries: Culture / Arts, Environment / Urban Development and Interior.

It is important to refer that in the countries with a federal system, the national government does not have exclusive competences on architecture policy where the main responsibility for the policy falls within the sphere of the federal provinces (Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Belgium).

In summary, in most of the administrations the responsibility for architectural policy is clearly defined. However, in some administrations architecture is still not recognized as a public policy per se and the departments are not so easy to identify.

The wide diversity in the nature and the configuration of the administrative structures results from the Member States still differing in many aspects: historical development, political and legal systems, cultural and social backgrounds.

Table 3 Ministry responsible for architectural policy.

	Austria	BE Wallonie-Brussels	BE Flanders	Bulgaria	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	UK England	UK Scotland	UK Northern Ireland	UK Wales	Croatia	Iceland	FYROM	Turkey	Norway	Switzerland
Culture (a)	•		•			•	•	•	•	•				•	•			•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•							•	
Environment (b)						•					•						•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•						•			•	•		
Public Works (c)					•																•					•								•	•		
Interior					•								•																								
Other	•	•	•														•	•													•						
No information				o								o				o							o							o	o						o

(a) Also designated as Ministry of Culture, Education and/or Arts.

(b) Also designated as Ministry of Environment and Urban Development and / or Regional Development.

(c) Also designated as Ministry of Infrastructures and/or Building / Housing.

NOTE: The present table is a generalization. In some cases it does not correspond exactly to the name of the Ministry. Please see the monograph chapters.

Official documents on architectural policy

Half of the 37 administrative structures surveyed have adopted an official document outlining government policy on architecture. In the other half, 14 administrations are planning to develop a document and 5 administrations mentioned that they are not planning to develop one (Table 4).

Table 4

Do you have any official publication outlining government policy on architecture?
If you do not have an official publication, are you planning to develop one?

	Have a document	Planning to have	Not planning to have
EU Member States	BE Flanders	Austria	Bulgaria
	Cyprus	BE Wallonie-Brussels	Greece
	Denmark	Czech Republic	Slovenia
	Estonia	Germany	
	Finland	Hungary	
	France	Italy	
	Ireland	Malta	
	Latvia	Poland	
	Lithuania	Portugal	
	Luxembourg	Romania	
	Netherlands	Slovakia	
	Sweden	Spain	
	UK England		
	UK Northern Ireland		
	UK Scotland		
	UK Wales		
Outside EU EU Candidates	Iceland	Croatia	FYROM
	Norway	Turkey	Switzerland

If we look at the geographic distribution of the administrations that have a policy document, in particular the ones that are developing their first documents, it is possible to observe that in the following years almost all the European Union will be covered with architectural policy documents (Map 2).

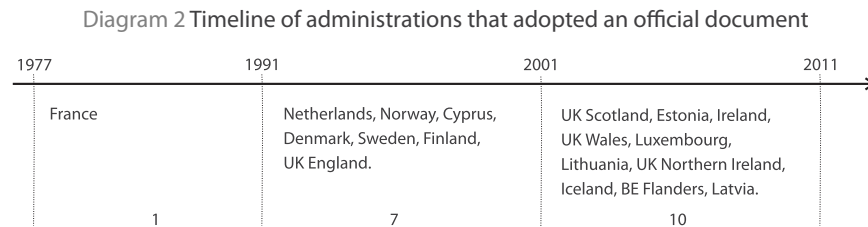
Map 2 Official documents on architectural policy



Administrations that have a policy document

Currently, in the European Union there are 16 administrations that have adopted an official document on architectural policy at the national level. Additionally, one EU candidate country (Iceland) and one outside EU country - Norway - has also adopted an official document.

In terms of progress, in the last ten / twenty years there has been a remarkable growth in the number of administrations that have adopted official documents on architecture policy. This number has been increasing since the nineties and is expected to continue to grow in the following years. (Diagram 2).

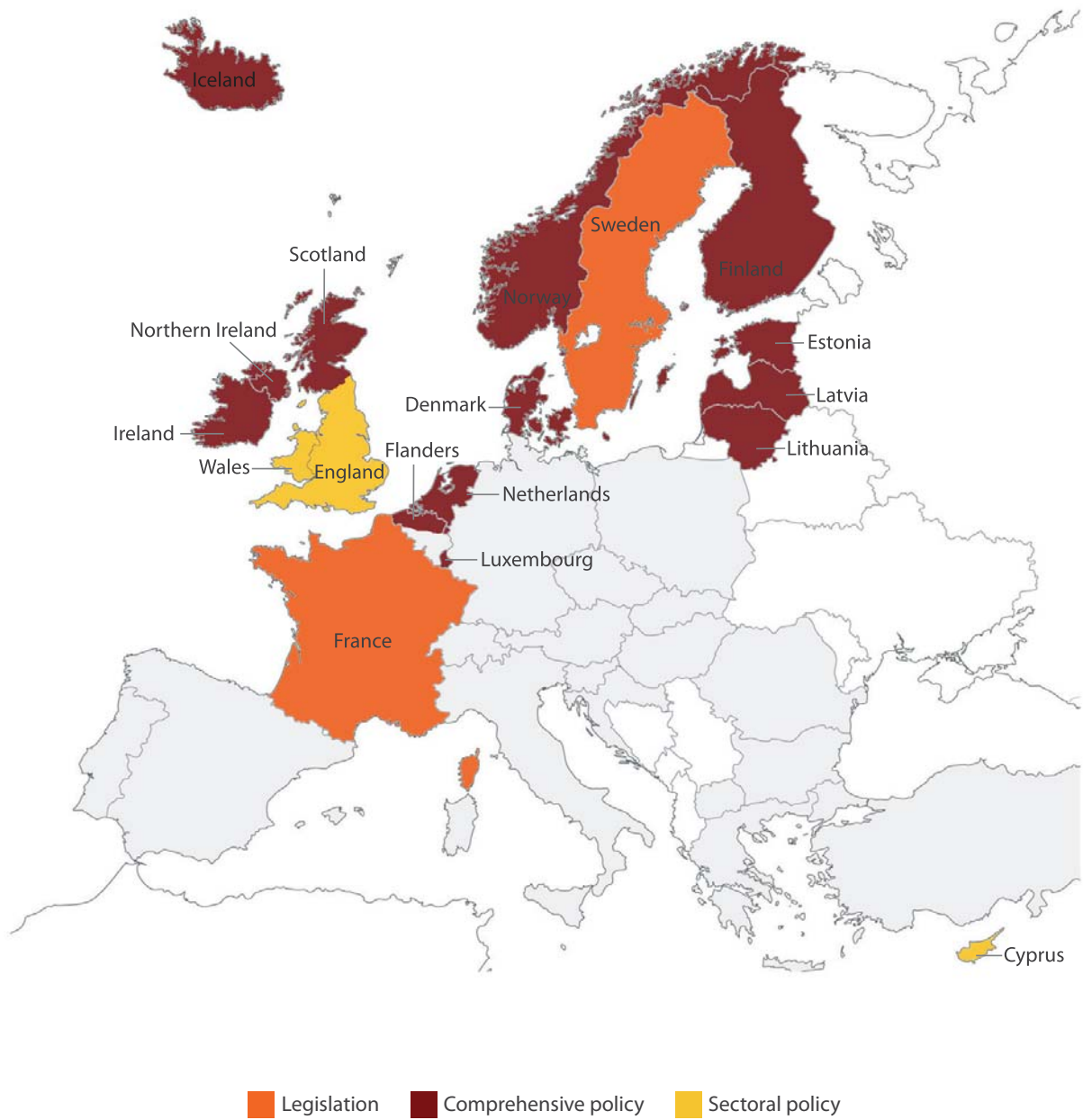


However, after analyzing the documentation received it is possible to verify that not all administrations have adopted the same type of documents. The policy documents may be classified in three types:

- a. Legislation (France and Sweden);
- b. Comprehensive policy (Belgium / Flanders; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; Ireland; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Netherlands; UK / Scotland; UK / Northern Ireland; Iceland; Norway);
- c. Sectoral policy (Cyprus, UK / England and UK / Wales).

If we look at the geographic distribution of the different types of documents, it is possible to observe that the comprehensive policy document (type 2) is mostly a northern European phenomenon (Map 3).

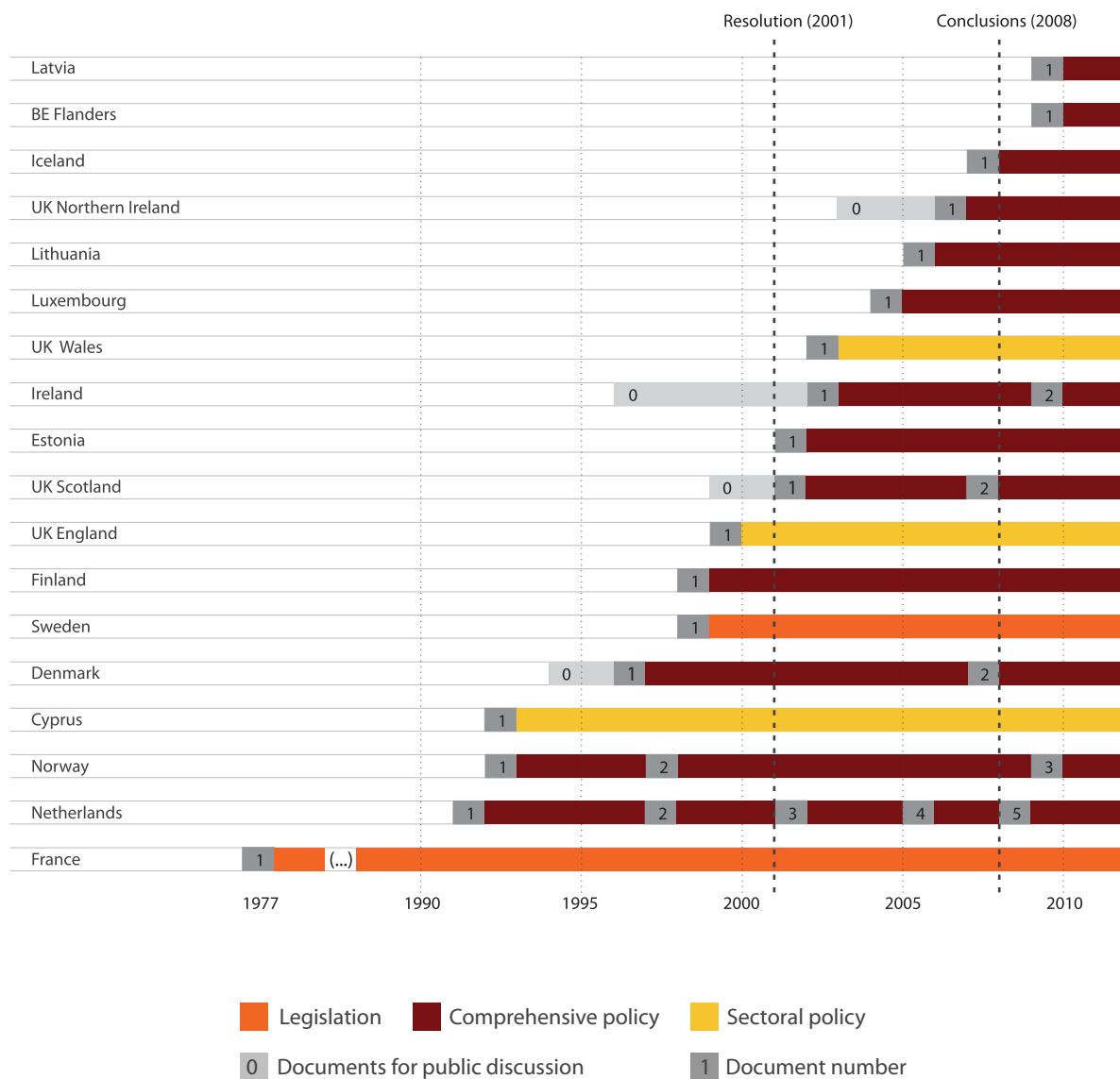
Map 3 Types of official documents on architectural policy



