



ARCH E

The European Platform for
Architectural Design Competition

The **ARCH-E** Map on ADCs



Co-funded by the
European Union

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Table of Contents | 2 |
| List of Abbreviations | 4 |
| List of Figures | 6 |
| Introduction | 8 |
| Chapter 1: Mapping the European Landscape of ADCs | 18 |
| 1.1 Austria | 29 |
| 1.2 Croatia | 35 |
| 1.3 Cyprus | 39 |
| 1.4 Czech Republic | 43 |
| 1.5 Germany | 49 |
| 1.6 Hungary | 55 |
| 1.7 The Netherlands | 59 |
| 1.8 Slovenia | 65 |
| 1.9 South Tyrol | 68 |
| 1.10 Spain | 73 |
| 1.11 Switzerland | 77 |
| Chapter 2: Expert Opinions: Five Parameters for a European Debate on ADCs | 80 |
| 2.1 Regulations: The Legislative Framework(s) for ADCs | 81 |
| 2.1.1 Sustainability: ADCs Potential and Shortcomings | 82 |
| 2.2 Accessibility: Facts, Perceptions, and Strategies | 86 |
| 2.2.1 Cross-Border Mobility in European ADCs | 90 |
| 2.3 Quality: Key Elements for High-quality ADCs | 92 |
| 2.3.1 High-quality and Fair Conditions for Architects | 96 |
| 2.4 Transparency: Starting with Exchange | 98 |
| 2.5 The Benefits and Risks of European ADCs: Stakeholders' Perspectives | 101 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Chapter 3: Good Practices in European ADCs | 106 |
| 3.1 Cooperated ADCs in Austria: The Case of Graz University Library | 108 |
| 3.2 Slovenian ADC Regulation: The Extension of the Plečnik's Baragova Seminary | 110 |
| 3.3 "Een Nieuwe Bouwcultuur": The Case of Nieuwe Veemarkt in Zwolle | 112 |
| 3.4 SIA Ordnung 142: Regulation and Tools of the Swiss ADC System | 114 |
| 3.5 From Idea to Plan: The Urban Transformation of the Former Military Barracks in Luščič | 116 |
| 3.6 IMPSOL Competition Series: The Case of 85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà | 118 |
| 3.7 Architectural Heritage and Innovation: The New Educational Building for the Health Sciences Faculty of Semmelweis University | 120 |
| 3.8 Transparency through Participation: The Luise Büchner Educational Campus | 122 |
| 3.9 Fostering Community and Creativity: Lemba Culture Village | 124 |
| 3.10 Challenges and Innovation in Czech ADCs: Lessons from the Chýně–Hostivice Community School | 126 |
| Conclusion | 128 |
| Acknowledgements | 134 |
| Bibliography | 136 |
| Annex I | 140 |
| National ADCs regulations and guidelines | 140 |
| Annex II | 150 |
| List of interviews | 150 |

List of Abbreviations

List of ARCH-E Partners and Cooperation Partners

| | |
|-------------|--|
| BKZT | Federal Chamber of Civil Engineers (Austria) |
| ACE | Architects' Council of Europe |
| CCA | Croatian Chamber of Architects |
| ZAPS | Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia |
| CAA | Cyprus Architects Association |
| BAK | Federal Chamber of German Architects |
| TU/e | Eindhoven University of Technology (The Netherlands) |
| UPV | Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain) |
| SEPA | SEPA Engineering GmbH |
| MÉK | Chamber of Hungarian Architects |
| UIA | International Union of Architects |
| ČKA | Czech Chamber of Architects |
| CNOA | National Council of the Order of Architects (France) |
| SIA | Swiss Association of Engineers and Architects |

EU legislation and National Policies

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 2014/24/EU | Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC Text with EEA relevance. |
| 2018/844/EU | Directive 2018/844 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency. |
| BöB | Bundesgesetz über das öffentliche Beschaffungswesen (Swiss Federal Law on Public Procurement). |
| BVerG 2018 | Bundesvergabegesetz (Austrian Federal Procurement Act). |
| GWB | Gesetz gegen Wettbewerbsbeschränkungen (German Acts against Restraints on Competition). |
| IVöB | Interkantonale Vereinbarung über das öffentliche Beschaffungswesen (Swiss Intercantonal Ordinance on Public Procurement). |
| RPW | Richtlinie für Planungswettbewerbe (German Guidelines for Design Contests). |
| UVgO | Unterschwellenvergabeordnung (German Sub-threshold Public Procurement Ordinance). |
| VgV | Vergabeverordnung (German Procurement Ordinance). |
| VöB | Vereinbarung über das öffentliche Beschaffungswesen (Swiss Ordinance on Public Procurement). |
| WSA 2010 | Wettbewerbsstandard (Austrian Competition Standard Guidelines). |
| ZJN-3 | Zakon o Javnem Naročanju (Slovenian Public Procurement Act). |
| PJN | Pravilnik o javnih natečajih za izbiro strokovno najprimernejših rešitev prostorskih ureditev in objektov (Slovenian by-law regulation on ADC). |
| ZUREP-3 | Zakon o urejanju prostora (Slovenian Spatial Planning Act). |

List of Figures

Figure 0.1 Map of ARCH-E Project Partners and Cooperation Partners.

Figure 0.2 Diagram of a standard ADC process.

Figure 1.1 Map of population and real GDP per capita.

Figure 1.2 Map of Masters University Graduates in Architecture.

Figure 1.3 Map of registered architects.

Figure 1.4 Map of registered architectural offices and their composition.

Figure 1.5 Map of architects' international connections.

Figure 1.6 Map of average number and types of ADCs per year.

Figure 1.7 Map of nationally registered offices' participation in ADCs.

Figure 1.8 Map of national and foreign participants in EU open ADCs.

Figure 1.9 Map of ADC contracting authorities.

Figure 2.1 Accessibility to ADCs.

Figure 2.2 Cross-border mobility barriers.

Figure 2.3 Quality elements in ADCs.

Figure 2.4 Transparency in ADCs.

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- Figure 3.1** View of Graz University Library extension (photo credits: Michael Kopp).
-
- Figure 3.2** Winning design for the extension of the Plečnik’s Baragova Seminary (photo credits: Denis Hitrec).
-
- Figure 3.3** Winning design for the Nieuwe Veemarkt in Zwolle (image credits: Joost Emmerik, Studio Nauta, Mulder Zonderland).
-
- Figure 3.4** Snapshot of the Platform “Espazium Competitions.”
-
- Figure 3.5** Urban Development Plan Lušćić Centre (image credits: Municipality of Karlovac).
-
- Figure 3.6** Interior view of the 85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà by Peris+Toral Arquitectes (photo credits: José Hervia).
-
- Figure 3.7** Interior view of the Health Sciences Faculty of Semmelweis University (photo credits: Barta Bálint).
-
- Figure 3.8** Citizens’ dialogue with two of the prize-winners of the Luise Büchner Educational Campus (photo credits: Bürogemeinschaft Sippel).
-
- Figure 3.9** Aerial view of Lemba Culture Village (image credits: Charis Solomou).
-
- Figure 3.10** Visualisation of the Chýně–Hostivice Community School’s exterior (photo credits: Dousek–Záborský).
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Introduction

The **ARCH-E** project is committed to **promoting high-quality architectural solutions for the built environment by increasing the use of Architectural Design Competitions (ADCs) in Europe and overcoming cross-border market barriers for architectural services**. The structures of ADCs are determined by national frameworks and traditions, but a lack of information exchange among countries, along with other obstacles, has led to low transnational participation. This situation excludes many architects from participating in the (cross-border) EU market, hinders competition, and limits learning opportunities in the field of organising and implementing ADCs. Small and micro-enterprises (often with an above-average proportion of female and/or young architects) are particularly affected, causing a detrimental effect on their professional careers. Promoting ADCs will contribute to a better implementation of the Davos Declaration for Baukultur and of the New European Bauhaus' core values of sustainability, aesthetics, and inclusion in European planning and building projects. The aim is to have a positive impact on sustainability challenges and the quality of the living environment.

