

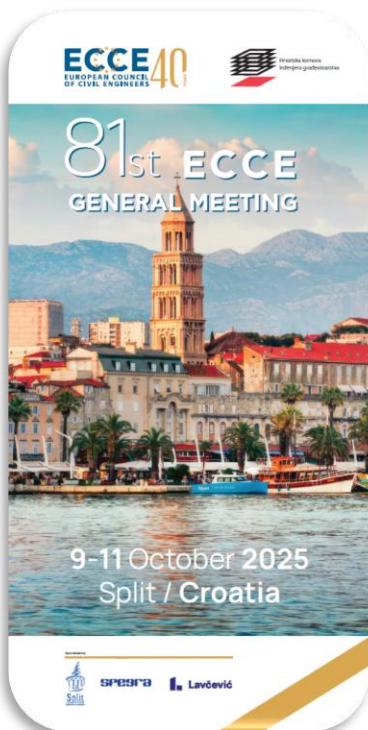
European Council of Civil Engineers Convenes its 81st General Meeting in Split, Croatia – Celebrating 40 Years of ECCE and Advancing Civil Engineers' Role in Resilience

The European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) successfully convened its 81st General Meeting from 9–11 October 2025 in Split, Croatia, hosted by the Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers (HKIG).

The meeting gathered delegates from ECCE member and associate organizations, honorary and past presidents, distinguished invited guests from across Europe and presidents of international organizations, marking another milestone in ECCE's 40th Anniversary Year (1985–2025).

The three-day event combined governance sessions, strategic discussions, important presentations, a Round Table on "Civil Engineers' Responsibility Following Natural Disasters", and celebratory moments dedicated to ECCE's legacy and future vision.

Key Highlights of the 81st ECCE General Meeting



Opening ceremony

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks by **Mr. Platonas Stylianou**, ECCE President, **Mrs. Nina Dražin Lovrec**, President of the Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers (HKIG), and **Mr. Tonči Glavinić**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets of Croatia

In their addresses, the speakers highlighted the importance of **civil engineers' contribution to public safety, resilience, and sustainable development**, emphasizing collaboration across Europe as the cornerstone of ECCE's mission.



ECCE President
Platonas Stylianou



HKIG President
Nina Dražin Lovrec



State Secretary of the Ministry of Physical
Planning, Construction and State Assets of
Croatia
Tonči Glavinić

Governance & Administration

ECCE members approved the minutes of the 80th ECCE General Meeting. Updates on ECCE's financial position were presented, including the Management Accounts up to the end of September 2025 and the financial planning for 2026. The proposed membership fees and budget were unanimously endorsed, reflecting the sound financial management of the organization and aligning with the Strategic Plan objective to strengthen ECCE's financial framework.

President Platonas Stylianou presented the [ECCE Activity Report \(March–October 2025\)](#), highlighting key developments since the 80th ECCE General Meeting. The report showcased ECCE's active engagement in strategic projects, the advancement of partnerships, and milestone initiatives marking the 40th Anniversary, underscoring the Council's continued momentum and growing European and international visibility.

Strategic Initiatives and Progress Reports

ECCE signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure



ECCE President Platonas Stylianou
and ICSI Executive Director Savina
Carluccio

ECCE emphasized the importance of international collaboration in addressing global challenges, highlighting the **Memorandum of Understanding** signed with the **International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (ICSI)** during the Split meeting. This milestone partnership reinforces joint efforts to promote resilience, climate adaptation, and the transition towards sustainable, future-ready infrastructure across Europe and beyond. As part of this collaboration, ICSI Executive Director Savina Carluccio delivered an insightful presentation on the [Global Infrastructure Resilience Survey](#), providing a global perspective on the state of resilience in infrastructure systems and identifying opportunities for action that align closely with ECCE's strategic priorities.

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ECCE supports the Luxembourg Declaration on Public Procurement



ECEC President
Nina Dražin Lovrec

ECCE was among the signatories of the Luxembourg Declaration on Public Procurement, adopted in May 2025, which calls for quality-based, transparent, and sustainable procurement practices across Europe. During the meeting, **Nina Dražin Lovrec**, President of the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC), delivered a [presentation](#) outlining the main principles of the Declaration and its relevance for the engineering profession. The initiative emphasizes the need to move beyond lowest-price criteria, promoting professional competence, innovation, and long-term value in public procurement for the built environment.

ECCE strengthens its ties with international partners

ECCE reaffirmed its strong relations with international engineering organizations and professional bodies. The Secretary General of ENGINEERS EUROPE, **Dirk Bochar**, and the President of ISHCCO, **Evangelitsa Tsoulofta**, delivered insightful presentations on the [Engineers Europe \(E4E\) Project](#) and ["Occupational Safety and Health \(OSH\) in Construction: The Role of Civil Engineers"](#), respectively. ECCE was further honoured by the presence of distinguished guests – **Oscar Sánchez**, President of the World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE), **Nikos Theodossiou**, President of the Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties (AECEF), and **Klaus Thürriedl**, President of the European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS) – whose participation underscored the spirit of collaboration and mutual commitment to advancing the civil engineering profession at the European and global levels.