In a chronological perspective, some findings can be outlined:

- France was the first country to adopt an official document on architecture in 1977 in form of legislation; only 14 years later, The Netherlands adopted an official document in architecture policy but in form of a comprehensive policy;
- the most common type of official document is the comprehensive policy already adopted by 13 administrations. The other two types, legislation or sectoral policy, were only adopted by 5 administrations;
- 5 administrations have reviewed their architectural policies: The Netherlands have reviewed their architectural policies every 5 years; Denmark, Ireland, UK Scotland and Norway have reviewed their policy documents but with different time schedules;
- 13 administrations are still in the first generation of their official document on architectural policy;
- at least 4 administrations have submitted their policy documents to public discussion before their official approval;
- before the adoption of the *Council Resolution on Architectural Quality* in 2001, only 8 administrations had adopted an official document on architecture policy; after the *Council Resolution* another 10 administrations have adopted an official document;
- after the adoption of the *Council Conclusions on Architecture* in 2008, 2 administrations have adopted an official document on architectural policy (BE Flanders and Latvia) and 3 administration have reviewed their policy documents (Ireland, Norway and The Netherlands) (Table 5).

Table 5 Chronological development of architectural policy documents



Legislation

In the European panorama only two countries have adopted an official publication outlining the Government policy on architecture in form of legislation: France, with the parliament approval of the Law on Architecture in 1977, followed by the 1985 MOP Act; and Sweden, with parliament approval of the Bill on Architecture in 1998, entitled *Forms for the Future – An Action Programme for Architecture and Design*.

French Law on Architecture (1977)

The first article of the 1977 Law proclaims architecture as an expression of culture and a matter of public interest: *“Architecture is an expression of culture. Architectural design, the quality of buildings, their harmonious insertion into the surroundings, the respect for heritage and the natural and urban landscape are of public interest.”*¹².

The publication of the Law on Architecture was a very important milestone for the French architects. Besides proclaiming the public interest of architecture, it established a new intervention framework, mode of exercise and organization of the profession. Although the title of the architect was already protected by the creation of the Order of Architects in 1940¹³, the intervention of the architect was not mandatory and the recourse to architectural services by clients and promoters was very limited. Therefore, the new Law made it obligatory for the architectural project to be signed by an architect for all building permits, with the exception of minor works and small buildings (with less than 170 square meters)¹⁴. For the rest of the mission the promoter is not obliged to hire an architect. However, if an architect does not oversee the rest of the mission, the promoter must ensure that the execution of the project and the construction work respect the architectural project drawn by the architect.

12

First article of the French Law on architecture no. 77-2 of 3rd January 1977.

13

BRANDÃO, Pedro; *Ética e Profissões, no Design Urbano. Convicção, Responsabilidade e Interdisciplinaridade. Traços da Identidade Profissional no Desenho da Cidade*; PhD Thesis, Barcelona, 2002.

14

The architectural project mentioned is composed of written plans and documents that define the sitting of the buildings, their composition, their organization and the expression of their volume, as well as the choice of materials and colours (Article 3, French Law on architecture no. 77-2 of 3rd January 1977).

15

Article 19 of the Architecture Law; published in a specific decree in 1980.

16



17

Act no.85-703 of 12 July 1985.

18

For more information:
www.citechailot.fr/

Furthermore, the 1977 Law defines the different modes of exercise of the profession, where only registered architects can use the Title. The new legislation also obliges the registration of architectural societies to be able to exercise the acts of the profession, forbidding all other companies to present architectural projects to the Municipalities. Additionally, the Law defines the organizational structure of the architect's profession. The Order of Architects is instituted as a professional body of private Law but with public duties, being responsible for the registration and the protection of the Title. Moreover, the Law established a Code of professional conduct¹⁵ and a chamber of discipline.

Finally, the 1977 Law established the *Conseils d'Architecture, d'Urbanisme et Environment* (CAUE) in English, the *Councils of Architecture, Urban Planning and the Environment*. The CAUE are non-profit associations whose primary role is to provide free advice to private and public contractors and are charged with the promotion of architectural education amongst the general public. Currently, 91 CAUE exist spread all over France (See Initiative B5 Local Advisor Bodies).

The 1977 Law led to the creation of the government architectural agency, the *Inter-Ministry Mission for Quality in Public Construction* (MIQCP). The MIQCP is responsible for raising the general standard of all public architecture through the education and training of those who commissioned buildings¹⁶. The MIQCP was one of the main promoters of the French public building procurement Law known as the MOP Act¹⁷.

Another output of the 1977 legislation was the establishment of the *French Institute of Architecture* (IFA) in 1980. IFA is responsible for the dissemination of architectural knowledge to the wider public and pursues five goals: *improving knowledge of architecture; promoting interaction between the players in the field of construction; promoting architectural debate and criticism; protecting and enhancing the documentary patrimony; integrating architecture in the French cultural environment*. In 2004, IFA was merged with two other entities creating a new enlarged architectural centre, the *Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine*¹⁸.

French MOP Act (1985)

Published in 1985, the MOP Act establishes the relations between the public clients and private project consultants (the acronym MOP comes from the French expression "*Maitrise d'Ouvrage Public*"). The title I of the MOP Act states that the public client is the foremost guarantor of a work's quality:

"It bears the primary responsibility for the work, and in this role it performs a duty in the general interest which it may not lay aside." The public client is thus responsible for the overall organisation of the operation: *"It is up to the client (...) to decide on the site, to establish the programme, to determine the estimated maximum allowable cost, to procure the necessary financing, to choose the process governing construction of the work, and to sign design and construction contracts with the project managers and building firms which it selects."*¹⁹.

However, the public client may seek assistance in fulfilling its role and entrust an agent with the management process.

Besides defining the public client responsibilities, the MOP Law established the mission extent of the project consultants, which includes all preliminary studies, different design phases, site supervision and technical assistance during construction works. Therefore, the MOP law of 1985 marked the architectural public procurement in France, where all architectural missions attributed by public bodies had to be complete assignments. The MOP law applied to all contracts signed with public clients for carrying out new buildings, rehabilitation or reuse works. In the report *The Attribution of Public contracts to Project Consults in Europe*²⁰, Véronique Biau summarizes the 1985 legislative framework as: *"The MOP Law imposed the definition of the client and the missions' incumbent on it (...) on the crucial role of the programme in specifying all the needs, objectives, constraints and requirements linked to the operation from the point of view of the contract awarding body. In parallel, (...) established the principle of a basic assignment covering the sketch through the handover of the works, and forming part of a single contract for buildings works."*

19

Act no.85-703 of 12 July 1985.

20

MIQCP, *The attribution of Public contracts in Europe*, 2002, Paris, France.

21



Swedish Bill on Architecture - Forms for the Future (1998)

In 1998, the Swedish parliament approved a Bill on architecture, entitled *Forms for the Future - An action plan for Architecture and Design*²¹. The Act puts forward a number of objectives to improve the quality of architecture and introduces aesthetic clauses in the planning and building act, Roads and Highways Act and the Railway Construction Act.

One of the instruments predicted in the Swedish Act is that all state agencies involved with construction and maintenance of buildings have to develop and report their own measures to improve quality of the built environment in their respective fields of responsibility.

Comprehensive policy

As mentioned previously, the comprehensive policy is the most common type of official document on architecture at the European level. The comprehensive policy document can be described as an official statement with a global approach on architecture where the government defines the main goals and objectives to safeguard and promote cultural and architectural quality in building, urban design and culture heritage, for subsequent implementation by the public authorities.

Usually, the development of this type of document is initiated with the creation of an inter-ministerial working group to define the main goals, contents and extent of the policy. In some cases the document is submitted to a period of public discussion before its conclusion. Afterwards, the policy is approved by parliament or at the ministerial level and finally published as an official document.

Although each policy has its one specific characteristic, the comprehensive policy documents usually include: aims and principles to improving architectural quality; reasons for having a governmental architecture policy; objectives and instruments in the different sectoral areas; actors involved in the implementation process; and in some cases, a policy budget.

The first comprehensive architectural policy document was developed by the Netherlands in 1991, entitled *Space for Architecture*. Covering 1991-1996, the policy was the result of a joint venture of the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and the Ministry of Welfare, Health and cultural Affairs. The document embodied a number of measures to promote good architecture and focused on the role of the government as a contracting party in improving the architectural climate²².

The 1991 architectural policy document led to the establishment of several cultural institutions in the following years: the Netherlands Architecture Institute, the Berlage Institute, the Netherlands Architecture Fund, the Foundation Architectuur Lokaal and the Euopan. Since then, every 5 years, the Dutch Parliament approves a new version of the policy, the latest dated from 2008, entitled *A Culture of Design*²³. Following the Dutch example several European countries started to develop national policies directly addressed to architecture (Table 6).

Table 6 Comprehensive architectural policy documents

Year	Country / Region	Name
1991	Netherlands	Space for Architecture
1992	Norway	Surroundings as Culture: Action Programme for Aesthetics in Public Environment
1996	Denmark	Architecture 1996
1997	Netherlands	The Architecture of Space
1997	Norway	Aesthetics in Government Building and Constructions
1998	Finland	The Finish Architectural Policy
2001	Netherlands	Shaping the Netherlands
2001	UK / Scotland	A Policy on Architecture for Scotland
2002	Estonia	The Architectural Policy of Estonia
2002	Ireland	Action on Architecture: 2002 - 2005
2004	Luxemburg	Pour une Politique architecturale
2005	Lithuania	Architectural Policy Trends in the Republic of Lithuania
2005	Netherlands	Architecture and Belvedere Policy
2006	UK / Northern Ireland	Architecture and the Built Environment for Northern Ireland
2007	Denmark	Nation of Architecture
2007	Iceland	Icelandic Government Policy on Architecture
2007	UK / Scotland	Building our Legacy. Statement on Scotland's Architecture Policy
2008	Netherlands	Culture of Design
2009	Belgium / Flanders	Architecture Notes
2009	Ireland	Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015: Towards a Sustainable Future: Delivering Quality within the Built Environment
2009	Latvia	Architecture Policy Guidelines 2009 – 2015
2009	Norway	Architecture.now

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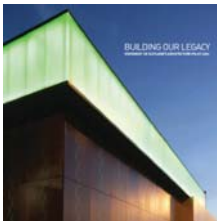
A reference document is the *Finish Architectural Policy* published in 1998, that enhances the importance of education in the creation of cultural values of the Finnish society²⁴. In 1999, the document was published in Finnish, Swedish, English, French and German. This document inspired the creation of the architectural policy of Luxembourg published in 2004.