Objectives and Outputs

ARCH-E recognises the crucial role of Architectural Design Competitions (ADCs) in the creation of a safe, fair, sustainable, inclusive, and beautiful (built) environment. Therefore, to improve and promote access to ADCs across Europe, this project pursues the following objectives:

- **Enhance cross-border collaboration** among different architecture professionals through the use of the ARCH-E platform and network, services, and digital solutions.
- **Raise awareness and enable learning processes** amongst stakeholders, architects, policymakers, and ADC procurers leading to new ways of thinking about architectural challenges and promoting long-term strategies of innovation.
- **Creating a transnational competition culture** through the circulation and exchange of ideas.

In line with these objectives, the main project outputs include: the [ARCH-E online platform](#)¹ with a wide-range of information on ADC systems, aimed at facilitating transnational participation through its [network](#)² of more than 500 architects from over 20 countries; **the ARCH-E Map on ADCs**, a report discussing challenges and potentialities of EU competition systems and a [digital map](#)³ offering an overview of ADCs frameworks, tools, and practices; **the multilingual ARCH-E Glossary**⁴ with the interpretation and translation of technical terms; and the **Architects' Needs Report**. Based on the results of the ARCH-E project, a **White Paper** will be developed to inform policy-makers and provide recommendations on how the internationalisation of careers, equal treatment, and the Green Deal goals can best be achieved in architecture. The ARCH-E Consortium reaches over 600,000 architects across Europe who benefit from the project results.

¹ Link to the ARCH-E platform: <https://arch-e.eu/>.

² Link to the ARCH-E network: <https://arch-e.eu/network>.

³ Link to the ARCH-E digital map: <https://arch-e.eu/adc-map>.

⁴ Link to the ARCH-E glossary: <https://arch-e.eu/glossary>.

Project Partners and Cooperation Partners

ARCH-E is a collaboration between ten European partner organisations: the Austrian Federal Chamber of Civil Engineers (BKZT), the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), the Croatian Chamber of Architects (CCA), the Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia (ZAPS), the Association of Architects of Cyprus (CAA), the Federal Chamber of German Architects (BAK), Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e), the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV), Sepa Engineering GmbH (SEPA), the Chamber of Hungarian Architects (MÉK).

Additionally, the Czech Chamber of Architects (ČKA), the French National Chamber of Architects (CNOA), the Chamber of Architects of the Province of Bozen, the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA), and the International Union of Architects (UIA) are involved in the ARCH-E Project as Cooperation Partners.



Figure 0.1: Map of ARCH-E Project Partners and Cooperation Partners.

The ARCH-E Research

While improving the architectural quality of our living environment and fostering innovation through design visions, **Architectural Design Competitions (ADCs) also contribute to the production and exchange of knowledge among various stakeholders, spatial competencies, and cultures.** In this sense, **ADCs have the potential to function as open arenas for a wide architectural debate.**⁵ For this reason, design competitions are receiving renewed attention in the scholarly production that recognises their cultural value.⁶ Independent organisations,⁷ professional associations and institutions⁸ are also increasingly committed to deepening and disseminating knowledge on competition dynamics, procedures, and practices to favour a positive impact on national systems and enhance collaboration. In the European context, the transposition of Directive 2014/24/EU on Public Procurement into the national laws of Member States offers a policy ground to facilitate learning and exchange processes.

At the national level, country-specific frameworks and traditions contribute to the uniqueness of local ADC systems. These reflect the richness and variety of architectural cultures and heritages across Europe. In a committed effort at knowledge dissemination, it is important to translate these differences into learning opportunities. Moreover, a long-term strategy for the collection and sharing of ADC data across Europe is missing. Through its research initiatives, the **ARCH-E project addresses the problems related to knowledge and information exchange which are faced by European architects, their Chambers, and professional associations.** ARCH-E acknowledges that limited access to knowledge about procedures, structures, and quality standards of ADCs risks excluding many architects from accessing the European market, hinders competition, and prevents an effective implementation of EU goals. **Through knowledge dissemination, ARCH-E aims to facilitate the understanding of policies and practices beyond national frameworks, mitigating prejudices and biases surrounding competition cultures, and broadening the scope of opportunities for architecture professionals** to secure project commissions beyond national boundaries.

⁵ Mejía-Hernández and Nuijsink, 2020: 2.

⁶ See: Andresson et al., 2013; Chupin et al., 2015; Theodorou and Katsakou, 2018;

⁷ See the publication Architectuur Lokaal, 2017 presented at the Conference 'Competition Culture in Europe'; Architectuur Lokaal, 2021; the edited volume published by Project Compass CIC: Menteth, 2018; and the recent publication by Hossbach and Lehmmaus, 2024.

⁸ See the statistical studies of ZAPS: Kryżanowski et al., 2023; and the Interreg Project developed by the Austrian Federal Chamber of Civil Engineers and the Bavarian Chamber of Architects: https://www.arching.at/aktuelles/interreg_projekt.html.

The Three Study Areas

The research activity of ARCH-E started with the involvement of all Partners and Cooperation Partners in a preliminary data collection (Study 0), which organised national data in an online form with more than a hundred questions. These comprised three main categories: national statistical data, data concerning architecture professionals and practices, and ADCs trends and features. The preliminary data collection set the basis for understanding and discussing differences and commonalities among ARCH-E project countries during in-person project meetings and online steering meetings. Following the development of Study 0, ARCH-E research has developed into three specific yet interrelated study areas: the European Map of ADCs (Study 1), the multilingual ARCH-E Glossary (Study 2), and the Architects' Needs Report (Study 3). Each study involves a specific focus of investigation, distinct methods, and outputs.⁹

The first study, the **ARCH-E Map on ADCs**, aims to develop a comprehensive knowledge of Architectural Design Competitions (ADCs), their legislative frameworks, practical implementations, and quality standards across Europe. The study's final output is presented in this report and includes 11 country profiles, an EU-level analysis of challenges and potentialities of European ADCs, and 10 examples of good practices. The report is intended to offer insights and improvements for architects and stakeholders and works in sync with the online ADC map designed to integrate up-to-date country-specific information and useful links over time.

Building on the Interreg Project between the Austrian Federal Chamber and the Bavarian Chamber of Architects, the **ARCH-E Glossary** recognises the difficulties related to the interpretation and application of certain terminology and technical definitions, even when the language is the same. This tool offers more than simple translations; it collects, explains, and relates a selection of more than a hundred terms per partner country which best define national ADC procedures and their culturally specific interpretations. The Glossary is accessible via the ARCH-E platform and is designed for future expansion and implementation.¹⁰

Finally, through the **Architects' Needs Report**, the project aims to understand the dynamics of European architects in diverse contexts, focusing on their involvement

⁹ A more detailed description of the three studies' approach and tools, along with selected results of the preliminary Study 0, has been published in the 'Research Package Summary', accessible via the ARCH-E platform at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3yj4PyP>.

¹⁰ The ARCH-E Glossary constitutes a useful tool to enhance the understanding of the terms used in this report.

in national and European ADCs. Through an anonymous online survey, the study identifies interested architects, addresses their possible knowledge gaps, examines their international connections, and explores opportunities for ARCH-E to support and facilitate the participation of architects in ADCs.

The ARCH-E Map on ADCs

Within the scope of ARCH-E objectives and research ambitions, the present report, the **ARCH-E Map on ADCs**, contributes to expand the knowledge field on Architectural Design Competitions (ADCs). It does this by analysing common and specific legal frameworks, standards, and practices across selected EU Member States. This research offers an overview of ADCs in the European context, highlights the diverse character of their organisation, implementation and results, and functions as the starting point for long-term discussions amongst stakeholders, architecture professional, institutions, and associations.

The structure and development of this present report is based on the following specific objectives:

- At the national level: **expand the knowledge field on ADC systems** to identify strengths and areas for improvement.
- At the European level: focus on the **integration of EU policies and goals in ADCs** (i.e. the Green Deal and sustainable procurement, the New European Bauhaus, the Davos Declaration, equal treatment, and gender equality) and **examine challenges and potentialities of EU-level participation and collaboration** from the perspective of various stakeholders.
- **Identify good practice examples** in the implementation of ADCs to enhance learning processes.

