

Workshop

Adoption of the Eurocodes in the Balkan Region

5 and 6 December, 2013
Milan & JRC-Ispra, Italy

The Workshop on the Adoption of the Eurocodes in the Balkan region was held on 5-6 December 2013 in Milan and at the JRC, Ispra, Italy. It was organized by DG Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and supported by the JRC Enlargement and Integration Action.

The workshop was focused on the progress and specific needs for adoption and implementation of the Eurocodes and related EN standards in the Balkan region. Thirty seven representatives of the National Authorities, National Standardization Bodies, Academia and Chambers of Engineers from non-EU countries in the Balkan region participated, as well as seven invited experts from CEN/TC250, CEN&CENELEC Management Centre, DG ELARG and EU Member States and seven staff of the JRC (ELSA Unit). The total number of the participants was 51.

After two-days of presentations and discussions the following conclusions were delivered:

- Most of the non-EU countries in the Balkan region are planning to use the Eurocodes as primary standards. They are aware about the need for harmonization of their national legislation and standardization framework for construction with the EU legislation. However, in most of the countries there is a lack of relevant institutional support for adoption and implementation of the Eurocodes.
- There is good progress on Eurocodes translations, especially on EN 1990, EN 1991 and EN 1992, (except in Bosnia and Herzegovina). This process is completed in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM) and Moldova (the latter accepted the Romanian translation) and in very advanced phase in Serbia. The process of elaboration of Nationally Determined Parameters (NDPs) and National Annexes (NA) has started in the majority of the non-EU countries in the Balkan region.
- Eurocodes are included in higher education; more extensively in the second cycle (Master courses). In general, training courses are not offered by professional associations (except in Montenegro) and there is lack of comprehensive training material. Croatia could serve as a regional example of “good practice” concerning the organization of training programs and involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the process. The financing at National level for the elaboration of guidelines for application of EN Eurocodes and design aids is insufficient.
- There is a need for creating a regional platform for collaboration concerning adoption of the Eurocodes, for example by setting up itinerant regional conferences/meetings/seminars/workshops/training hosted by each of the

countries in the Balkan region. The National Standardization Body of fYRoM “Standardization Institute of Republic of Macedonia” kindly offered to host the first event.