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Scotland's first national architecture policy *A Policy on Architecture for Scotland* was published in 2001, setting out 40 government commitments intended to help raise awareness of the value of good building design; to promote recognition of the importance of architecture to the cultural life of Scotland; and to seek improvements in the quality of Scotland's buildings and built environments²⁵. The definition of the Scottish policy began two years before with the publication of the 1999 framework document, *The Development of a Policy on Architecture for Scotland*, and the subsequent public consultation and report on the consultation were the first steps in the process to develop Scotland's first national architectural policy. In 2005, the Scottish Government published a progress report describing the progress achieved on the different commitments since 2001 providing a review of priorities and objectives, which lead to a new policy document published in 2007, entitled *Building our Legacy: Statement on Scotland's Architecture Policy 2007*²⁶.

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In Ireland, the definition of the architectural policy document began in September 1996, with the publication of a document for public discussion entitled *Towards a Government Policy on Architecture: A Proposed Framework and Discussion of Issues*. The four month consultation process was concluded at the end of January 1997. In May 1997, the Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht submitted to Government for adoption, a Policy Statement on Architecture. Following adoption of the Policy Statement a working group was established to advise the Minister on development of specific policy proposals and actions. Three task groups were subsequently established in 1998. The report of the Working Group on Advancing the Government's Policy

Statement on Architecture was submitted in 2000. Finally, Ireland's first policy on architecture was published in 2002, entitled *Action on Architecture 2002-2005* ²⁷.

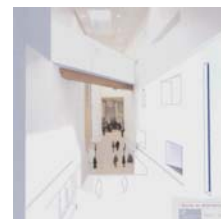
This policy was reviewed in 2007 and work commenced on developing a revised Government Policy on Architecture. The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government established a Steering Committee and three Focus Groups. A series of public consultation meetings were held throughout the country before work commenced on drafting the new policy. A website (www.conversationsaboutarchitecture.ie) was created as part of the public consultation process. The new policy was adopted by Government in June 2009 and launched in October 2009, entitled *Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 Towards a sustainable future: Delivering quality within the built environment* ²⁸.

Following this trend, the Danish parliament approved a new architecture policy in 2007, entitled *A Nation of Architecture* ²⁹. The architectural policy's overall goal is to ensure the development of high quality architecture and by so doing create quality of life and economic growth in Denmark. A section from the policy's foreword states "*It is the government's goal that the architectural policy will advance the development of Denmark's competitive advantage within architecture and that the policy will increase awareness and stimulate debate concerning the significance, conditions and possibilities of architecture in Denmark.*"

In the new Member States of the European Union, three countries have already developed national architectural policies: Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. In the four candidate countries surveyed, Iceland has also recently adopted their first architecture policy document.

Outside the EU countries, Norway has just published a new architectural policy in 2009, entitled *Architecture.now. Norwegian Architectural Policy* ³⁰.

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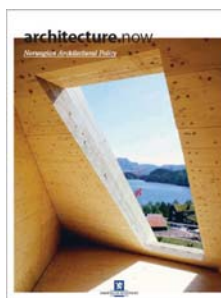
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For more information:
www.betterpublicbuilding.org.uk

Sectoral policy

The third type of official document consists of sectoral documents outlining governmental policies on architecture. Although other administrations may also have official documents with a sectoral dimension, for the present Survey only three administrations have made reference to them: Cyprus, UK / England and UK / Wales.

In Cyprus, architectural policies are included in all statutory spatial development plans that are prepared under the Town and Country Planning Law, which include Local Plans, Area Schemes and the Policy Statement for the Countryside. All of these instruments contain policies on architectural quality and include an Annex with *Principles and Guidelines for the Aesthetic Improvement and Upgrading of the Quality of the Built Environment* for the area which they cover. Although these guidelines have been much elaborated and expanded within the last decade, most architectural quality policies were introduced in the early 1990's. There is also an independent national policy on architectural competitions for public buildings

In England, there are a huge amount of official policies and guidelines on architecture in different sectors of the State. One of the most relevant policy documents is the publication *Better Public Buildings: A proud legacy for the future*³¹. Adopted in 2000, the main objective of the *Better Public Buildings* initiative is to promote innovative design and high quality public buildings, in order to achieve a step change in the quality of building design in the public sector. The policy included an annual state prize for new buildings commissioned by or on behalf of central or local government or by a grant aided organization³².

It is important to refer to the numerous publications developed by the *Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment* (CABE), a national body devoted to architectural promotion established in 1999 (See Advisor bodies in the Initiatives / actions section)³³.



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Recently, England adopted a strategy to improve the quality of the built environment, entitled, *World class places: The Government's strategy for improving quality of place*.

In Wales, the government has introduced architectural and design concerns in the national planning policy with the publication of the *Technical Advice Note 12: Design* in 2002, with the objective to give governmental advice on how the 'promotion of sustainability through good design' may be facilitated through the planning system³⁴.

Administrations planning to develop a policy document

In the group of administrative structures that do not have an official policy document on architecture, 14 administrations have mentioned that they are planning to develop one in the near future.

However, this does not mean that it will be a consensual and/or fast process. As with all public policies, filled governmental agenda, different perspectives of what the policy objectives should be, electoral cycles or effects of the financial crisis may delay the beginning of the policy process and the adoption of new policy issues.

Analysing the state of affairs of the administrations that mentioned they are planning to develop an official document on architecture it is possible to identify five types of policy development:

- a. Official policy proposals;
- b. Working groups with a formal scope;
- c. Reports on building culture (Baukultur);
- d. Architectural policy white books;
- e. Policy proposals developed by professional organizations.

Official policy proposals

In the group of administrative structures that are planning to develop an official document, two administrations have already set up an official policy proposal and are in the final phase of approval / adoption of the document: Italy and Hungary.

Italian Bill on Architectural Quality

Following a legislative approach, the Italian Council of Ministers approved a Bill on Architectural Quality (*Legge-Quadro Sulla Qualità Architettonica*) in 2008. Currently, the Bill is being considered at the Seventh Standing Committee (Public education, cultural heritage) of the Senate.

The Italian Bill on Architecture establishes instruments for the promotion of architecture quality, such as competitions, prizes to young professionals who participate in these competitions, the obligation of government to allocate 2% of spending on new buildings - an amount in excess of one million euros - the inclusion of works of art, and a three-year plan for the architectural quality of public buildings.

Hungarian National Policy Proposal

In 2008, the Hungarian Chief Architect presented a draft architectural policy proposal for Hungary in a conference of the National Council of Architecture³⁵, entitled, "*Hungarian Architectural Policy. Living in a good environment should not be a matter of sheer luck*".

After integrating the comments received, a second version of the policy document was published for public consultation in 2010. The policy proposal was distributed to a large number of architects and planners asking for contributions and was finally presented in the EFAP meeting held in Budapest, during the Hungarian Presidency of the European Union, in May 2011. Currently, the policy is being finalized by the National Chief Architect's Office.

The Hungarian National Council of Architecture was created in 2007, chaired by the Chief Architect and composed by delegates of 4 architectural NGO's, Chamber of Hungarian Architect's and the State Secretary for Spatial Planning and Construction.

Working groups with a formal scope

Two administrations have set up a governmental working group to develop and define the principles and objectives of a national architectural policy document: Portugal and Croatia. These working groups were created by a formal decision or statement establishing the aims and reference terms. Coordinated by a state department the working groups are composed of representatives of other Ministries, professional organizations, NGO's, national experts, etc.

Portugal

Portugal's first *National Spatial Development Policy Programme*, approved through an act of Law by the Parliament in 2007, states that the government shall prepare and adopt a *National Policy for Architecture and the Landscape* before 2013.

In July 2009, a working group was created by a formal decision of the Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development, confirmed and enlarged by the Secretary of State for Spatial Planning and the Cities in February 2010. Chaired by the Directorate General for Spatial Planning and Urban Development, the working group is charged with the preparation of the bases for the development of such a policy. However, since March 2011 the meetings of the working group have stopped.

Croatia

In November 2010, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction and the Spatial Planning Council of the Republic of Croatia issued an official document committing the public authorities to develop and adopt an architectural policy for Croatia, entitled, *Statement of the necessity of creating Architectural Policy*. The Statement was based on the material produced by the Croatian Chamber of Architects and the Association of Croatian Architects, at the 3rd Congress of Croatian Architects in October 2010.

The Statement was signed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction; the Spatial Planning Council of the Republic of Croatia; the Croatian Chamber of Architects and the Association of Croatian Architects. In June 2011, a working group was created by a formal decision of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction to develop a national architectural policy for Croatia.

Reports on building culture (Baukultur)

In the group of administrations that mention they are planning to develop an official document on architectural policy, there are two countries that have a special approach which differ them from all the rest of the group: Austria and Germany.

Due to their administrative structure – federal system – Austria and Germany do not have full responsibility for architectural policy because architecture is considered to be also a competence of the federal provinces. However, since 2000, both countries have been very active in promoting discussions, debates and publications on architecture and building culture under the concept of Baukultur.

The German expression *Baukultur* is a broad concept that can be translated into English as *Building Culture*, which includes all aspects of the built environment, such as the spatial, infrastructure, social and economic context of towns, cities and cultural landscapes.

Therefore, the concept integrates architecture, civil engineering, urban and regional planning, heritage conservation interests, landscape architecture, interior design and art for public buildings³⁶.

GERMANY, *Status Report on Building Culture in Germany. Initial Situation and Recommendations*; German Ministry for Transport, Building and Housing, Berlin, 2001.

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For more information:
www.architektur-baukultur.de

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For more information: www.bundesstiftung-baukultur.de/

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For more information:
www.architekturpolitik.at

Germany

In 2000, the German Federal Building Ministry launched *The Architecture and Baukultur Initiative* to stimulate and focus public discussion of the quality of planning and building in Germany³⁷. The initiative promoted a series of workshops and events addressing *baukultur* in Germany. Two reports were published, the first in 2001, entitled, *Status Report on Building Culture in Germany. Initial Situation and Recommendations*³⁸; and the second in 2005, entitled *2nd Status Report on Building Culture in Germany – Information, arguments and concepts*.

In December 2006, the German Federal government approved an Act establishing the *Federal Foundation for Baukultur*³⁹. The Foundation is based in Potsdam and works as an independent and active platform for all issues relating to architecture and *baukultur*. In the framework of the meeting of the European Forum for Architectural Policies held in Hamburg in April 2007 under the German Presidency of the European Union, the federal government promoted a third publication, entitled, *Baukultur! – Planning and Building in Germany*⁴⁰.