The ARCH-E Map on ADCs presents a unique source of information for all professionals in the architectural field (architects, professional Chambers, independent organisations, and associations) who are committed to the long-term improvement of the European market for architectural services. The ARCH-E project acknowledges that ADCs are dynamic processes that evolve over time and are closely tied to the specific political, economic, and cultural context in which they develop. Therefore, this report will be supported by a [digital ADC Map](#), accessible via the ARCH-E platform, which will integrate the present research results with up-to-date information, links, and data over time.

Research Methodology

As temporal and dynamic processes, Architectural Design Competitions (ADCs) involve regulative norms and legislative prescriptions at different governance levels (ranging from European and national to municipal). They also involve subjective interpretations coming from various stakeholders. These elements not only affect the transformation of ADCs over time but also influence how they are studied. Studying ADCs requires the capacity to deal with a varied range of both quantitative and qualitative data. For this reason, the research methodology on which the ARCH-E Map on ADCs is based draws on a mixed-method approach, encompassing primary and secondary sources through desk research and semi-structured interviews. In addition, the research has benefited from the regular review and discussion with ARCH-E Partners and Cooperation Partners during in-person project meetings and online steering meetings.

Five Parameters of Analysis

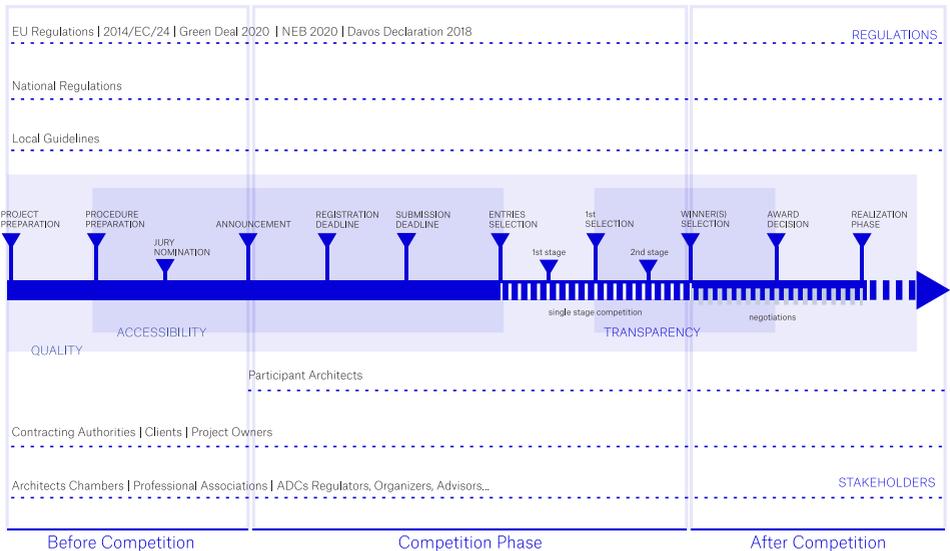


Figure 0.2: Diagram of a standard competition process. The diagram, developed in Milestone #6, includes context, key actors, and timeline of a standard competition, and visually captures how particular themes come into effect in the practice of ADCs.

One of the main challenges in studying ADCs is the identification of themes (or parameters) to compare differences and commonalities among EU countries and

their competition systems. During the ARCH-E Project Meeting I, in Ljubljana, all Project Partners discussed and agreed on a set of five themes for comparisons: **regulations, accessibility, quality, transparency, and benefits for stakeholders**. These have been identified based on the main competition phases of a standard ADC process. As shown in Figure 0.2, three of the parameters cover the entire process of competition (i.e. regulations, quality, and benefits for stakeholders), while the other two relate to specific phases (i.e. accessibility and transparency). These five themes constitute the analytical lens with which to relate different sets of data,¹¹ discuss ADCs at the EU level, and select good practice examples. However, these themes are not exclusive: depending on the type of information, each of them can expand into more specific sub-themes (such as sustainability, cross-border mobility, and fairness) for further comparison and analysis.

The Mixed-Method Approach

In the integration of quantitative and qualitative data, the main methods used in the research for the ARCH-E Map on ADCs comprise desk research, semi-structured interviews, and peer review evaluations.

Desk research includes the analysis of existing literature on the relevant subjects for the ARCH-E project, as well as the collection and interpretation of the material provided by project Partners and Cooperation Partners (data from Study 0, existing country reports, online databases, and statistics). Secondary sources (i.e. literature production, official reports, and policy documents) have been used to place ARCH-E research in a wider architectural debate, integrate the data coming from primary sources, and support the interpretation of findings. Additionally, they facilitate the investigation of the relationship between ADC practices and selected EU policies and goals (i.e. the Davos Declaration, the concept of Baukultur, and the sustainability ambitions of the Green Deal and the New European Bauhaus).

While desk research lays the groundwork and contextualise the investigation, the main method and primary source for the collection of qualitative data consists of **semi-structured interviews** with leading experts in the field

¹¹ A more detailed categorisation of the data collected for this study is included in the “Research Package Summary”: <https://bit.ly/3yj4PyP>.

of Architectural Design Competitions.¹² During 40 online interview sessions, a total 46 interviewees (28 men and 18 women) offered insights into the experiences of ADC implementation at the national and European level, reflecting on the five themes of ADCs: regulations, accessibility, quality, transparency, and the benefits for stakeholders. The sample of participants was selected based on the suggestions of ARCH-E Partners (five participants per partner country), comprising different stakeholders: architects, Chamber representatives, experts in the field of procurement and ADC regulation, ADC managers, organisers, clients, and project owners. However, it is important to consider that these professional categories overlap, as participants may cover different roles within the competition process. The qualitative method of semi-structured interviews allows for the inclusion of aspects related to perceptions and practices. These are often overlooked in official documentation and better reflect the temporal, cultural, and contextual nature of ADCs.

To ensure the quality of the research process, ARCH-E project Partners, Cooperation Partners, and collaborators have **regularly reviewed** its advancement. More specifically, during Project Meeting I, in Ljubljana, the five themes for analysis were discussed and selected. On the occasion of Project Meeting II, in Berlin, the preliminary data collection of Study 0 and the draft interview guide were presented and reviewed. Lastly, Project Meeting III, in Budapest, was dedicated to the presentation, discussion and selection of good practice examples. In addition, starting in November 2023, research “consultant hours” have been organised weekly to offer a space for direct discussion, feedback, and clarification concerning research activities.

Overview of the Report

The ARCH-E Map on ADCs is developed over three main chapters, each one of which is dedicated to the aforementioned objectives of the study reflecting national and EU-level features of Architectural Design Competitions. Following this **introduction** that outlines the general goals of the ARCH-E project, the research ambitions, and the methodological choices of this study, **Chapter 1** presents an overview of the European context of ADCs. It comprises two main parts: 1) the graphic visualisation of national data on ADCs and the architecture profession into

¹² Before carrying out the interview sessions, the research plan and interview guide were submitted for review by the Ethical Review Board (ERB) of Eindhoven University of Technology and obtained approval on 25 September 2023 (Ethical Review Code: ERB2023BE63).

comparative maps and 2) eleven country profiles with a textual and infographic description of their national competition systems.

