

Workshop

Building capacities for elaboration of NDPs and NAs of the Eurocodes in the Balkan Region

4 and 5 November, 2014
Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Workshop on Building capacities for elaboration of NDPs and NAs of the Eurocodes in the Balkan Region was held on 4-5 November 2014 in Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It was organized by DG Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and hosted by the Standardization Institute of the Republic of Macedonia, ISRM within the framework of the JRC Enlargement and Integration Action. It builds upon the activities carried out at the Workshop on the Adoption of the Eurocodes in the Balkan region, held on 5-6 December 2013 in Milan and at the JRC, Ispra, Italy,

http://eurocodes.jrc.ec.europa.eu/showpage.php?id=2013_12_WS_Balkan

The workshop was focused on further adoption and implementation of the Eurocodes in the non-EU countries in the Balkan region. In particular, it serves to assess recent progress, difficulties and needs for the definition of the NDPs and NAs since the first workshop and to boost regional collaboration for cross-border harmonization of NDPs. Thirty seven representatives of the National Standardization Bodies, Academia and Chambers of Engineers from non-EU countries in the Balkan region and one observer from Kosovo participated, as well as seven invited experts from CEN/TC250, EU Member States, SHARE and NATO SfP projects and four staff of the JRC (ELSA Unit). The total number of the participants was 49.

After two-days of presentations and discussions the main results can be summarized as follows:

1. State of progress

- Most Standardisation Institutions have adopted the Eurocodes as standards, in parallel with existing national codes that are part of National regulation.
- The advancement in translation is variable although a progress since the first workshop is observed. In several countries parts of the Eurocodes are adopted in English.
- Most non-EU countries in the Balkan region, with the exception of Turkey, have started the definition of NDPs. Most countries have adopted the Recommended Values, with the exception for wind, snow, thermal and seismic loads.
- Financial and political support is needed for developing the National Annexes, in particular for the definition of climatic and seismic actions maps.
- National Authorities are aware on the complexity of the whole process of adoption and implementation of the Eurocodes and its importance. Moldova and Montenegro emphasised the support of their governments in this process.

In particular, the Government of Montenegro has a plan for the implementation and adoption of the Eurocodes by the end of 2017, and recognizes it as a crucial activity of strategic importance.

- In most countries practitioners use National standards and Eurocodes in parallel. Eurocodes can be used as long as National regulations are respected.

2. Views on the way ahead

- Most countries consider that the roadmap for implementation of the Eurocodes should include a period of co-existence followed by withdrawal of National Standards and recognition of Eurocodes as norms in the legislative documents.
- Most countries suggested that regional cooperation should be promoted for developing the NDPs and NAs, by setting up itinerant regional conferences/meetings/seminars/workshops/training hosted by each of the countries in the Balkan region.
- Concerning the importance of political support in the process of adoption of the Eurocodes it is recommended to take steps to further increase the awareness of governmental institutions. As a first step, concerned participants may send the conclusions presented herein to the National Authorities.
- It is recommended to intensify the communication between those parties in charge of elaborating the NAs and the National Authorities who are responsible for enforcement of standards and regulations.
- Based on best practice in the EU MS and acknowledging the limited availability of resources, it is recommended that countries should rely on existing experience at national level, on comparative numerical studies and on the JRC Eurocodes NDPs database for the elaboration of the NAs. For example, collecting and sharing design examples or studies comparing the former JUS standards and the Eurocodes would be helpful for the development of NPDs and NAs in the countries with technical tradition related to JUS standards.
- It is proposed to launch a pilot project for the elaboration of climate and seismic maps in one of the countries in the region using the existing financial instruments of the European Commission open to candidate or potential candidate countries, and to apply this “know-how” model to the remaining countries.
- It is proposed to organize regional workshops & training courses (mostly level 3 – focused on comprehensively described design examples) in order to further facilitate the implementation of the Eurocodes.