Austria

Austria has a long tradition in architectural mediation since the beginning of the nineties (see Support for culture organizations in the Initiatives / actions sections). However, a movement focused on politics and administration started in autumn 2002, as a bottom-up movement of all relevant actors in this field: the architectural mediation scene, the chamber of architects and chartered engineering consultants and all the universities and academies as well as specific high schools (Fachhochschulen), where architecture is lectured. Together they form the *Plattform für Architekturpolitik und Baukultur - The Austrian Platform for architectural policy and building culture*⁴¹.

A first milestone was a parliamentary inquest on the topic of architecture and building culture in March 2004, with the first *Austrian building culture Report* (1. Österreichischer Baukulturreport)⁴². This report gives an overview of all relevant topics of the theme⁴³.

In June 2007, following the report recommendations, the Austrian Parliament agreed on the installation of an *Beirat für Baukultur*, an advisory committee for *baukultur* (building culture) at the Austrian Federal Chancellery as a consulting body for the government, where all federal ministries as well as representatives of the federal provinces and other stakeholders join together to propose measures to improve architecture and *baukultur* (building culture) in Austria⁴⁴. Furthermore the issue of a building culture report at a quinquennial rhythm was decided upon. The second report (2. Österreichischer Baukulturreport) will be published at the end of 2011.

Architectural policy white books

The Wallonia-Brussels community of Belgium published a white book on architectural policy in 2004, entitled *Qui a peur de l'architecture?* (*Who's afraid of architecture?*). The white book was an initiative of the Architecture Institute La Cambre with the support of the French speaking community of Belgium⁴⁵.

More recently the French speaking community of Belgium publishes a second book, entitled *Architectures Wallonie-Bruxelles*. This publication gives an overview of the current architecture situation in Wallonia and Brussels, and comes five years after the publication of the white book on architecture.

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For more information:
www.baukulturreport.at

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For more information:
www.baukultur.gv.at

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Policy proposals developed by professional organizations

It is interesting to point out that the professional architects’ organizations have been very active in promoting and pressing the governmental institutions to adopt an official document on architectural policy.

Since 2007, the professional architects’ organizations of 9 countries have already developed architectural policy proposals: Czech Republic, Croatia, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and Turkey (Table 7).

Table 7 Architectural policy proposals developed by professional organizations.

Year	Country	Name
2007	Malta	The Urban Challenge
2007	Turkey	Towards an Architecture Policy for Turkey
2008	Visegrád Four*	Architecture Policy of the Visegrád Four
2009	Czech Republic	The Policy on Architecture of the Czech Republic
2009	Sweden	Architecture and Politics. An Architectural Policy for Sweden, 2010-15
2009	Poland	Polish Architectural Policy, Concerning the Quality of Landscape, Public Space and Architecture
2009	Portugal	Architecture for All: a Public Policy on Architecture for Portugal.
2010	Croatia	Apolitika 2013. Guidelines for Architectural policy
2010	Romania	The Policy on Architecture in Romania 2010-2015. The Culture of the Built Environment and the Quality of Life

* Visegrád Four is composed by: Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia.

Generally, the architectural policy proposals of the professional organizations are elaborated by an internal working group more or less open to external contributions. In some cases, after having a stable proposal, the document is debated and approved in a conference or national congress. Finally, the document is presented to the general public and delivered to the state department or departments responsible for the government architectural policy. A recent example is the architectural policy proposal published by the Swedish Association of Architects in 2009, entitled *Architecture and Politics. An Architectural Policy for Sweden 2010-2015* ⁴⁶.

The professional architects' organizations (associations, orders or chambers) are usually well informed of international developments through contacts with counterparts in international meetings, newsletters and personal networks. Additionally, the promotion of architecture quality for a better built environment is a statutory objective of most of the architectural professional organizations.

Therefore, it is logical that these organizations press their governments to develop and implement a national programme / policy on architecture through the development of concrete policy proposals.

Administrations not planning to develop a policy document

In the 37 administrations surveyed, only five administrations stated that they are not planning to develop an official document outlining the governmental architecture policy: Bulgaria, Greece, Slovenia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Switzerland.

In Bulgaria and Greece, it is not clear what is being implemented in terms of architectural promotion because the replies to the questionnaire were very succinct referring only that they are not planning to develop a policy document on architectural policy. Although Slovenia has also pointed out that they are not planning to develop an official document it is important to recall that Slovenia organized an EFAP meeting in June 2008, where the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development presented an architectural policy draft for Slovenia.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) is one of the current EU candidate countries being expected to adopt several legislation packages as a condition of being accepted as an EU Member State. However, the *Council Resolution and Conclusions on Architecture* are not mandatory for the EU Member States. Therefore, it is unclear if the government will decide to implement the Council recommendations.

Switzerland is not part of the European Union and is not compelled to follow the EU guidance. The Swiss authorities have mentioned that architecture policy is not a responsibility of the federal government and that this topic is being tackled by the lower levels of government. Therefore, it would be useful to develop an inventory of existing policies and initiatives implemented at the canton level to understand how architectural quality is being promoted in Switzerland.

Specific initiatives / actions

The last two groups of questions of the EFAP questionnaire were dedicated to the initiatives / actions undertaken by the Member States in support of their governmental policy and/or the objectives of :

- *Council Resolution on Architecture Quality on Urban and Rural Environments* (2001/C 73/04);
- *Council Conclusions on Architecture: culture's Contribution to Sustainable Development* (2008/C 319/05).

Unfortunately, only one third of the 37 administrations surveyed have provided information about initiatives / actions in support of the government policy and/or of the EU Council Resolution and Conclusions objectives. Additionally, most of the countries that provide information were very succinct, which did not allow for much interpretation and explanation of the different initiatives / actions currently implemented in the Member States.

The absence of information provided can be justified by the methodology used to collect the information – questionnaire with open questions – where the lack of time, knowledge or interest of the correspondents lead to several empty replies.

As a result, it is not possible to assume that those administrations do not have any type of initiatives or actions developed just because their correspondents did not send any relevant information. Consequently, it is not feasible to accurately measure the number of initiatives / actions developed by the Member States in a comparative perspective to establish a European assessment.

Nevertheless, to illustrate the variety of initiatives undertaken by the Member States in support of their governmental policies and/or the Council Resolution and Conclusions objectives the following section briefly describes 30 examples of initiatives / actions .

To facilitate the reading of the 30 initiatives / actions the information was organized into three policy dimensions:

- A.** Promoting knowledge and awareness;
- B.** Improving public building policies;
- C.** Encouraging sustainable development.

For a closer examination of the different architectural policy initiatives / actions it is advised to read the administrations replies which are available to consult in the Survey annexes. The annexes may be downloaded in PDF format on the EFAP website: www.efap-fepa.eu.

To better illustrate the different initiatives / actions found, they were complemented with information and examples obtained through internet research; in these cases a footnote reference link was added.

A Promoting knowledge and awareness

The first policy dimension assembles initiatives / actions oriented towards the promotion of knowledge and awareness of architecture supporting the following EU Council recommendations:

- *Resolution on Architectural Quality (2001/C 73/04):*
 - *intensify their efforts to improve the knowledge and promotion of architectural and urban design, and the general public more aware of and better trained in appreciation of architectural, urban and landscape culture;*
 - *foster exchange of information and experience in the field of architecture;*
- *Conclusions on Architecture (2008/C 319/05):*
 - *Promoting education in architecture and heritage, and in the living environment, in particular through artistic and cultural education;*
 - *Helping to develop the economic growth and employment potential of architecture, as a creative, cultural industry.*

After analysing the information received it was possible to identify 12 different initiatives / actions that are promoting the above EU Council recommendations:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Support to culture organizations | 7. Architectural prizes |
| 2. Support to culture initiatives | 8. Educational programmes |
| 3. Support to research projects | 9. Professional learning programmes |
| 4. Publications (books) | 10. Architectural festivals and events |
| 5. Guidelines and manuals | 11. Support to young architects |
| 6. Architectural websites and databases | 12. Support to international organizations |

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For more information:
www.mfa.fi

A1 Support to culture organizations

Several Member States are directly supporting architectural culture organizations such as institutes, centres, foundations, museums, archives, associations or similar bodies directly engaged with the promotion and awareness of architectural culture. The first culture organizations solely dedicated to architecture were architectural museums, such as the *Museum of Finnish Architecture*⁴⁷ created in 1954. Since the seventies, a growing number of new architectural culture organizations have started to appear all over Europe, both at the national and local level, promoting the cultural importance of architecture and the built environment.

Most of these cultural organizations are totally or partially financed by the state, mainly through the ministries of culture, state agencies or municipalities, obtaining the remaining funding from private sponsorship and donations. Although the scale and concept may differ between the different cultural organizations, their main objective is to present and provide information about architecture and urban design, creating spaces for debate about the future of the built environment. To reach this aim the cultural organizations develop a wide range of activities: exhibitions, publications, conferences, debates, research projects, educational initiatives, etc.

The recognition of the importance of communicating the value of architecture to the general public has led several Member States to establish national architectural culture organizations, such as the *Irish Architecture Foundation* (IAF) or the German *Federal Foundation for Baukultur* (both established in 2006).

The different organizations dedicated to architectural promotion can have a national, regional or local sphere of activity. The national bodies usually have a bigger organizational capacity with a higher budget and staff than regional or local bodies. Sometimes they are responsible for the management

of architectural archives. This is the case of the *Netherlands Architecture Institute* (NAI)⁴⁸ established in 1993, and the *Flemish Architecture Institute* (VAi) established in 2002.

At the regional or state level, the centres have developed their activities within a specific territorial area, such as the *Austrian Houses of Architecture*, where each federal province (Bundesland) has established one House. The *HDA – Haus der Architektur* (House of Architecture) in Graz/Steiermark was founded in 1988, the *ÖGFA – Österreichische Gesellschaft für Architektur* (Austrian Society for Architecture) already in 1965 and the *Az W – Architekturzentrum Wien* (Architecture Centre Vienna) in 1993. In 1996, the nine Houses of Architecture of the federal states, along with the Austrian Society for Architecture (ÖGFA) founded an Umbrella Organization - *The Austrian Architectural Foundation* (Architekturstiftung), which is a common public platform for Austrian architectural initiatives. Along with statutory professional associations, educational faculties, and independent architectural initiatives, it constitutes an important third pillar for upholding the Austrian building culture.

At the local level, the architectural bodies have a smaller dimension, sometimes with only one employee. Although, in some cities they have a bigger dimension (e.g. *New London Architecture Centre*), generally, the local centres have developed their work within a town or city, obtaining part of their funding from local authorities. Some countries have developed a considerable network of local architectural centres. For example, the United Kingdom has more than 20 local architecture centres, connected by the *Architecture Centre Network* (ACN)⁴⁹; France has 32 local architecture centres, connected by the *Réseau des Maisons de l'Architecture*⁵⁰; and The Netherlands have 50 local architecture centres connected by the foundation *Architectuur Lokaal*⁵¹.

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For more information:
<http://en.nai.nl/>

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For more information:
www.architecturecentre.net

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For more information:
www.ma-lereseau.org

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For more information:
www.arch-lokaal.nl/

All of these cultural organizations are supporting and delivering the *Council Resolution and Conclusions* recommendations. It would be difficult for them to fulfil their roles without the direct patronage of the Member States administrations and local authorities.