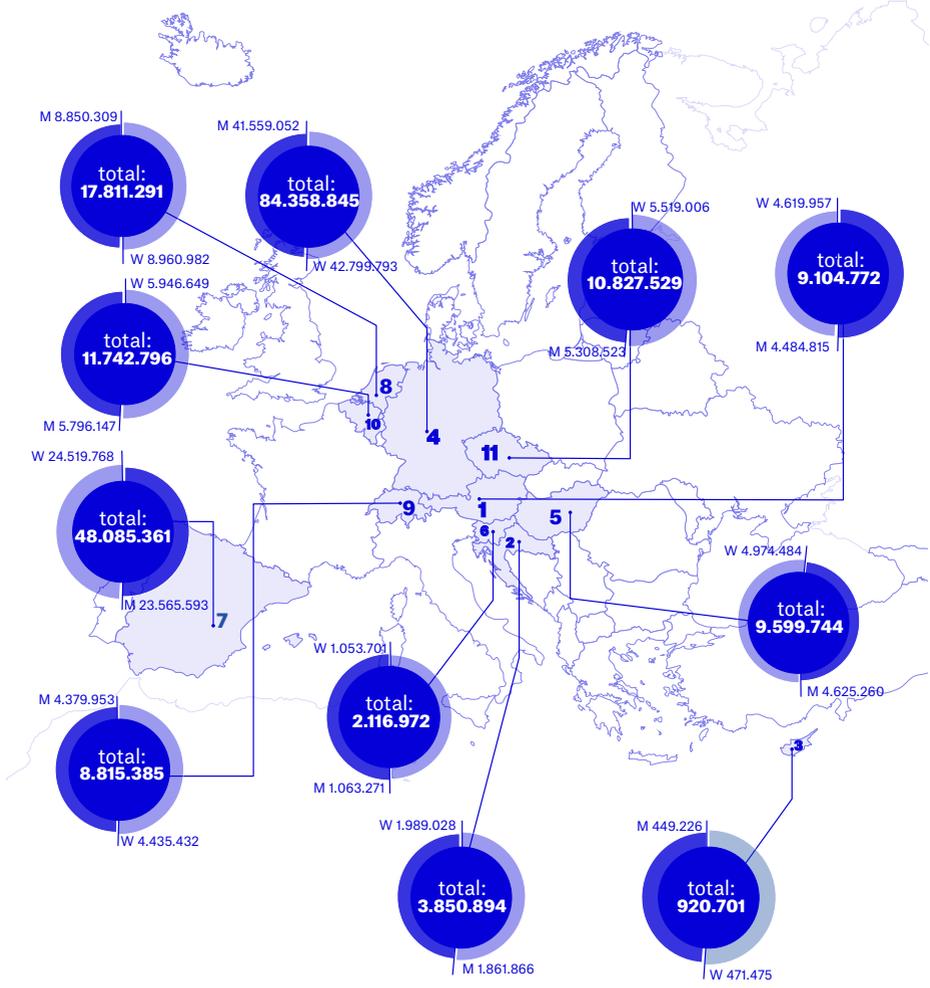
Chapter 2 focuses on the European dimension of ADCs. Structured on the basis of the five parameters (regulations, accessibility, quality, transparency, and stakeholders' benefits) the second chapter brings to the fore challenges and opportunities for an EU market of architectural services. Through the experiences and voices of interview participants, this chapter aims to stimulate reflection and discussion, emphasising the subjective quality of ADC participation, implementation, and results.

Chapter 3 is a collection of selected national cases that represent a successful practice in the organisation and implementation of ADCs. It is important to stress that the qualification as a “successful practice” always refers to specific contextual conditions and should be understood in relative terms. For this reason, the examples in this chapter are proposed as “good” practices, instead of “best” practices in absolute terms. The focus of the examples presented in Chapter 3 is on how the selected competition procedure addresses a given challenge and positively relates to one or more of the five parameters (regulations, accessibility, quality, transparency, and benefits for stakeholders). The quality of the selected cases is not on the architectural outcome, but rather on the competition process itself. The ADC cases have been presented and collectively discussed by ARCH-E Partners and Cooperation Partners during Project Meeting III (June 2024, in Budapest) and Steering Meeting VIII (July 2024, online).

Finally, the **conclusion** summarises the lessons learned from the first year of the ARCH-E experience and research activities, providing suggestions for the future implementation and expansion of the study on Architectural Design Competitions.

CHAPTER 1:

**Mapping the
European
Landscape
of ADCs**



Real GDP per capita in €

Source for all data: EUROSTAT (Jan 1st 2024)

Austria¹: 37.860 EUR (2023)
 Cyprus³: 27.720 EUR (2023)
 Hungary⁵: 14.430 EUR (2023)
 Spain⁷: 25.620 EUR (2023)
 Switzerland⁹: 63.490 EUR (2023)
 Czech Republic¹¹: 18.480 EUR (2023)

Croatia²: 14.750 EUR (2022 estimation)
 Germany⁴: 36.290 EUR (2023)
 Slovenia⁶: 22.130 EUR (2023)
 The Netherlands⁸: 44.460 EUR (2023)
 Belgium¹⁰: 37.300 EUR (2023)

Figure 1.1: Map of population and real GDP per capita. Based on Eurostat’s definition of indicators, the real GDP per capita refers to the ratio of real country GDP to the average population of a specific year.

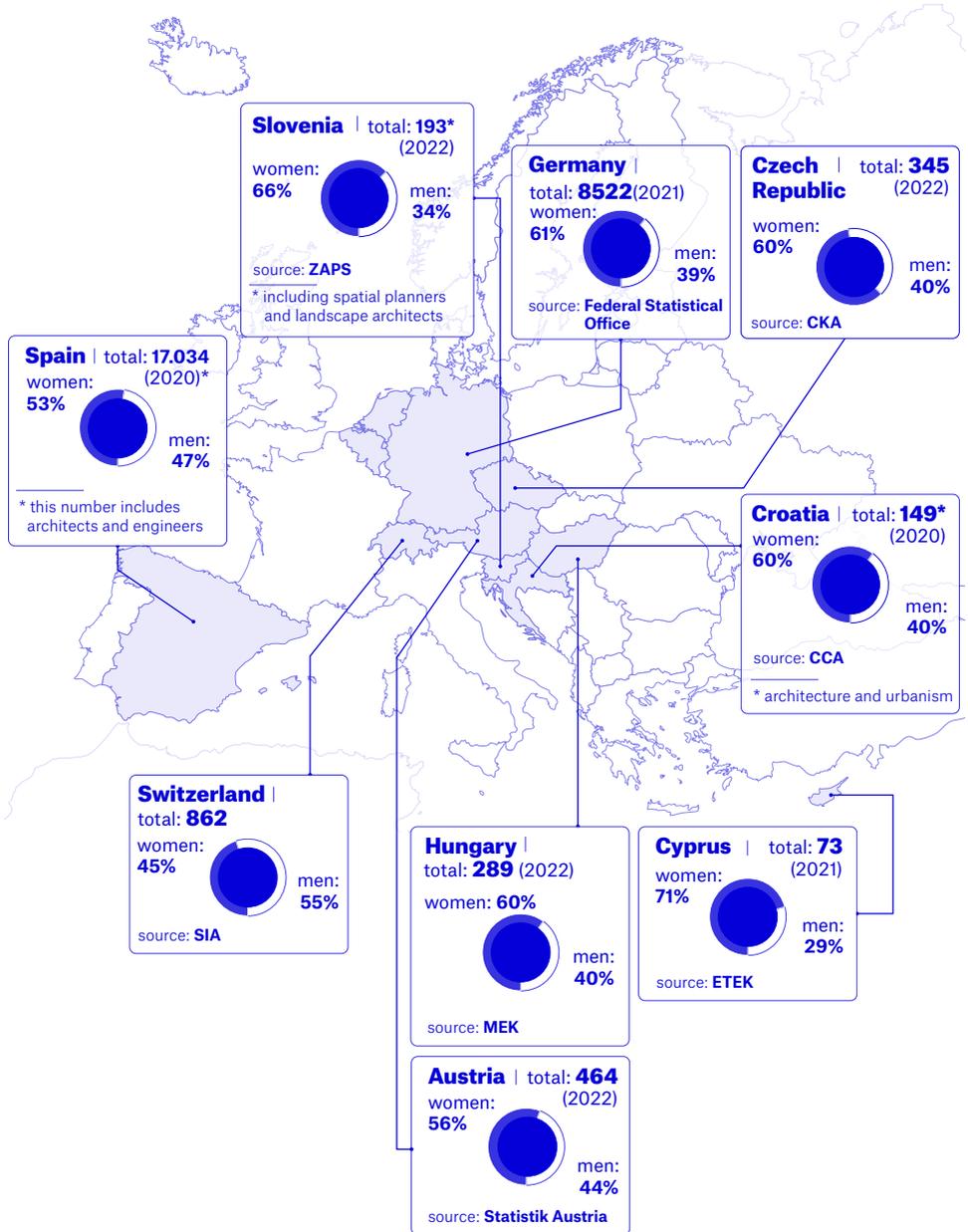


Figure 1.2: Map of Masters University Graduates in Architecture. The numbers refer only to graduates in architecture (meaning no landscape and interior architects, urban planners, or engineers) unless specified differently.

