The concept of the Eurocodes Community of Practice in the Balkan region

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“... no one knows everything, everyone knows something, all knowledge resides in networks ...”


Image source: Svanfeldt, Rancati, Cuccillato and Troussard, Enabling Communities of Practice, 2016, EUR 28432 EN
What is a Community of Practice (CoP)?

• A CoP is a group of people who share a craft or a profession.

• The concept was first proposed by cognitive anthropologist Jean Lave and educational theorist Etienne Wenger in their 1991 book “Situated Learning” (Lave & Wenger 1991).

• Wenger then significantly expanded on the concept in his 1998 book “Communities of Practice” (Wenger 1998).
What is a Community of Practice?

“A CoP can evolve naturally because of the members' common interest in a particular domain or area, or it can be created deliberately with the goal of gaining knowledge related to a specific field...

It is through the process of sharing information and experiences with the group that members learn from each other, and have an opportunity to develop personally and professionally.”

(Lave & Wenger 1991)
What is a Community of Practice?

- Key elements

✓ **the domain**
  members are brought together by a learning need or motivation they share

✓ **the community**
  collective learning becomes a bond among the members over time

✓ **the practice**
  the members interactions produce resources that affect their practice
CoP vs. Team

- Is a CoP the same concept as a team ....?
  
  • NO → there is a difference in the objective!
  
  ✓ CoP: sharing knowledge and promoting learning in a particular area
  
  ✓ Team: complete specific projects
CoPs example: **CoP-CITIES**

- **Initiative** of the European Commission, building on and bringing together ongoing work and expertise on cities;

- **Members**: cities and networks of cities, international and intergovernmental organisations and research bodies;

- **Objective**: Address specific challenges and features of cities and urban systems (housing unaffordability, demographic trends, ...);

- **Benefit**: open platform for the exchange of knowledge on urban issues in order to support:
  - strengthening European policies related to cities
  - discussing potential future challenges and opportunities for cities.
CoPs examples: CoPFiR

• **Initiative** of the JRC, bringing scientists and policymakers together to provide scientific input for policies linked to the European Commission's priorities, such as financial stability, Banking Union and capital markets;

• **Members**: 19 European universities and associations enrolled in CoPFiR so far;

• **Objective**: bring together academic experts and European policy makers to discuss how research can be aligned with current policy priorities
Training and Promotion in the Balkans ... the past

2013

ADOPTION OF THE EUROCODES IN THE BALKAN REGION
5-6 December 2013
MILAN & BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Organized by:
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Joint Research Centre

Supported by:
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ERC Enhancement and Integration Action

2014

BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR ELABORATION OF NDIS AND NAs OF THE EUROCODES IN THE BALKAN REGION
4-5 November 2014
Skopje, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Organized by:
EUROPEAN COMMISSION - DG Joint Research Centre
Hosted by:
Institute of the Republic of Macedonia for Development of Civil Engineering and Informatization

2015

ELABORATION OF MAPS FOR CLIMATIC AND SEISMIC ACTIONS FOR STRUCTURAL DESIGN IN THE BALKAN REGION
27 - 28 October 2015
Zagreb, Croatia

Organized by:
EUROPEAN COMMISSION - DG Joint Research Centre

2016

CURRENT STATUS OF THE EUROCODES IN THE BALKAN REGION
Side-event to the 12th annual meeting of CEN/S ENELEC
9 June 2016
Skopje, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Co-organized by:
INSTITUTE OF EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGY (IEEG), Thessaloniki

“The way forward for the Eurocodes implementation in the Balkans”, 10-11 October 2018, Tirana
Training and Promotion in the Balkans ... the future

2018 - Workshop
(Albania)
✓ process of implementation of the Eurocodes
✓ identification of needs for training and information

2019/2020 - Summer school
(host country?)
✓ train on the use of Eurocodes in the design practice
✓ focus on most common design cases (seismic design of concrete buildings)

2020/2021 - Thematic Seminar
(JRC – Ispra)
✓ increase awareness of national stakeholders on the current Eurocodes
✓ inform on the Eurocodes 2nd generation (2020)

But beyond 2021???
Eurocodes CoP in the Balkans

... building upon the demand to exchange on problematic issues and ways to tackle them, while sharing information and practices

❖ a proposal for a regional platform to enhance collaboration within the non-EU Balkan countries on the adoption and implementation of the Eurocodes

"... working together, sharing ideas and moving forward ..."
Eurocodes CoP in the Balkans

- Create a knowledge-sharing and community-building space
- Contribute to forge new relationships between relevant stakeholders
- Complement and amplify planned activities beyond 2018

"… working together, sharing ideas and moving forward …"
Eurocodes CoP in the Balkans

The concept

• provide **continuous support** in future actions related to the Eurocodes implementation in the Balkans;

• **assist** in process of the Eurocodes maintenance and updating once they will be adopted;
Eurocodes CoP in the Balkans

The concept

• members to engage in activities related to the Eurocodes and the Balkans:
  ✓ map knowledge and identify gaps
  ✓ exchange practical examples of structures designed with the Eurocodes
  ✓ discuss developments related to the national choices of NDPs to be included in the NAs to the Eurocodes
  ✓ organize visits and other local events
  ✓ support and assist with regional training activities
  ✓ ...

“The way forward for the Eurocodes implementation in the Balkans”, 10-11 October 2018, Tirana
Eurocodes CoP in the Balkans: how to build it?

**Phase 1**
- **Plant** the seeds of the community, i.e. identify shared issues and actual needs and the members willing to take responsibility for action.

**Phase 2**
- **Grow** the community and support the active members.

**Phase 3**
- **Harvest** the results and make the process self-sustained.

“The way forward for the Eurocodes implementation in the Balkans”, 10-11 October 2018, Tirana
Eurocodes CoP in the Balkans

The tools: e-forum / e-repository

• collect and store different types of documents

• exchange of documents and other sources of information

• foster the dissemination of information and activities facilitate the collaboration among its members

✓ this platform could be hosted at the JRC Eurocodes website ...
Eurocodes CoP in the Balkans

The tools: workshops, webinars, meetings, social media presence, ...

- preference for tools that do not require a massive physical presence to be useful, are light to set up and do not require heavy preparatory work;

- plenary meetings, i.e. occasions to meet, exchange ideas and pave the way for future work; JRC would be monitoring and assisting the CoP activities.
Eurocodes CoP in the Balkans

What is next?

- Activities will not just happen by themselves ...

→ Need for willing participants, ready to invest some time and open to input from others!

Are you ready to join the Eurocodes Balkans CoP???
Thank you for your attention!

Stay in touch

http://eurocodes.jrc.ec.europa.eu/

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