

***"The way forward for the Eurocodes implementation in the Balkans"***

***10-11 October 2018, Tirana***

# **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 ...”**

Source: Pierre Levy,  
*Collective Intelligence: Mankind's  
Emerging World in Cyberspace*, 1997



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

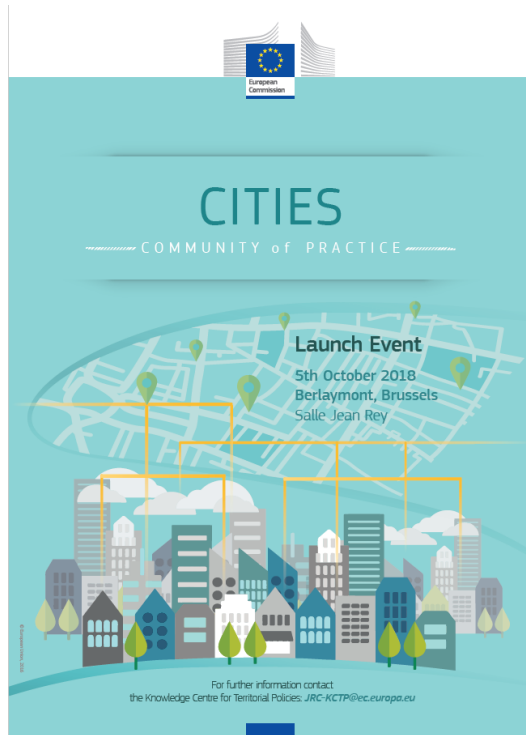
- ✓ **the practice**

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



The poster for the Financial Research Community of Practice (CoPFiR) launch event features a grid background with various financial and global icons. On the left, there is a world map and a bar chart. In the center, there are two circular progress indicators. On the right, there is a classical building icon and several Euro symbols. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout.

## Financial Research

COMMUNITY of PRACTICE

### Launch Event

*Programme*  
25 October 2017  
Salle Jean Rey, Berlaymont  
Brussels

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- **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 & JRC-ISPIRA, ITALY

Organized by  
**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DG Joint Research Centre

Supported by  
**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
JRC Enlargement and Integration Action



**2014**




**BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR  
ELABORATION OF NDPs AND NAS  
OF THE EUROCODES IN  
THE BALKAN REGION**

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

Organized by  
**EUROPEAN COMMISSION - DG Joint Research Centre**

Hosted by  
Standardization Institute of the Republic of Macedonia

Supported by  
**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
JRC Enlargement and Integration Action



**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**

Supported by  
**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
JRC Enlargement and Integration Action

**CENTC250**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB, Croatia**  
**CROATIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTE**



**2016**



**CURRENT STATUS OF THE EUROCODES  
IN THE BALKAN REGION**  
Side-event to the 12th annual meeting of  
**CEN&CENELEC**

9 June 2016  
Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Locally organized by  
**INSTITUTE OF EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING AND  
ENGINEERING SEISMOLOGY (IZIES), Skopje**  
**SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS UNIVERSITY, Skopje**

Co-organized by  
**EUROPEAN COMMISSION - DG Joint Research Centre**  
**CEN - CENELEC**



# Training and Promotion in the Balkans ... the future

## 2018 - Workshop

(Albania)

- ✓ process of implementation of the Eurocodes
- ✓ identification of needs for training and information

But beyond 2021???

## 2020/2021 - Thematic Seminar

(JRC – Ispra)

- ✓ increase awareness of national stakeholders on the current Eurocodes
- ✓ inform on the Eurocodes 2<sup>nd</sup> generation (2020)

## 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)

# 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



## ***Eurocodes Balkan CoP***

*" ... 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



## ***Eurocodes Balkan CoP***

*" ... working together, sharing ideas and moving forward ..."*

# Eurocodes CoP in the Balkans

## The concept

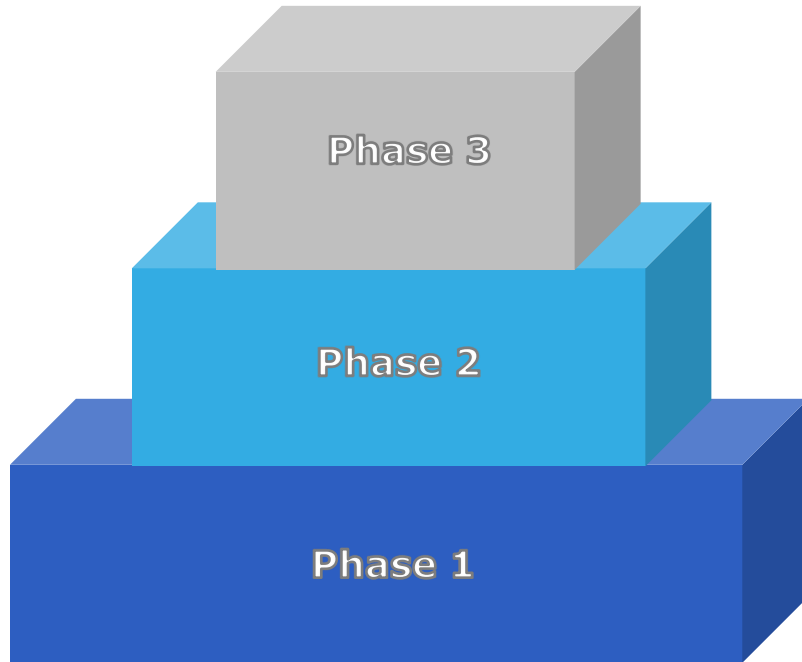
- provide **continuous support** in future actions related to the Eurocodes implementation in the Balkans;
- **assist** in process of the Eurocodes maintenance and updating once they will be adopted;

# 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
  - ✓ ...

# Eurocodes CoP in the Balkans: how to build it?



**Harvest** the results and make the process self-sustained



**Grow** the community and support the active members



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

# 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 member
- ✓ 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???

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**Thank you for your attention!**



***Stay in touch***

***<http://eurocodes.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>***

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