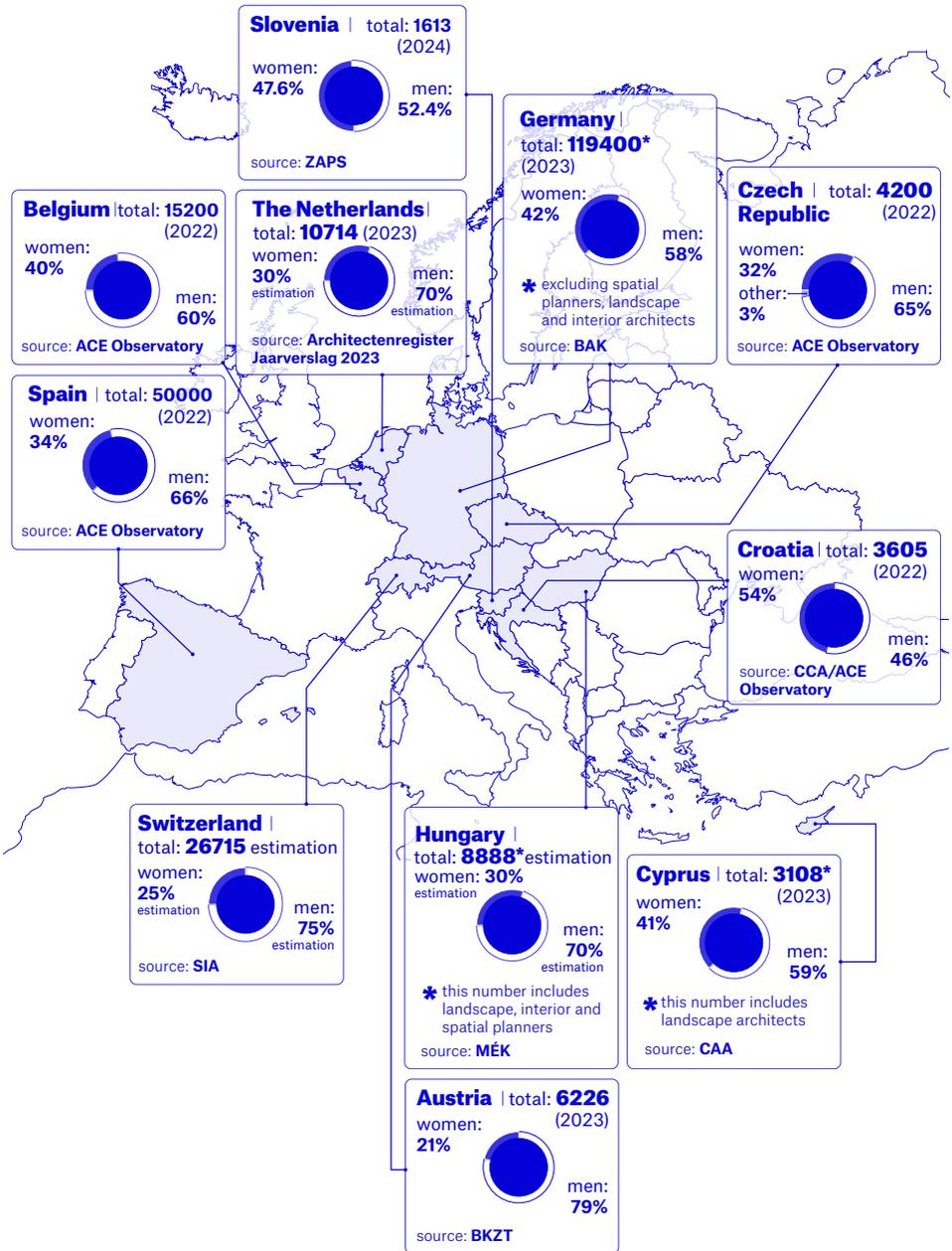


Figure 1.3: Map of registered architects. The numbers refer only to architecture professionals (meaning no landscape and interior architects, urban planners, or engineers) unless specified differently.

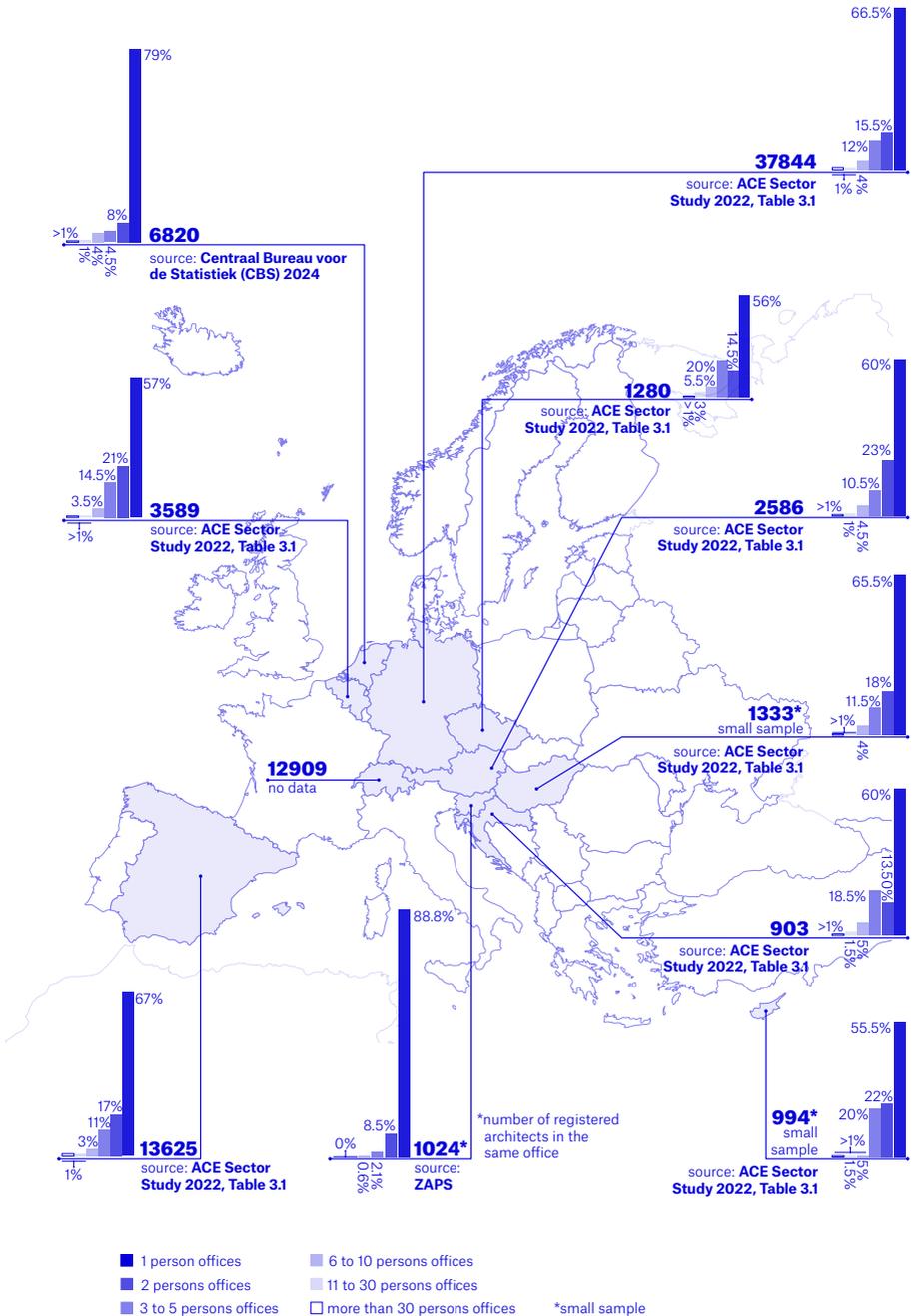


Figure 1.4: Map of registered architectural offices and their composition.