A2 Support to cultural initiatives

Besides the support to cultural organizations, some Member States are also supporting cultural initiatives and projects, through direct funding programmes to innovative cultural projects, such as temporary installations, experimental projects or exhibitions, etc. For example, the Flemish Arts Agency has given subsidies for public activities and projects of individuals and organizations in the field of architecture and design since 1994. Similar to this, the Portuguese Arts Agency has an annual programme for the development of the arts, which includes architecture. The Arts Department of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture (BMUKK) has supported in a similar way through special programmes, different projects and organizations in the field of architecture since 1992. A special advisory board (Architekturbeirat) was established to guarantee the evaluation of projects by experts to advise the governmental decision makers.

Another interesting example is the Irish initiative *Engaging with Architecture Scheme* launched in 2010, through a partnership between the Arts Council and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, under the implementation programme of the Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015. The objective of the scheme is to support ambitious, innovative and creative, high-quality initiatives that specifically aim to enhance and extend the public's experience of and engagement with architecture. The scheme finances cultural projects and initiatives, and is open to individuals, local authorities and organisations.

A3 Support to research projects

Almost all Member States have funding programmes for research projects that include architecture and spatial design issues. Probably not integrated in a formal architecture policy, most of these programmes provide scholarships for post-graduate students, support for research centres, scientific publications and conferences, etc. Although, a big part of the architectural research is conducted by universities and research institutes, it is usual for state departments and agencies to promote research projects. Additionally, some Member States have their own research laboratories, which include architectural and planning divisions (e.g. Portuguese Laboratory of Civil Engineering).

An interesting example of a State programme supporting directly architectural research is the *Netherlands Architectural Fund*⁵². Created in 1994, the Dutch Fund has various grant programmes aimed at developing and exchanging knowledge concerning the design disciplines and increasing interest in architecture, urban design, planning, landscape architecture, and interior architecture. Each year the Fund supports a large number of unique and innovative national and international projects. In 2009, the Fund supported 213 projects to the total sum of over 5.4 million euro. The Architectural Fund is one of the Dutch national culture funds and is financed by four ministries: The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science; the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment; and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A4 Publications (books)

Almost all Member States develop or support several publications in the areas of architecture, urban design, planning, landscape and heritage on a regular basis through the different Ministries, departments and agencies.

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For more information:
www.vai.be

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For recent examples, written in English and available on the internet, see the publications section of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE).

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CABE, *Creating Excellent Buildings: a guide for clients*, England, 2010.

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Urban Design Compendium, England, 2007.

57

Urban Design Manual. A best practice guide, Dublin, 2008.

There are several examples of periodic publications illustrating architectural quality and best practices, such as the *Yearbook of Flemish Architecture* that gives an overview of recent qualitative architecture in Flanders, together with essays on important issues, developments in the field of architecture, and urbanism in Flanders⁵³. To give a second example, the publication *Best of Austria* is supported as a special project of the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture as contribution of the Ministry (BMUKK) for the Austrian Building Culture. It is published every two years and shows best practices in the field of Building Culture. Other usual types of publications promoted by the Member States are guidelines and manuals (see below).

A5 Guidelines and manuals

Several Member States are publishing guides and manuals about different aspects of the built environment, comprehending a wide range of topics, such as architecture, urban design, heritage and conservation, sustainability, etc. This documentation is an important source of information complementing legislation with appealing and easy to read material drawing from examples of validated best practices. There has been a huge effort to publish guidance documents not only directed to the professional sector and public servants but also to the general public⁵⁴.

Just to give some examples, an interesting publication is the guide *Creating Excellent Buildings: a guide for clients*, from the English Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)⁵⁵. The guide gives advice to clients, public and private, about best procedures to manage the different building phases. Another interesting document is the *Urban Design Compendium* published by the British government, which provides an "analysis of core design issues through the different stages of the project process, from assessment of overall context to deciding the detail of proposed developments."⁵⁶ Also on the same theme, Ireland recently published the *Urban Design Manual. A best practice guide* in 2008⁵⁷.

A6 Architectural websites and databases

Internet websites are powerful tools to disseminate knowledge and information about architecture and the built environment. Therefore, several Member States are developing internet portals, with information about architecture, urban design and heritage, created by their different departments and agencies. Moreover, through the financial support to architectural centres, the governments are also indirectly supporting the creation of architectural websites developed by the cultural organizations. Additionally, there are several professional bodies, private associations and companies, even simple citizens, who also contribute to the growing panoply of architectural websites. Consequently, there is a huge diversity of internet websites, with different concepts, resources and educational material.

One interesting example is the Scottish website *www.scottisharchitecture.com* that gathers a wide range of information about Scottish architecture and the built environment, as well as news about events, workshops or publications. The website also incorporates educational material for primary and secondary schools, advice for those considering studying architecture, information about architectural and urban designs courses, etc. Another example is the Danish architectural portal *www.dac.dk* that also has a huge amount of organized information, namely about Danish architecture, offering an interactive architectural guide, where it is possible to create and personalize different walking tours in four Danish cities.

In Ireland, the Irish Architectural Foundation (IAF), an initiative set up under Ireland's First Government Policy on Architecture, has an active website portal dedicated to raising awareness of architectural events and exhibitions run by the IAF and related bodies⁵⁸. In Austria, the *Nextroom* database for contemporary architecture was founded in 1996. Funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and the Arts, Nextroom is a very well known platform for high quality contemporary architecture in Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary and Croatia.

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For more information please see Cypriot reply in the Survey annexes.

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For more information please see French reply in the Survey annexes.

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For more information please see French reply in the Survey annexes.

A7 Architectural prizes

With the objective of promoting innovation in the built environment, several Member States have created a number of architectural prizes. Through public recognition of extraordinary achievements, the administrations hope to raise architectural quality by awarding reference projects creating new benchmarks. However, nowadays, a proliferation of prizes exists awarded by a panoply of entities, such as public authorities, both at a national and local level, non governmental organizations, professional associations, private companies, etc. Consequently, not all governments have adopted this type of initiative. To illustrate the architectural prizes awarded by the national administrations some examples are described:

- *State Prize for Architecture* (Cyprus) – state prize for the best examples of finished buildings awarded by the President of the Republic of Cyprus every three years. Established in 1992, the prize is sub-divided into three categories: remarkable architectural project, young architect project, and special award for architecture⁵⁹;
- *Grand National Prize for Architecture* (France) - state prize for the career of an architect or an architectural office, installed in France. Established in 1975, the national prize was interrupted for several years and restarted to be awarded every two years in 2004⁶⁰;
- *Grand Public Prize of Architecture* (France) – integrated in a national campaign for architectural quality, this state prize gives the possibility to the public to vote and express its preferences for the best architectural achievements. The prize is sub-divided into 5 categories: single family dwelling, multifamily housing, office buildings, public buildings and public spaces⁶¹;

- Gouden Pyramid (The Netherlands) – annual prize for building clients that have shown excellence commissioning work in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, infrastructure and physical planning. This state prize is an award for projects that, in their preparation and completion, illustrate the inspirational role that clients can play in the design and construction process⁶²;
- National Award for Dwelling Quality (Spain) – state prize for the best single family dwelling awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Housing. Established in 2004, the prize is sub-divided into two categories: public dwellings and private dwellings⁶³;
- State Prize Award “Vladimir Nazor” (Croatia) - annual award and lifetime achievement award for architecture and urban planning of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia is the award for the best performance or for Life Opus in the field of architecture and urban planning. It has been regularly assigned since 1965;
- State Prize “Building city. Living city” (Germany) - national prize for integrated urban development and baukultur awarded by the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development. The prizes are awarded in five categories: (1) improving urban design – Baukultur; (2) acting in an integrated and regional manner – urban, regional and rural development; (3) creating opportunities and strengthening cohesion – the social and equitable city; (4) getting involved in the city – civil society and private initiative; (5) building the city of tomorrow – climate change, sustainable energy and sound environmental practices⁶⁴;
- *Grand Austrian National Prize for Architecture* (Austria) – state prize awarded on a yearly basis in different art fields. The amount of the prize awarded is based on the suggestion of the Kunstsenaat (arts senate) in the art fields of Music, Literature, Visual Arts and Architecture⁶⁵;

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For more information:
www.goudenpiramide.nl/english-summary

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For more information:
www.fomento.gob.es/

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For more information:
www.stadtbauenstadtleben.de

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For more information:
www.kunstsenaat.at

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For more information:
www.miesbcn.com/en/award.html

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For more information see the
 Finnish reply on the Survey
 annexes.

- *National Prize Architecture* (Austria) – the prize of the Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth (BMWFJ) is awarded every two years;
- *Architecture Best house Award* (Austria), is awarded by the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture in cooperation with the Architekturzentrum Wien, the Houses of Architecture and the Sbausparkasse. The prize is awarded for the most interesting and innovative examples of family homes. The prize is awarded in each of the nine Austrian federal provinces and is mainly in support of young architects.

To point out an international award, it is important to refer to the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture Mies van der Rohe Award granted every two years by the Directorate General of Education and Culture of the EU Commission and organized by the Fundació Mies van der Rohe, Barcelona, to acknowledge and reward quality architectural production in Europe⁶⁶.

A8 Educational programmes

One of the best ways to promote public awareness about architecture and the built environment is through educational programmes. The main objective of these programmes is to stimulate the taste of younger and future generations about their built environment so they can become active and participant citizens in the city decision-making process. Supporting this objective some Member States have introduced architecture in the educational curriculums of primary and secondary schools.

For example, in Finland, the architectural education of children is supported by the national architectural policy programme, which has resulted in a remarkable amount of new architectural resources and educational material⁶⁷. In Croatia, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports adopted in 2010 a National Curriculum Framework for Preschool Education, General Compulsory

and Secondary School Education, which introduced architecture as the awareness and the understanding of the quality of space.

Another interesting example is the English initiative *Engaging Places* promoted by the State Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The initiative supports teaching and learning throughout the built environment and encourages learning outside the classroom. The initiative website contains a nationwide directory of organisations and venues and an interactive map for finding educational programmes, workshops and events. Other features include: *helpful and practical teaching resources that focus on buildings and places, and are searchable by curriculum theme; articles to stimulate curriculum planning; case studies from fellow teachers; a database of events, searchable by area and topic; news about educational initiatives, new developments with venues and organisations, and creative learning projects in schools*⁶⁸.

