



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Community and Local Government



## **Geotechnical Design with worked examples 13-14 June 2013, Dublin, Ireland**

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### **Introduction**

It's a pleasure for me to open today's Workshop on Geotechnical Design with worked examples. You are all very welcome, particularly those who have travelled from afar.

I work in the Building Standards Section of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. which is responsible for providing effective technical/professional advice on Building Standards matters, providing a strong and evolving building code in support of quality construction, sustainable development and compliance with relevant EU requirements such as EPBD/ CPR (and of course Eurocodes).

My role extends to being Ireland's nominee on the Eurocodes National Correspondents Group set up by the Commission to provide a forum, complementary to CEN/TC250, for the exchange of remarks, concerns, opinions and experience between all the parties concerned with the implementation of the EN Eurocodes. On a national level I project managed many of the calibration

studies to help our National Eurocodes Advisory Committee make informed decisions when choosing appropriate Nationally Determined Parameter for Ireland.

## **Eurocodes in Ireland**

From a Eurocodes implementation point of view this Workshop is very timely for us. Although Ireland formally switched to the Eurocodes as the basis for the structural design for buildings and civil engineering works in March 2010, July 1st will see the general commencement of an update to Part A (Structure) of Irish Building Regulations. The associated Technical Guidance Document A (Structure) has been updated to give full reference to the Eurocodes and removes all references to conflicting/ withdrawn standards.

Where construction works are carried out in accordance with Technical Guidance Document A, this will, *prima facie* indicate compliance with Part A of the Building Regulations in Ireland.

## **Organisation of Workshop**

Thanks to the Organising Committee (Artur Pinto/ Silvia Dimova/ Andrew Bond and the team)/ JRC/ Commission support for this excellent forum for transfer of knowledge, networking and cooperation.

I was honoured when Artur Pinto/ JRC first approached me with the proposal to host this workshop in Ireland. Geotechnical Design is a particularly strong area for Irish participation in CEN TC250/ SC7 with Dr. Eric Farrell (Convenor of SC7 Evolution Group 1 (EG1) – ground anchors) & Dr. Trevor Oor (Convenor of SC7/ EG 3 – Design Examples to Eurocode 7).

Special thanks to Artur & Silvia for utilising the 'surplus capacity seating' by extending the invitation to the local Engineering community. This gesture is very much appreciated and will give a further insight to Irish Engineers how the Eurocodes project is one which fosters continual support and education.

I hope you have an engaging couple of days and look forward to hearing all the other speakers from UK/ Italy & Germany.

I sincerely hope you enjoy your visit to Dublin, take in the sights and hopefully come back and visit again sometime soon.

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