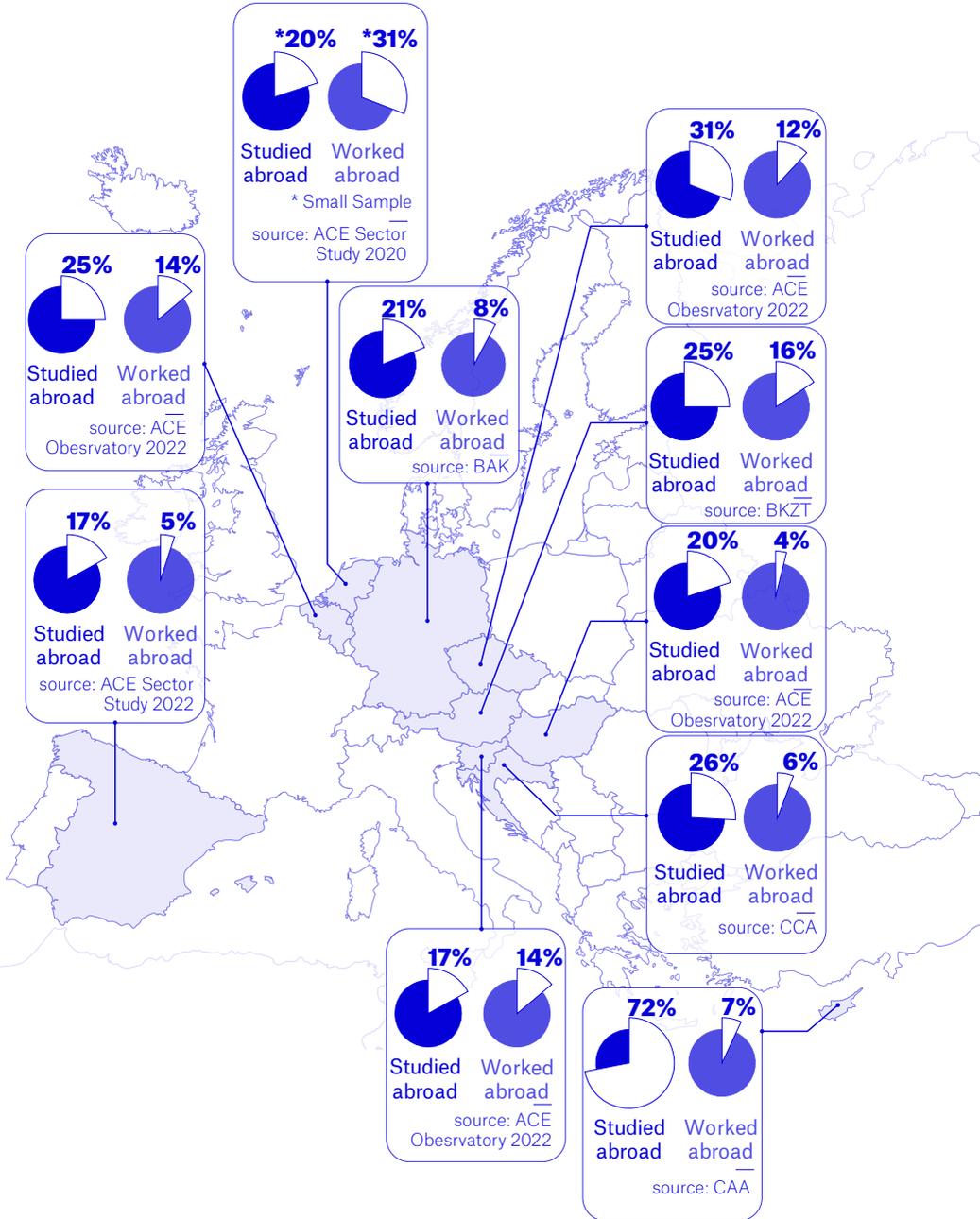


Figure 1.5: Map of architects' international connections.

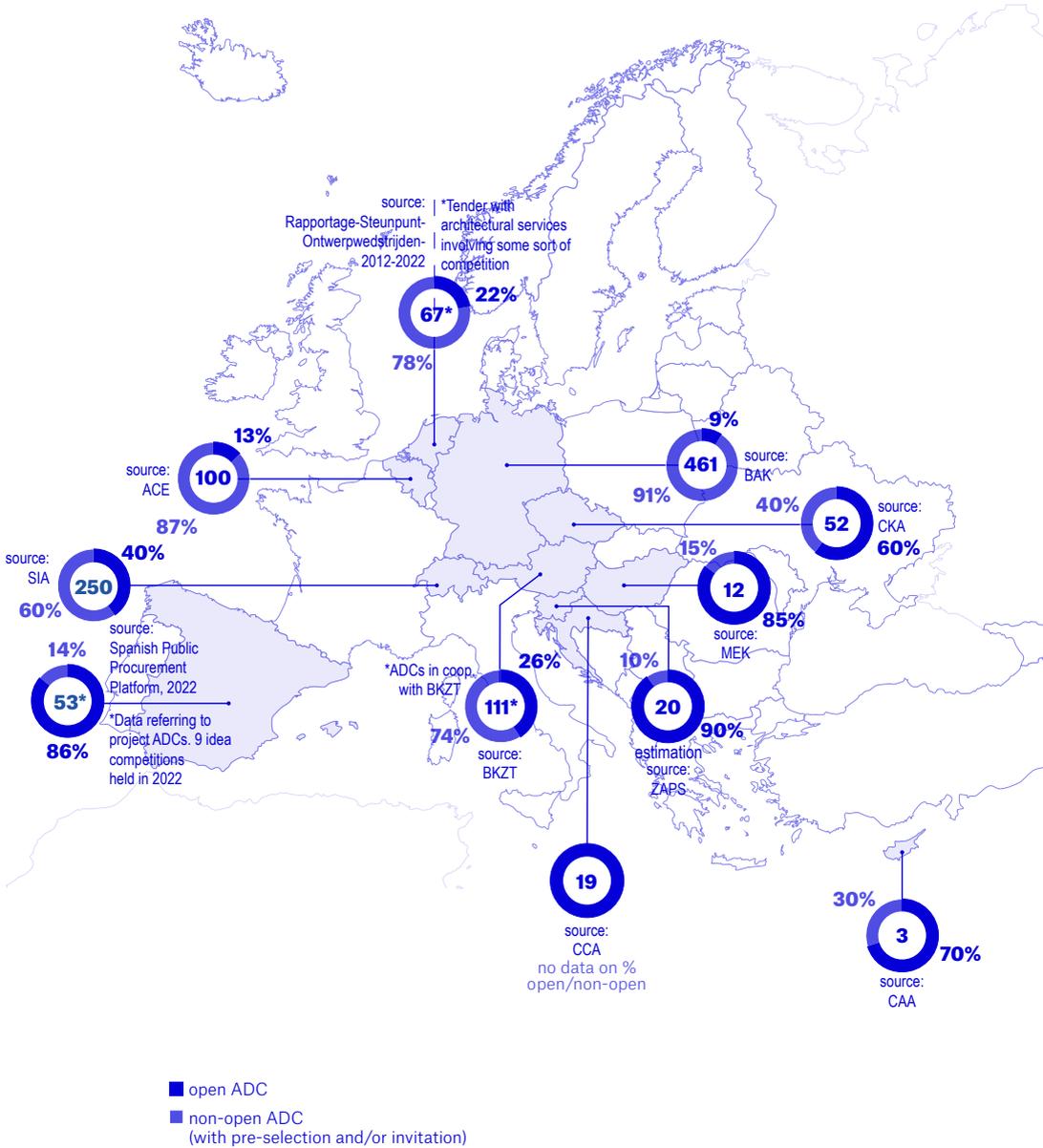


Figure 1.6: Map of average number and types of ADCs per year.