Outside the governmental sphere, several organizations are also promoting educational programmes addressed to children and teenagers, such as cultural institutes, professional organizations and non-profit entities. Some examples are described:

- *Programmes for schools* of the Swedish Museum of Architecture that offers educational programmes from preschool to high school, where each module includes perception exercise, a guided viewing and a practical assignment⁶⁹;
- *Shaping Space*, a programme of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI), which provides a range of educational material to be used by teachers in secondary school transition year curriculum (i.e. 14- to 15-year old children)⁷⁰;
- *School of Architecture for Children and Youth* (Arkki), a Finnish non-profit organization that offers a variety of architectural courses to young people and creates educational curriculums for schools, museums and architecture clubs⁷¹;

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For more information:
www.engagingplaces.org.uk

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For more information:
www.arkitekturmuseet.se

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For more information:
www.riai.ie/education/architecture_young_people

71

For more information:
www.arkki.nu

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For more information:
www.aspaceforlearning.blogspot.com

- *Space for Learning*, an educational project organized by the Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF), which took 120 architects to 90 schools across Ireland and finished with an exhibition, a series of public lectures and a symposium⁷²;
- *Architecture and Children*, an International Union of Architects program working with children, is implemented by the Croatian Chamber of Architects, Association of Croatian Architects, Hura Arhitektura Group, and others.
- *Association 'Initiative Baukulturvermittlung für junge Menschen (Austria)* - For many years, the mediation of architecture and adjacent disciplines to young people has been done by different persons and associations, often in connection to the houses of architecture in the Austrian federal provinces. In 2010 they joined together and formed an association to better coordinate the different activities and to further develop this topic in close co-operation with teachers and architects.

A9 Professional learning programmes

As an example of professional learning programmes, in 2006, the Republic of Croatia began the implementation of a mandatory programme of continuous professional training governed by the Ordinance on the qualification examination and improvement of knowledge of persons performing physical planning and construction activities issued by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction.

The Programme covers all licensed architects and is being conducted by professional organizations and state bodies with the permission of the Ministry. One cycle of mandatory education lasts for five years. Furthermore, since the transition of the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Architecture to the Bologna system of education, the Faculty, in cooperation with the Croatian

Chamber of Architects began, in academic year 2008/2009, mandatory professional practice of students. The practice of students who entered the graduate program is conducted in the offices of registered architects.

A10 Architectural festivals and events

In the past years there has been a growing number of architectural festivals and events all around Europe. The architectural festivals usually include a wide diversity of related activities, such as street installations, exhibitions, debates and conferences, guided walks, cycle rides, boat tours, parties, design workshops, small talks, etc. Some of the festivals are organized every year and last for a couple of days, one week or even a month, as others are biennial (e.g. London Festival of Architecture) or triennial (e.g. Lisbon Architecture Triennial).

Although the festivals have a main theme that changes from one edition to another, generally the topics are related with the place where the festival takes place, inviting people to discover their city buildings and public spaces' history, namely through the organization of guided tours. Another interesting initiative is the "open house" concept, where people can visit for free architects' offices and interesting buildings (old and new) with specialist guides normally not open to the public, such as: *Austrian Architekturtage*⁷³ (Architecture days), the English *Open House London*⁷⁴, the Irish *Open House Dublin*⁷⁵, etc.

Another type of architectural event is the biannual film festival *Architecture Film Festival Rotterdam*, which screens films, shorts, animations and documentaries about architecture, urban development and city culture.

There are also international architecture festivals, like the *International Rotterdam Architecture Biennale*⁷⁶ or the *Venice Architecture Biennale*. The Venice biennale has acquired an enormous international reputation in the arts world. Organized in six artistic areas (art, architecture, cinema, dance, music

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For more information:
www.architekturtage.at

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For more information:
www.londonopenhouse.org

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For more information please see:
architecturefoundation.ie/openhouse/

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International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) is an international urban research biennale founded in 2001 on the conviction that architecture is a public concern. It is an international event of exhibitions, conferences, lectures and other activities devoted to themes in the field of architecture and urbanism.

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For more information:
www.labiennale.org

and theatre), more than 30 countries participate in each edition of the Venice biennale, where the governments finance the construction of small pavilions with expositions about national artists and architecture⁷⁷.

A11 Support to young architects

Some administrations are supporting young architects through the promotion of their work, others by grant programmes and scholarships. An interesting example is the *New Albums of Young Architects* of the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. The objective is to help talented young architects gain access to commissions, and thus develop behavior patterns that favor more frequent recourse by the contracting authorities to the young generation. Also, to increase the choice of project management teams by giving publicity to new architects who are distinguished by the quality of their work. Some other examples are described:

- *TISCHE-Stipendien* (Austria) – Scholarships for young architects. Up to ten young architects get the possibility to work in studios of architects in other countries and live abroad for six months gaining experience working in an international context, the scholarship is given by the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture (BMUKK);
- *Margarethe Schütte-Lihotzky Projektstipendien* (Austria) - Project Scholarships for architects with at least five years of professional expertise get the chance to work on special projects in an experimental context. Up to five scholarships are offered by the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture (BMUKK);
- *STARTstipendien* (Austria) - Start Scholarships for young architects and designers – the aim of this programme is to support young architects and designers to build up and start their professional carrier. Up to ten

scholarships are offered by the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture (BMUKK);

- *MAK-Schindler-Initiative in Los Angeles* (Austria), co-financing of the scholarship program in the US (about 12 scholarships a year) to support contemporary architecture and young architects are offered by the Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture (BMUKK).

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For more information:
www.wonderland.cx

A12 Support to international initiatives

Several governments support organizations and initiatives operating on an international level. An interesting example is the organization Wonderland - platform for European architecture - that initiates collaboration projects with international teams to foster inter-European exchange projects, conducts research on current challenges and approaches in the field of architecture as well as urban planning, and shares results with members and the public by means of exhibitions and publications.

Wonderland is an Austrian initiated network for exchanging experiences, information and knowledge of young Europe-oriented architecture practices and is sponsored by the Arts Division of the Austrian Federal Chancellery. Wonderland's current project is organized in cooperation with the EFAP⁷⁸.

B Improving public building policies

The second policy dimension assembles initiatives / actions oriented towards the improvement of public building policies supporting the following EU Council recommendations:

- *Resolution on Architectural Quality* (2001/C 73/04):
 - *Promote awareness and training among contracting authorities;*
 - *Promote architectural quality by means of exemplary public building policies;*
- *Conclusions on Architecture* (2008/C 319/05):
 - *Encouraging innovation and experimentation in architecture, urban planning and landscaping, particularly within the framework of European policies or programmes and when commissioning public works.*

After analysing the information received it was possible to identify 10 different initiatives / actions that are promoting the above EU recommendations:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Architectural advisory body (national) | 6. City architect |
| 2. State Architect | 7. Research projects (procurement) |
| 3. Departmental design champion | 8. Guidelines and manuals (procurement) |
| 4. Regional architects (Finland) | 9. Public buildings awards |
| 5. Architectural advisory body (local) | 10. Design competitions |

B1 Architectural advisory body (national)

To ensure that architectural quality is a corporate aim of all State departments and agencies some Member States have created an architectural advisory body to promote architectural quality within the public sector. The configuration and competence of these bodies changes considerably from country to country depending on the public client organization and type of administrative structure of each Member State. Nevertheless, all have the general principle that the State should lead by example, being a role model for society as a building promoter, client and property owner. Some examples of architectural advisory bodies will be given.

In 1977, France created an inter-ministerial department especially concerned with the improvement of architectural quality of public buildings, the Inter-Ministerial Mission for Public Construction Quality (MIQCP, *Mission Interministérielle pour la Qualité des Constructions Publiques*), who managed to raise the general standard of all public architecture through education and training of those who commissioned buildings. In order to encourage architectural creativity and promote the quality of public construction, MIQCP conducts several activities: provides training courses for public servants and politicians, publishes guidelines and recommendations (e.g. competition procedures), participates in the elaboration of legislative texts about architectural matters, helps public clients to organize architectural competitions, etc. Additionally, on request from public authorities (state, regions, departments and communes) intervenes as a consultant on a large number of operations⁷⁹.

In 1999, England created a governmental advisory body on architecture and urban design, entitled Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). Replacing the Royal Fine Art Commission (RFAC), CABE was an executive non-departmental public body until 2011, when it was

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For more information please see:
MIQCP, *The attribution of public contracts in Europe*, 2002.

merged with a charitable body, the Design Council, due to financial cuts lead by the English administration. Nevertheless, during the eleven years of operation, CABI has developed an enormous programme of activities and publications, building a remarkable reputation at a national and international level. CABI activity has been divided into six areas:

- *Local government* - working and helping local councils to seize the creative and economic opportunities of a specific project or a long-term programme of work, in three key areas: expert advice on the design of new developments, community engagement and partnership working, and strategic advice on planning and placemaking;
- *CABI space* – a specialist unit to help public, private and voluntary organisations to understand the benefits of well-planned, designed, managed and maintained public space to reach an excellent design and management of parks and public space in towns and cities;
- *Enabling service* - had two main strands: improving the quality of public buildings and delivering better urban and housing design. Through the Enabling service CABI has provided training, advice and direct support to hundreds of public clients, dealing with over 900 projects, from new buildings, to masterplans, urban frameworks, open space strategies or design initiatives that span multiple projects and places;
- *Design review service* – provided free expert advice on the design quality of schemes in England that have a significant impact on their environment. The design review service was conducted by different teams of experts (design review panels) according to the type of project being reviewed. The recommendations resulting from the review were not mandatory for clients and promoters;

- *Educational activities* – developed several teaching and learning resources (e.g. publications and manuals) about architecture and the built environment, promoted educational activities in schools, gave grants to educational projects, and managed the internet website of the educational initiative Engaging Places (see the initiative Educational programmes);
- *Publication and research* – produced a huge amount of publications, guides and manuals (more than 300 publications available online), including a programme of research which gathered evidence, looked at best practice and developed practical methodologies to demonstrate the value of good design.

Following the English example, in 2002, Wales established the *Design Commission for Wales*, to champion good design and a high quality built environment⁸⁰. In 2005, Scotland established the Architecture and Design Scotland (A+DS) to champion the highest standards in architecture and placemaking, advocating a better understanding of the importance of quality design in both the public and private sectors. A+DS works through six programmes to advocate the benefits of excellence in design: Urbanism, Design Review, Sust, Access to Architecture, School Design and Healthcare Design⁸¹.

A more recent example is the governmental Architecture Cell (Cellule Architecture) of the French Community of Belgium. Established in 2007, the Architecture Cell has three main objectives: 1. *To ensure architectural quality in public buildings by promoting architecture for creating, integrating environmental and energy performance, as well as the use of fields related to architecture such as for example landscape, furniture design, signage design etc;* 2. *Promote architecture as a cultural discipline in policy implementation and support of both public and private actions aimed at the identification,*

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For more information:
www.dcfw.org

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For more information:
www.ads.org.uk

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For more information:
[www.infrastructures.cfwb.be/
 index.php?id=100](http://www.infrastructures.cfwb.be/index.php?id=100)

*promotion and enhancement of architecture in the French Community and its related disciplines; 3. Support and develop the integration of artworks in public buildings*⁸². A recent initiative of the Architecture Cell was the creation of a national award for exemplary project management of public bodies (See initiative Public buildings awards).

In this context and as a further example of policy governance at a national level, Ireland's Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 provides the appropriate framework for architectural policy up to 2015 and beyond and is led centrally by Built Heritage and Architectural Policy section, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoAHG). Ireland's Policy has placed an emphasis on sustainable development of the environment and urban design, incorporating cultural heritage in a holistic integrated manner and continuing to encourage and support high quality modern architecture while developing actions which respond to and promote awareness in these areas.