ENGINEERS EUROPE Secretary
General



ISHCCO President
Evangelitsa Tsoulofta



WCCE President
Oscar Sanchez



AECEF President
Nikos Theodossiou



CEPLIS President
Klaus Thürriedl

Strategic Plan Implementation & AI Position Paper (AIDE Initiative)

ECCE continued to advance the [implementation of its Strategic Plan 2023–2030](#), as presented by Vice President / President Elect **Jeanette Muñoz Abela**, who outlined progress across key priority areas – education, digitalization, resilience, and societal impact. A major focus was placed on the role of artificial intelligence and digital transformation in shaping the future of the profession, with [updates shared on the AIDE Position Paper](#) (Artificial Intelligence for Digital & Ethical Civil Engineering), which aims to promote the responsible and ethical integration of AI in civil engineering practice.

To further strengthen collaborative engagement and define actionable pathways, three Strategic Plan Pillar Workshops were held in parallel, led by their respective Champions and co-chairs, focusing on Education, Research & Knowledge Transfer, Societal Factors & Impact, and Enterprise & Industry Impact – fostering dynamic discussions and concrete steps towards achieving ECCE's long-term vision for the profession.



ECCE Vice President/ President Elect
Jeanette Muñoz Abela

ECCE Strategic Plan Workshops
Paul Coughlan, Nikolas Kyriakides, VilmaVaičekauskienė

Review of the ECCE Articles of Association

ECCE Immediate Past President Andreas Brandner reported on ongoing efforts to refine the ECCE Articles of Association, focusing on improving clarity, removing outdated provisions, and adding necessary topics, aiming to enhance ECCE's administrative efficiency. The goal is to improve ECCE's services and administrative support.



ECCE Immediate Past President
Andreas Brandner



ECCE General Secretary
Maria Karanasiou

A New Era for ECCE's Online Presence

ECCE Secretary General Maria Karanasiou presented the [progress of its new website](#), marking a major step towards a more modern, accessible, and engaging digital presence. The redesigned platform – aligned with ECCE's updated branding – will feature improved navigation, a dedicated events calendar, a publications library, a news feed, and integrated member access. The new website aims to enhance visibility, strengthen communication with members and the public, and showcase ECCE's mission, values, and activities in a dynamic and user-friendly way ahead of its official launch.

Progress of the ECCE Book project

ECCE presented the progress of its flagship publication ["Civil Engineering Today: Mapping the Profession Across Europe."](#) coordinated by ECCE President Platonas Stylianou. The updated 2026 edition – the fourth in the series – will offer a comprehensive overview of the civil engineering profession across Europe, from education and registration systems to professional practice. With contributions from representatives of over 25 countries, all ten thematic chapters have now been completed, paving the way for data analysis, editing, and the creation of the forthcoming digital e-book edition to be released in 2026, marking ECCE's 40th Anniversary.

Recognition and 40th Anniversary Highlights

During the meeting, former ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis was awarded the title of **ECCE Honorary President** in recognition of his outstanding service and dedication to ECCE since its establishment in **1985**. His continuous involvement over four decades has greatly contributed to ECCE's growth and to strengthening the voice of civil engineers across Europe.

The meeting was also honored by the presence of ECCE Honorary President Yrjö Matikainen, whose participation underscored ECCE's enduring legacy and the strong bonds among its past and present leaders.

As part of the 40th Anniversary celebrations, ENGINEERS EUROPE presented a commemorative gift to ECCE President Platonas Stylianou. The gift was delivered by ENGINEERS EUROPE Secretary General Dirk Bochar.

Participants enjoyed the premiere of the [ECCE Tribute Video](#) dedicated to “40 Years of ECCE (1985–2025)”, featuring reflections and messages from ECCE Presidents past and present, celebrating four decades of unity, collaboration, and service to the civil engineering community in Europe.



From top left to right: 1. ECCE Honorary President Yrjö Matikainen, 2. ECCE President Platonas Stylianou, ECCE Secretary General Maria Karanasiou, HKIG President Nina Drazin Lovrec, ECCE Honorary President Yrjö Matikainen, ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Jeanette Muñoz Abela, 3. ECCE President Platonas Stylianou and HKIG President Nina Drazin Lovrec awarding the title of ECCE Honorary President to Aris Chatzidakis, 4. ECCE members honouring the ECCE Honorary President Aris Chatzidakis, 5. ENGINEERS EUROPE Secretary General Dirk Bochar delivering a present to the ECCE President Platonas Stylianou for the 40 Years of ECCE

Round Table – Civil Engineers’ Responsibility Following Natural Disasters

A key highlight of the 81st ECCE General Meeting was the [Round Table on "Civil Engineers' Responsibility Following Natural Disasters](#). The session brought together an impressive line-up of experts from across Europe to examine the vital role of civil engineers in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

The discussion was moderated by Ms. Zrinka Grancarić, a prominent Croatian journalist and TV presenter at the Croatian Radiotelevision (HRT). With her dynamic moderation, the session evolved into an insightful and thought-provoking exchange bridging **engineering, policy, law, and societal resilience**.