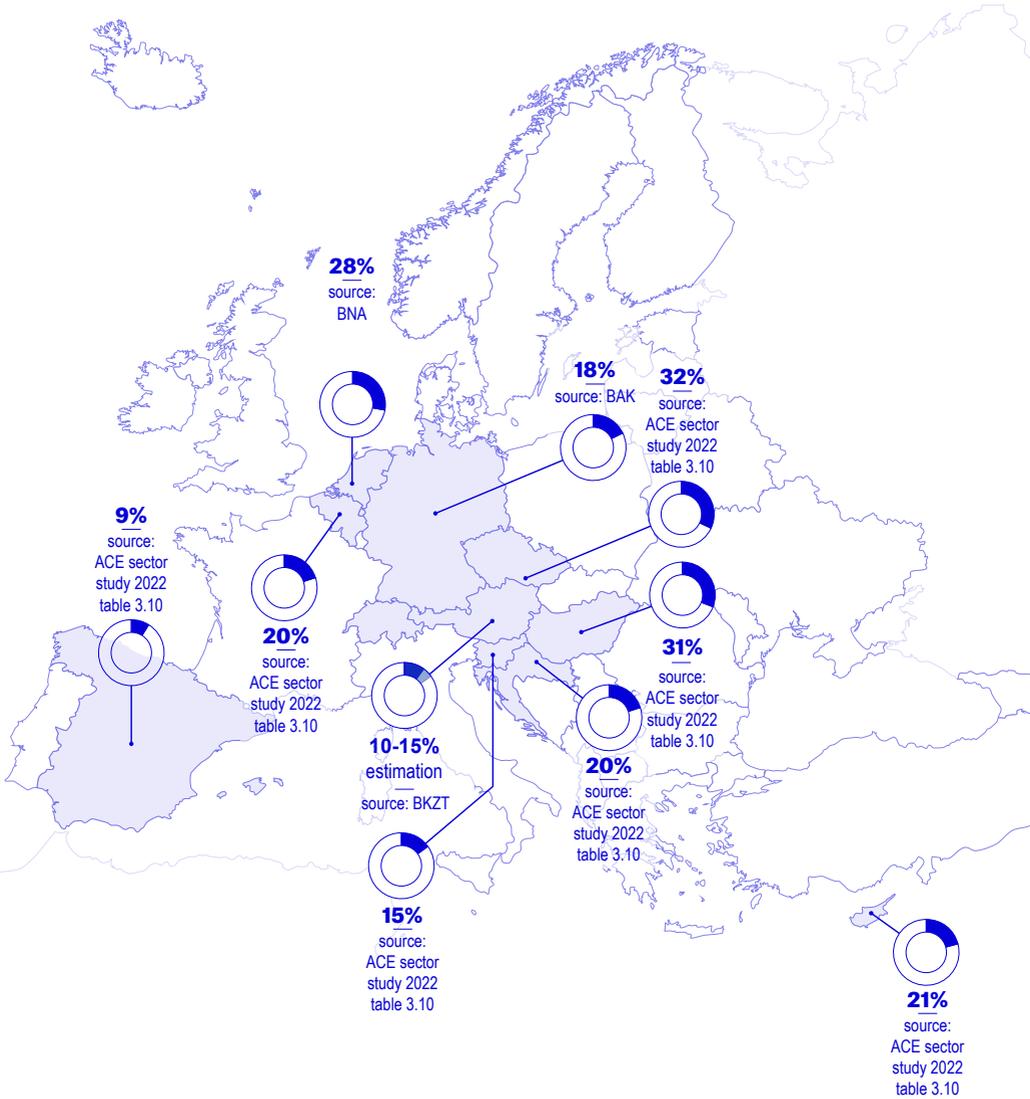


Figure 1.7: Map of nationally registered offices' participation in ADCs.

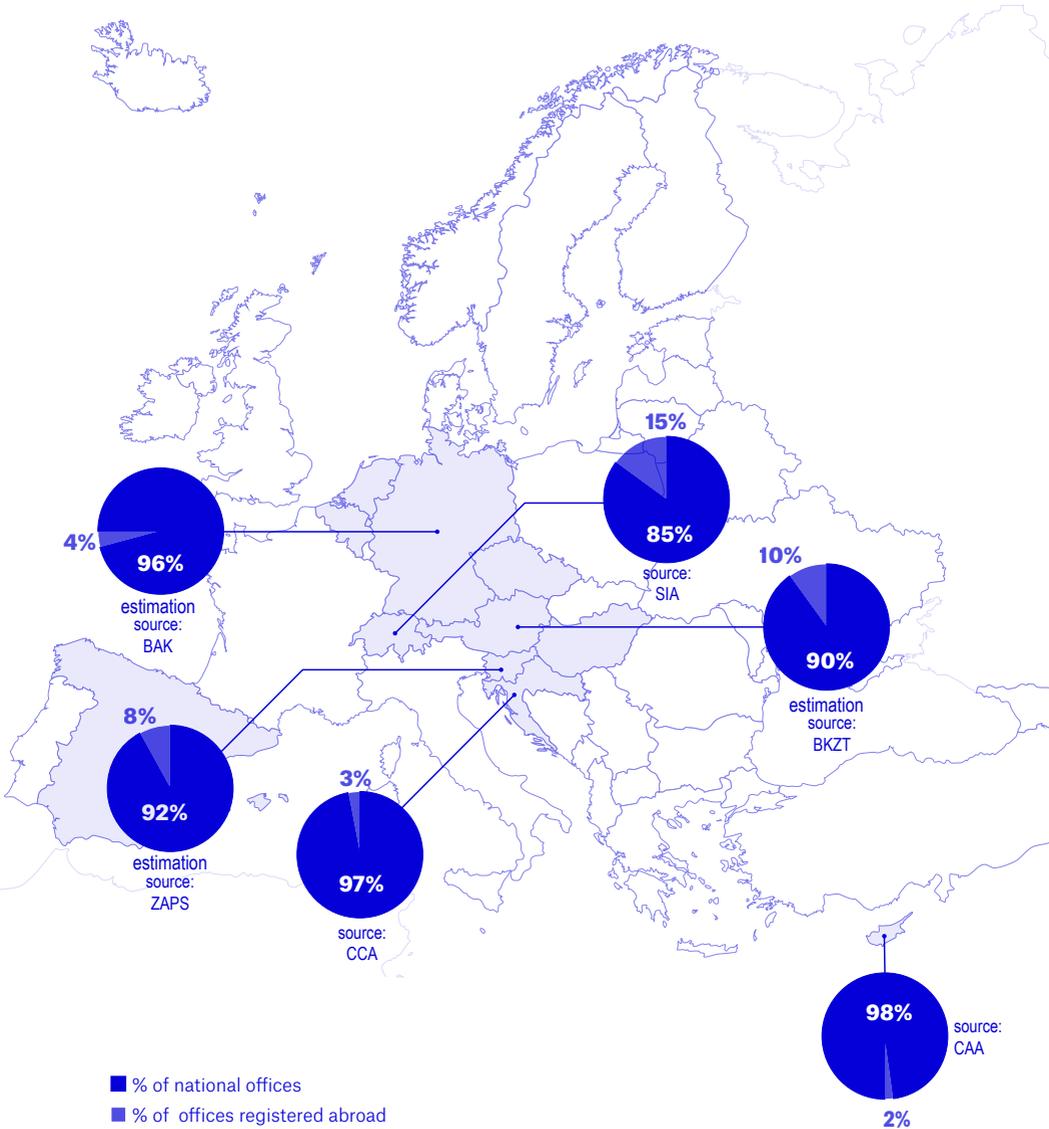


Figure 1.8: Map of national and foreign participants in EU open ADCs.