To assist in the implementation of the new Government Policy on Architecture, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoAHG) set up an inter-departmental Government Policy on Architecture Committee (GPAAC) whose membership involves private practices, relevant professional institutes, cultural institutes (such as the Arts Council/ Irish Architecture Foundation) and other Departments in Ireland who have a stake-holding interest in the delivery of actions in the Government Policy on Architecture.

This is the main advisory board that advises the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on the implementation of Policy in Ireland and is chaired by the Chief Architectural Advisor/Administrator in DoAHG with responsibility for the delivery, annual reporting and implementation of the Architectural Policy in Ireland.

On a different approach, some Member States have established national councils to advise the government on how to improve the quality of the built environment. An example of this approach is the Spatial Planning Council of the Republic of Croatia that was established in 2004, with the role in advising the Croatian government regarding matters of physical planning and quality of building. As a part of the systematic work of the Council, several publications intended for the professional and general public, and politicians have been issued: Criteria for planning tourism zones in the coastal area, Criteria and guidelines for golf course planning, and Guidelines and criteria for the architectural quality of building.

B2 State architect

Some Member States have appointed a State architect to advise the government on design matters and promote design quality inside the public sector. The position of State Architect is an old tradition in some of the US States, and more recently it has been extended to Australia. In Europe, The Netherlands has had a State architect since the beginning of the nineteenth century ("architect to the king"). Nowadays, the position is called *Chief Government Architect* (De Rijksbouwmeester) and has an office inside the Government Buildings Agency, composed of a group of commissioners and a small staff team. Appointed every 5 years, the Dutch Chief Government Architect "*holds a central coordination position with respect to the preparation and implementation of the national government architecture policy*"⁸³. Among other tasks, the Chief Architect promotes and monitors the urban integration and architectural quality of all government buildings, harmonizing architecture with urban and rural planning, monument preservation and the use of art works⁸⁴. Additionally, he is responsible for proposing and selecting architects for developing the projects of new public buildings based on an annual tendering procedure.

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Atelier Rijksbouwmeester, The Chief Government Architect and the policy on architecture, Den Haag, The Netherlands, 2006.

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For more information:
www.rgd.nl/onderwerpen/rijksbouwmeester

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For more information:
english.vlaamsbouwmeester.be

86

For more information:
www.bmabru.be

More recently, the Irish government established the position of State Architect in 2009, replacing the title of Principal Architect of the Office of Public Works which includes: advising on the implementation of the architectural policy actions and contributing to the development of procurement and contracting policies. In 2010, Hungary created the National Chief Architect office inside the structure of the Ministry of the Interior, who is responsible, among other things, for the development and coordination of the national architectural policy of Hungary.

B3 Departmental design champion

England has created the position of design champion in all governmental departments. The design champion has the responsibility to promote good design inside the Department structure, namely in renovation works and new public buildings.

B4 Regional architect

In 1998, following the Dutch example, the Flemish Region of Belgium established the *Flemish Government Architect* office, with the appointment of Bob Van Reeth, one of the most prominent Flemish architects, with the following mission: *“Through long-term vision, in consultation with different administrations and involved external parties, to contribute towards policy preparation and execution of the architectural strategy of the Flemish Community, with the aim of helping to create a high quality architectural environment (buildings, infrastructure, landscape) in Flanders.”*⁸⁵. The most important instrument of the Flemish Government Architect is the Open Call method, which is a procedure for selecting architects for public commissions (See Architectural competitions).

In 2009, the same position was created for the Brussels-Capital Region of Brussels – Bouwmeester - Maître Architecte (bMa)⁸⁶ - with the main mission

to help the regional builders to ensure the architectural and landscape quality of the regional and municipal projects. Six months later the Government enlarged the mission of the bMa to projects run by municipalities and the private sector, since these would have an important impact on public space. The bMa accompanies the public builders in their procedures for designating authors of projects through three levels: program, procedure, advisory committee. The master Architect chairs the advisory committees when asked and so stimulates the public debate on the architecture. He also attempts to educate the private homeowners on the importance of good architecture (e.g. in the PPP public-private partnership).

With a different approach, in Finland the Government supports a system of regional architects, where the State co-finance the expenses of architectural expertise for the small and remote municipalities, so they can benefit from architectural and planning advice⁸⁷. The main objective is to help the small municipalities deal with new legislative requirements and planning needs. For this, the State finances half of the expenses of the architectural services provided by a network of regional architects. In 10 years, the system has extended from 30 municipalities to 115 municipalities⁸⁸.

B5 Architectural advisory body (local)

Some Member States have created local architectural advisory bodies dedicated to promoting architectural and urban design quality at the local level. Some of these bodies give free technical advice to clients and local authorities as others charge a small commission for their expert service, such as helping to set up architectural competitions.

France has done this by creating architectural advisory bodies at department level, the *Councils of Architecture, Planning and the Environment*, in French, *Conseils d'Architecture, d'Urbanisme et Environnement* (CAUE). Created in 1977 by the French Architecture Law⁸⁹, the CAUEs were established in almost

87

Finland, Finland Architecture Policy, 1998.

88

EFAP Survey, 2005.

89

French Law on architecture no. 77-2 of 3rd January 1977.

90

For more information:
www.fncaue.asso.fr

91

Architectuur Lookal magazine,
 Building on Ambition, 72, 2009.

92

MIQCP, The attribution of Public
 contracts in Europe, 2002, France;

all State departments (at this moment 91) and have a legal status similar to an association. The CAUE's main objectives are: (1) *develop information* about architecture, urban design and heritage that can help to improve the quality of the built environment; (2) *support clients*, public or private, with educational and technical advice on the different phases of a project and building work; (3) *training for clients and professionals*, public and private, involved in the construction sector and in the planning system; (4) *promote public awareness* about architectural and urban design quality, preservation of the environment by developing culture and education in architecture and urbanism. The CAUEs are represented by a national Federation, through a network of CAUEs organized on two levels, regional and national⁹⁰.

In 1993, the Netherlands created the Architectuur Lokaal foundation, whose advisory role to local authorities is similar to the French CAUE. Architectuur Lokaal is an independent centre of expertise and information devoted to commissioning building development in the Netherlands⁹¹. This lightweight structure (10 people) is subsidised by four Ministries concerning architecture (culture, town planning, environment and transport), and is in contact with both public and private clients: these include the local authorities as well as real estate developers and private individuals involved in building operations. The *Architectuur Lokaal's* mission is to act as a link between national policies and local practices, to help local agents apply national policies as well as incorporate local practices and experience into national decisions⁹².

B6 City architect

Some municipalities have appointed a city architect to promote cohesion in their architectural policy and to realise their city's architectural aspirations. A city architect is *an independent adviser who has been appointed by a municipal government, is connected to that municipality's administrative apparatus without being a civil servant him/herself and who, on both a solicited and unsolicited*

*basis, places spatial tasks on the agenda and provides advice on them, safeguards spatial quality, initiates and stimulates architectural policy, introduces cohesion to spatial policy within the administrative apparatus and at different administrative levels, and puts forward its implementation where appropriate*⁹³. In the Netherlands there are 10 to 20 city architects.

B7 Research projects (procurement)

Probably not integrated in a formal architecture policy, we should mention that almost all member States have funding programmes for research and innovation that include architecture and spatial design, providing scholarships for post-graduate students, financial support for research projects and centres. Additionally, some Member States have national research laboratories that contain architectural divisions.

B8 Guidelines and manuals (procurement)

As mentioned previously in the section *Guidelines and manuals*, several Member States publish a wide range of design guidelines and manuals to help planning authorities, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density. Considering procurement of architectural services some Member States have also published best practices guides to help public clients commissioning architectural projects.

An interesting example is the *Kompas* guide of the *Architectuur Lookal* foundation (The Netherlands). The *Kompas* is an indicative organisational model for competitions approved by the Ministries and professional organizations⁹⁴. Recently, the foundation launched the *Kompas light*, a digital handbook step by step guide for commissioning architectural services through the relevant form, resulting in a clear and understandable ready-to-use guideline for invitations to tender, including standard forms for applying and entering⁹⁵.

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Architectuur Lookal magazine,
Building on Ambition, 72, 2009.

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For more information:
www.arch-lokaal.nl

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For more information:
www.architectuuroopdrachten.nl

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Original name: Richtlinien für
Planungswettbewerbe RPW 2008

97

For more information:
www.betterpublicbuilding.org.uk

98

For more information:
[www.portaldahabitacao.pt/
pt/ihru/premios/premioihru/
premio_ihru.html](http://www.portaldahabitacao.pt/pt/ihru/premios/premioihru/premio_ihru.html)

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For more information:
www.infrastructures.cfwb.be

As another example, in 2008, the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development have updated the guidelines for design contests to facilitate architecture competitions for public and private parties⁹⁶.

B9 Public buildings awards

Similar to the architectural prizes described previously, some Member States have created different awards for public buildings and/or best practices in public procurement of architectural projects. Below you can find some examples:

- *Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award* (United Kingdom) – annual state prize for new building projects commissioned by or on behalf of central or local government or by a grant aided organization. Established in 2000, this state prize is integrated in the Better Public Building initiative⁹⁷;
- *Public Housing and Rehabilitation Award* (Portugal) – annual state prize for the best public / social housing and rehabilitation projects awarded by the Portuguese Institute for Housing and Urban Rehabilitation⁹⁸;
- *Public Project Procurement Award* (Wallonia – Belgium) - initiated in 2011, the award intends to enhance good practices in public procurement of architecture, through the exemplary process implemented and / or consistency of the approach taken by the public contracting authority⁹⁹.

B10 Design competitions

One of the most successful instruments in raising the quality of architecture used by the Member States is through the implementation of architectural competitions, which promotes innovation, stimulates the building sector and renews architecture. In design competitions, several designers compete for a commissioning responding to the same problem according to a defined set of

rules where an independent panel of experts, usually called jury, evaluates the entries and selects the winner. As a result, design competitions offer several solutions to the same design problem providing the client different design alternatives and helping people debate about the future development of the urban environment¹⁰⁰.

In France design competitions have been mandatory for all new public buildings above a defined threshold since 1980¹⁰¹. Because of this rule, design competitions have spread out all over the country, more than 1000 competitions being held per year, promoted from the national governmental department to the smallest municipality. Nevertheless, a second decree, approved in 1988, obliges the French competition organizers to compensate the candidates for a minimum of 80% of the value of the assignment carried out for the service provided. Because of this decree the competitions organized in France are always restricted (3 to 5 teams generally accepted)¹⁰². The implementation of design competitions in France are overseen by a specific state agency, the Inter-Ministry Mission for Quality in Public Construction (MIQCP), created in 1977.

Another interesting example is the *Open Call* competition carried out by the Flemish Government Architect. Created in 2000, the Open Call is a method of selection of architects for design commissions of public buildings based on the concept of architectural competitions¹⁰³. The Flemish *Open Call* is launched twice a year and operates as a two-stage competition. In a first phase, a call for tenders is published with a list of available projects, where candidates can apply with a portfolio for one or more projects. Afterwards, the Government Architect makes a preliminary selection of ten designers for each project. Then, together with the principal, who represents the public client, the Government architect invites five designers to present their proposals

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Finnish Architectural Policy, 1998

101

Idem ibem.