The Round Table opened with expert presentations by:

- Prof. Marta Šavor Novak (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Civil Engineering), on ["Earthquake Risk Assessment of the City of Zagreb."](#) highlighting Croatia's progress in disaster risk reduction since the 2020 earthquakes.
- Prof. Nikolas Kyriakides (Cyprus University of Technology), who presented ["Post-Earthquake Emergency Assessment of Building Safety."](#) offering practical guidelines for rapid and efficient post-disaster structural inspections.
- Prof. Nikos Theodossiou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, President of AECEF, Chair of the UN SDSN Black Sea), addressing ["Climate-Related Risks: Floods and Droughts under Climate Change Conditions."](#) emphasizing the need to rethink infrastructure design and management under non-stationary climate patterns.
- Prof. Antun Bilić (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law), who examined ["Civil Engineers' Responsibility Following Natural Disasters."](#) analyzing the legal and ethical dimensions of engineers' liability in post-disaster contexts.
- Mr. Bülent Tatlı (Secretary of the Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers), who presented ["The Reality of Earthquakes in Türkiye."](#) illustrating lessons learned from the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes and the engineering community's response.



From top left to right: Prof. Marta Šavor Novak, Prof. Nikolas Kyriakides, Mr. Bülent Tatlı, Prof. Nikos Theodossiou, Prof. Antun Bilić

Following the presentations, an engaging **panel discussion** brought together:

- Eur. Ing. Platonas Stylianou, ECCE President (Cyprus)
- Dipl.-Ing. Andreas M. Brandner, ECCE Immediate Past President (Austria)
- Prof. Josip Atalić, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Prof. Mario Uroš, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Prof. Antun Bilić, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law
- Ms. Danijela Anić, Ministry of Construction of Croatia

The panellists explored how engineers' responsibilities extend beyond design and construction—to safeguarding life, heritage, and community resilience in the face of natural hazards. They emphasized the **ethical obligation** of civil engineers to integrate risk awareness, preventive action, and transparent communication with authorities and the public.



From left to right: Ms. Zrinka Grancarić, Prof. Antun Bilić, Ms. Danijela Anić, Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Brandner, Eur. Ing. Platonas Stylianou, Prof. Josip Atalić, Prof. Mario Uroš

The Round Table concluded with a lively Q&A session, reflecting a shared commitment among European engineers to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration and advance **resilient, sustainable, and safe infrastructure** across Europe.

Technical and Cultural Programme

The event concluded with a technical visit to key infrastructure sites in Split, including [the Žnjan Plateau coastal reconstruction project](#), showcasing Croatia's commitment to sustainable urban development.

A gala dinner and cultural programme provided networking opportunities and a celebration of ECCE's 40-year journey in the inspiring setting of the Adriatic coast.



Technical and Cultural Programme

Conclusions

In his closing remarks, ECCE President Platonas Stylianou expressed his deep appreciation to all delegates, speakers, and guests for their active participation and contribution to the success of the 81st ECCE General Meeting. He emphasized that the gathering in Split was more than a meeting—it was *“an opportunity to connect, collaborate, and shape the future of the civil engineering profession in Europe.”*

President Stylianou extended heartfelt thanks to the Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers (HKIG) for their warm hospitality and excellent organization, noting that the event's spirit of unity and reflection aptly honored ECCE's 40th Anniversary. He encouraged all members to continue engaging actively in ECCE's initiatives, sharing expertise and strengthening cooperation to advance resilience, sustainability, and innovation across the built environment.

He concluded with a message of collective purpose:

“Together, we are stronger. Together, we are engineering a sustainable future for Europe.”

The 81st ECCE General Meeting thus marked not only the continuation of ECCE's 40-year journey but also a renewed commitment to collaboration, excellence, and societal responsibility within the civil engineering profession.

Next ECCE General Meeting

The 82nd ECCE General Meeting will be held from 28 – 30 May 2026, in Tbilisi, Georgia, hosted by the Georgian Society of Civil Engineers and the Georgian Technical University. Details will be announced in due course.

Thank You

The European Council of Civil Engineers extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers for successfully organizing the 81st ECCE General Meeting and for their exceptional hospitality, which contributed to the resounding success of the event.

[Photo Gallery](#)

About ECCE

Founded in 1985, the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) unites the national professional organizations of civil engineers across Europe. In 2025, ECCE proudly celebrates 40 years of service to the profession – four decades dedicated to promoting collaboration, excellence, and ethical practice in civil engineering. Today, ECCE continues to champion the role of civil engineers in shaping a safe, sustainable, and resilient built environment for future generations.

[Why should a country participate in the ECCE](#)

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