

INTERVIEW WITH AGNETE SKYTTE, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF CONSTRUCTION ECONOMISTS (CEEC)

UNTEC – Economie & Construction N°187

Section: Territories
Rubrique : Territoires

Theme / Thème
International construction economists
Les économistes de la construction à l'International

QUESTIONS

1- *In October 2019, you were appointed Chair of the CEEC (the European Council of Construction Economists), after being Vice President of the organization. What projects do you want to carry out to promote construction economists internationally?*

En octobre 2019, vous avez été nommée présidente du CEEC (Conseil Européen des Economistes de la Construction), après avoir été vice-présidente de l'organisation. Quels sont les projets que vous souhaitez mener pour promouvoir les économistes de la construction à l'international ?

Answer:

During my time as vice president, we started an internal change process in CEEC and defined a new strategy for the association together with the national organizations. We created new work groups, that now clearly pursue this strategy. My intention is to continue this work and stabilize this new work form moving the association forwards.

A further goal of mine is to bring CEEC and all our stakeholders closer together. This means to improve the communication within the CEEC (between the delegates), with our member organizations but also to improve the communication with the individual members of our national organizations thus making the work of the CEEC easier to access for everyone. Our relations to other European non-member countries should be intensified with the goal to further develop the collaboration between all European countries within the area of construction economy. Finally, our collaboration with national organizations outside Europe as well as with international and global organizations should be strengthened, in order to develop CEEC's position as the European knowledge hub for construction economists. One of our latest developments is that we now film our seminars and publish them on our website to secure all stakeholders easy access to our activities (the videos can be watched here: <https://www.ceecorg.eu/presentations/>).

2- *The CEEC conducted a study to understand the differences and similarities of the practices and the profession of construction economist in Europe. Can you give us some examples on this?*

Le CEEC a réalisé une étude pour comprendre les différences et similitudes des pratiques et du métier d'économiste de la construction en Europe. Pouvez-vous nous donner quelques exemples à ce sujet ?

Answer:

In Europe the profession of the construction economist is a little different in every country. There are of course many similarities but also some differences. For example: In Switzerland, Denmark and the Netherlands construction economy cannot be studied as a first education. Swiss, Danish and Dutch construction economists are mostly first architects, structural engineers or construction managers who have done a further education in construction economy. In England and Ireland the construction economist is called a "quantity surveyor" which is an approved first education in those countries.

In some countries the work of the construction economist is mainly focused on the construction costs and in occasionally focused on the life cycle costs. In other countries the construction economists are also doing property valuations and/or project management.

3- *On October 11, 2019, the second edition of the ICMS Standard (The International Construction Measurement Standard) was launched. How do you intend to develop the standardization of international standards in Europe?*

Le 11 octobre 2019, la deuxième édition de la norme ICMS (Normes internationales de mesure de la construction) a été lancée. Comment comptez-vous développer l'uniformisation des normes internationales en Europe ?

Answer:

CEEC is a member of the ICMS coalition. We support the project since the beginning and promote it in our member countries. Several of the CEEC national member organizations have joined the coalition in the process. The latest progress was the Swiss national organization Maneco, who joined the coalition in autumn 2019.

Every European country has their own norms and standards. In order to be able to work together across the borders, we have started to collect and compare the norms and standards of our member countries. This will enable us to support the work of mapping every European cost code standard into the ICMS standard in order to obtain the greatest possible transparency and improve the understanding of costs calculations created in a foreign country.

4- *Do you see the emergence of new modes of design, related to environmental constraints in Europe, such as the development of the wood sector, timber frames in construction?*

Voyez-vous l'émergence de nouveaux modes de conception, liés aux contraintes environnementales en Europe, comme le développement de la filière bois, des charpentes en bois dans la construction ?

Answer: Indeed. Because of the carbon neutral quality of wood it is a fast growing trend. The possibility to prefabricate elements and which enables a very short assembly time on the construction site also makes the construction in wood very attractive.

5- *What major and impactful developments do you see in the construction by 2030 in your country?*

Quels développements majeurs et impactants voyez-vous dans la construction d'ici 2030 dans votre pays ?

Answer: As a natural progress in the sustainable development I see more compact and large scale buildings in the cities, neighborhoods with higher density and a focus of low impact construction (NZE- nearly zero energy construction).

6- *On the occasion of the Dubai World Expo, what have you planned to promote economists internationally, to make them participate in this event?*

A l'occasion de l'Exposition universelle de Dubaï, qu'avez-vous prévu pour promouvoir les économistes à l'international, pour les faire participer à l'événement ?

Answer: Untec has organized a very interesting guided trip to World Expo in Dubai and all CEEC members are invited to join. It will be held in French as well as in English and is a wonderful chance for our members to experience the latest international trends and technical development first hand. The exchange between the members of the different European countries is of course also a great chance for high potential networking.