102

Idem ibem

103

See Open Call, Flemish Architect.

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The competition is organized by the Archiprix Foundation with the following objectives:

- i. to promote the influx into the design world of talented designers graduating from Dutch institutions for higher education in the fields of architecture, urban planning and landscape architecture;*
- ii. to offer a platform to Dutch design institutions on which to present themselves both at home and abroad;*
- iii. to further discussion about the content and quality of design education in the Netherlands.*

For more information please see:
www.archi.prix.nl

105

For more information:
www.finallayout.be

to a jury, where all designers are paid, corresponding to the second phase.

Finally, the jury, composed of the principal, the government architect, future users and an external member, decide who will get the assignment. Although it is not a mandatory procedure, the Government Architect obtains requests from several Flemish government bodies as well as from local authorities.

Promoting architectural quality of the Flemish public buildings, the *Open Call* appears to be a successful method that has been operating for more than ten years and where more than two hundred works have made use of this competition.

At the international level it is important to mention the *Europen* competition for young architects. *Europen* is a biennial international competition for architects under 40 years of age that was born in France in the 1970s with the creation of competitions for young architects. To organize the competitions and promote innovation in architecture it was decided to create an institute, entitled: *Programme Architecture Nouvelle* (PAN). Due to the French success of the initiative, the institute proposed the creation of an international competition at the European level, called the EuroPAN. Since then, the competition has been growing and at this moment is the biggest competition for young architects in the world. The last edition was held in 2009 and had 2500 participants from 22 European countries.

To finalize, two examples of student design competitions will be cited:

- *Archiprix* is a student competition in the Netherlands for recent graduates from Dutch universities in the fields of architecture, urban planning and landscape architecture¹⁰⁴;
- *Final Layout* is a student competition of the French Community in Belgium¹⁰⁵.

C Encouraging sustainable development

The third policy dimension assembles initiatives and actions oriented towards the encouragement of sustainable development supporting the following EU Council recommendations:

- *Conclusions on Architecture* (2008/C 319/05):
 - *Making an effort to have architecture play an integrating and innovative role in sustainable development;*
 - *Improving knowledge of the architectural sector and its contribution to sustainable development, particularly in terms of statistics;*
 - *Promoting the initial and further training of architects, urban planners and landscapers as regards sustainable development.*

After analysing the information received it was possible to identify 8 different initiatives and actions that are promoting the above EU recommendations:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Sustainable Pilot Projects | 5. Sustainability in design competitions |
| 2. Publications, guidelines and manuals | 6. Prizes for architecture and sustainability |
| 3. Web sites on sustainable architecture | 7. Tougher energy requirements |
| 4. Energy-efficient construction subsidies | 8. Ecolabel of buildings |

C1 Sustainable pilot projects

Some Member States are promoting pilot projects to increase the energy efficiency of the building construction through the development of demonstration projects of new buildings and renovation projects with

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For more information: www.hausderzukunft.at

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For more information:
www.pobail.ie/en/Publications/HeritagePublications/BuiltHeritagePolicyPublications

innovative designs integrating energy efficiency solutions (like the low-energy solar building or the concept of passive building) and by incorporating environmentally friendly and renewable materials in construction. For an example see the Austrian research programme *Haus der Zukunft House Tomorrow*¹⁰⁶ or the Danish pilot project Bolig+.

Following the same idea other Member States are developing pilot projects in the renovation of their public buildings to demonstrate the possibility of reducing the energy consumption of its buildings and to use environmentally friendly materials. In the case of Luxembourg a green cell was set up which lead to the development of a guide of sustainable construction for the renovation of public buildings (ÖkologischerLeitfaden).

C2 Publications, guidelines and manuals (sustainability)

In Ireland, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht publishes an ongoing Advice Series of booklets¹⁰⁷ intended to ensure that existing historic built environment continues to contribute to the sustainability of places. The primary purpose of the Advice Series is to assist owners and occupiers of historic buildings by clarifying the type of repair works which are considered in line with best conservation practice; to give them the knowledge they need to have to make decisions on the care of their buildings and the language they need to use to ask the right type of questions of their architects or builders. The Series sets out the Department's standards of best practice in the conservation of architectural heritage and is also intended for use by architects, engineers and other building professionals as well as builders and craft-workers.

C3 Websites dedicated to sustainable architecture

Some Member States are promoting websites specifically dedicated to sustainable design in architecture and the built environment giving access to a wide variety of information, resources and guidance on sustainability. Although there are several good examples of sustainability websites in Europe, to illustrate two examples will be given:

- *Scottish website Sust.org* - provides several tools and guidance to professionals as well an overview of sustainable projects and a huge amount of information about sustainable solutions for anyone interested in this theme¹⁰⁸;
- *Danish portal on sustainable cities* - collects and disseminates knowledge on cases and initiatives from cities all over the world, where it is possible to find inspiration in twelve categories: Energy, transport, water, food, waste, green, social, buildings, masterplans, education, economy and health¹⁰⁹.

C4 Subsidies for energy-efficient construction

Another type of initiative / action that is being followed by several Member States is governmental programmes that promote energy-efficient construction and low-energy buildings through a scheme of grants and subsidies. For example the Czech Green Savings programme provides subsidies for the installation of better insulation, replacing environmentally unfriendly heating, as well as construction of new houses based on the concept of passive energy standard. Another example is the Scottish “Sust” programme that provides small grants to community groups to assist putting sustainable design into practice.

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For more information:
www.sust.org

109

For more information:
sustainablecities.dk

110

For more information:
www.bruxellesenvironnement.be

Since 2007, the Brussels-Capital Region has conducted calls for projects to enhance and promote the construction or renovation of “*exemplary building*.” Their goal is to demonstrate that it is possible to achieve very good energy and environmental performance within a reasonable budget. Following three calls for proposals for projects launched between 2007 and 2009, 117 projects, both small and large, have been selected and are in total 265,000 m². These projects will be made in 2013 at the latest, thanks to financial support of 18.5 million Euros in the region¹¹⁰.

C5 Sustainability as a criteria in design competitions

Sustainable design in architecture has been widely introduced as criteria in design competitions, both in building project contests as well as for new urban development plans, promoting innovative solutions that integrate architectural design with sustainable strategies.

C6 Prizes for architecture and sustainability

Some administrations are promoting innovation and excellence in architecture combined with sustainable concerns through the awarding of prizes. For example, the Austrian State Prize for Architecture and Sustainability that recognizes outstanding achievements by building owners, architects and professional planners, combining sophisticated architecture and resource-efficient construction, rewarding and encouraging further developments and innovations.

It is worth mentioning that non-governmental bodies are also promoting sustainable architecture through the awarding of prizes, for example, the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture of the LOCUS foundation (France), that seeks to identify and reward the most innovative and engaged architects with sustainable concerns from all corners of the globe.

C7 Tougher energy requirements for buildings

Requirements on energy consumption in buildings are defined by the Directive on the energy performance of buildings of the European Union (2002/91/EC). Nevertheless, some Member States are promoting tougher energy requirements to reduce the overall energy consumption of their buildings. For example, Denmark has introduced in the energy provisions of the new building regulation strengthened demands for energy improvements in larger renovations, roof replacement, windows on a facade, boilers etc. At the same time, the regulations introduce improved energy labelling for buildings and inspection schemes for boilers and ventilation systems.

C8 Ecolabel of buildings

The Nordic countries have created an ecolabel of products with the purpose of providing an environmental labeling scheme to contribute to a sustainable consumption. The Nordic Ecolabel - also known as Nordic Swan - was introduced by the Nordic Council of Ministers with the purpose of helping consumers choose environmental products. The company who wants to ecolabel their products needs to meet a set of environmental, quality and health criteria.

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For more information:
www.perfildecalidad.es

The Nordic ecolabel also includes buildings, more specifically small houses, housing and pre-scholar buildings, where they will need to fulfill several requirements that cover the construction process, materials and energy consumption. Therefore, architectural design is a very important aspect in the whole process because it allows allying aesthetic solutions with functional needs.

Another interesting example is the Spanish voluntary green certification, the Quality Profile¹¹¹, a quality assessment tool based on the requirements of European directives and Spanish regulations. As an instrument of quality the Quality Profil goes beyond the mandatory minimum grades based on the recent EU regulation and in the construction products EU Directive (89/106/EEC).



Conclusions

In the last 30 years there has been a growing recognition of the importance of architectural quality for social and cultural development, wealth creation and economic well-being. To support this goal, several European countries have been developing architectural policies to promote spatial design excellence and raise public awareness of the importance of the built environment.

Reflecting on the wide diversity of cultures across the European Union, some Member States have developed initiatives and actions addressed to clients and stakeholders, others have produced guidance and educational programmes, while others have promoted new architectural cultural agendas oriented to the general public. The differences in approaches result from the Member States still differing in many aspects: historical development, political / legal systems, cultural and social backgrounds. Nonetheless, it is possible to identify a growing tendency for the development of architectural policies, with the national, regional and local governments assuming a catalytic role.

Currently, in the European Union there are 16 administrations that have an official document on architectural policy at the national level, plus Iceland and Norway. Additionally, there are 14 administrations that are planning to develop an official document in architectural policy or are already in the final phase of the official approval of their document. This number has been increasing since the nineties and is expected to continue to grow in the following years.

Looking at the progression of national architectural policies in the European Union, like other public policies a process of Europeanization is occurring, where, through bench-marking, each country learns from the other and makes a greater convergence between the policies possible. Nevertheless, the nature and content of the policies cannot be divorced from the constitutional, administrative and political framework in which the policy was developed.

Therefore, it is possible to conclude that the European *Council Resolution* (2001) and *Council Conclusions* (2008) on architecture are having a positive impact in encouraging the Member States to promote architectural quality as a condition to improving the quality of life of European citizens. Additionally, the two EU Council documents are important to the legitimization of the architectural policies already published and most important to the stimulation of the ones that are currently being developed.

Nevertheless, some questions can be asked about the real extent of the impact of the *Council Resolution and Conclusions* in the governmental programmes and procurement processes. Like all the other EU soft policies the two documents are not mandatory for the Member States. However, the need for a more direct approach was not mentioned by any of the countries.

Some countries have mentioned the need for more evidence and research at the European level that supports the benefits and effectiveness of national architectural policies and their contribution to the territorial cohesion. A better knowledge of the present “state of the art” would be of great value for the countries that are still in the early stages of their policies, in order to increase the awareness of the people to the role of architecture and the responsibilities in improving the quality of the built environment.

The EFAP has played an important role in the dissemination of the *European Council Resolution and Conclusions*, by giving recommendations to the several administrations and by the organization of international meetings and conferences, where examples of architectural policies have been presented and discussed. From an EFAP point of view, the Commission should support a study that analyse existing architectural policies and instruments used to ease creativity, sustainability in architecture and special design processes, and acknowledges its role as an expert group for urban issues and creative industries. Additionally, the opportunity should be given to the different stakeholders - governmental, professional and cultural - to express their views on the efficiency and opportunity of different policy instruments.

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