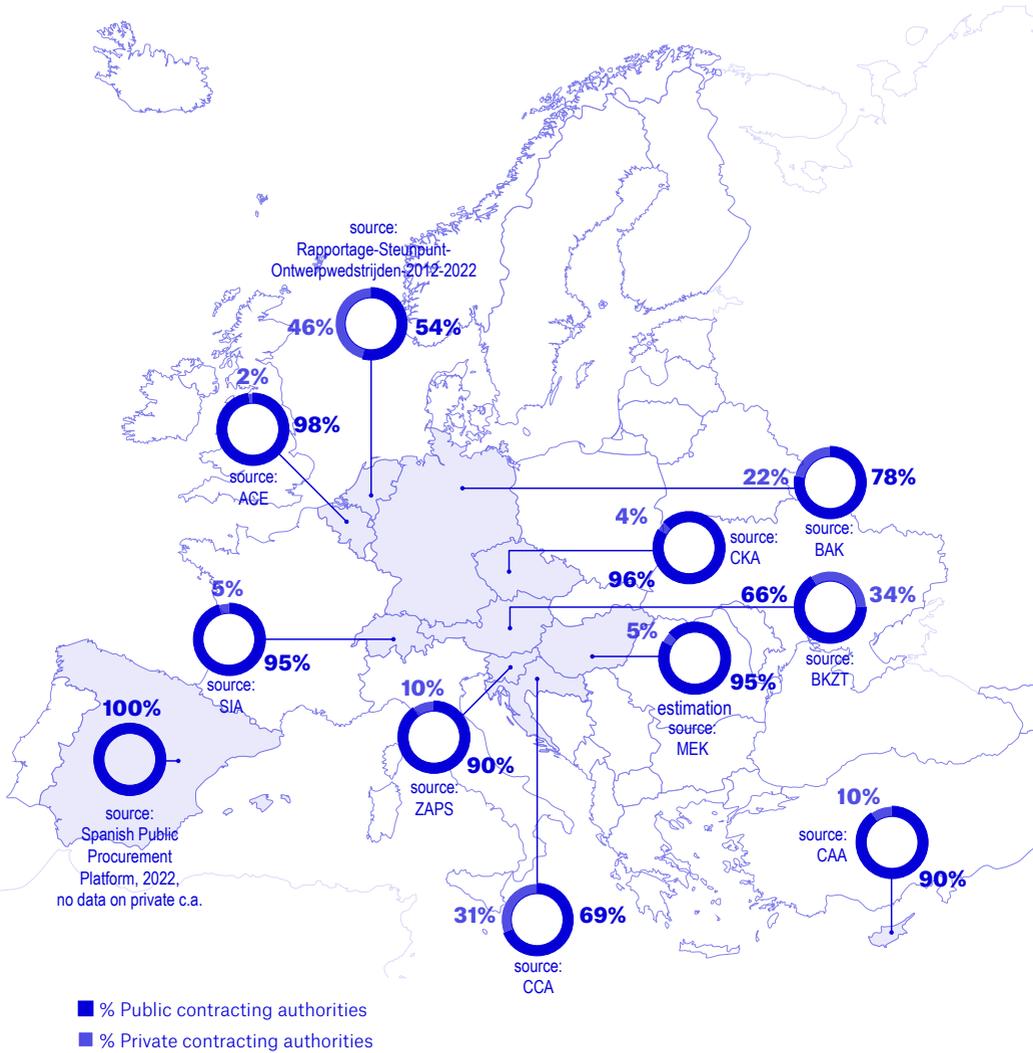
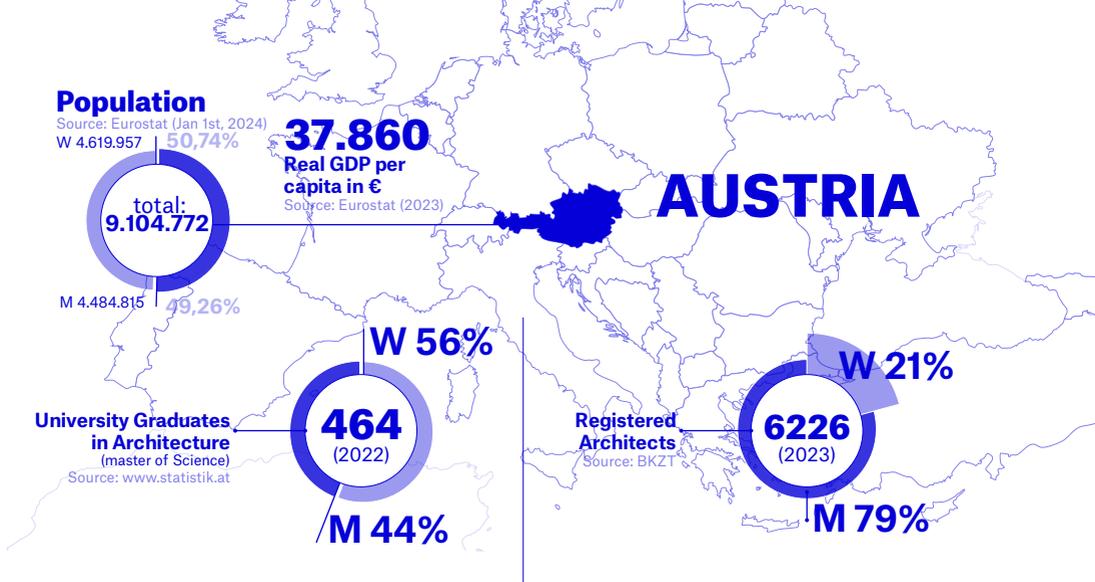
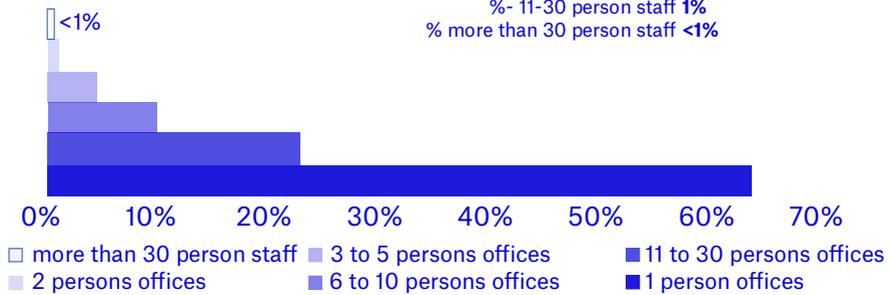


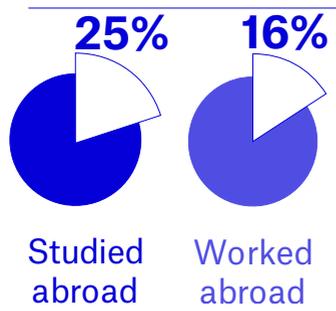
Figure 1.9: Map of ADC contracting authorities.



Registered Architectural Offices
total number 2586

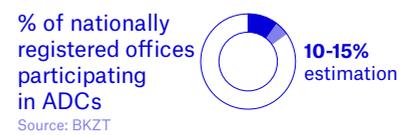


Source: ACE Sector Study 2022, Table 3.1



Source: BKZT

ADCs | total: **111**
open **26%** non-open **74%**



% of national and foreign participants in (open) ADCs
90% national **10%** foreign
Source: BKZT

% of Public and private contracting authorities
66% public **34%** private
Source: BKZT

Average number of entries in ADCs
46 open ADCs
Source: BKZT

1.1 Austria

Current Landscape of Austrian ADCs

► General Features

Architectural Design Competitions in Austria include open competitions, competitions with prequalification (non-open), and invited competitions. The quality of ADCs is guaranteed through the voluntary collaboration of contracting authorities and the Austrian Federal and Regional Chambers of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants. This collaboration results in a cooperated competition. In this case, the application of the common standard for ADCs issued by the Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants (WSA 2010) is compulsory. One of the elements that guarantee the quality and transparency of Austrian ADCs is the respect of the principle of anonymity at every step of the process. Regional working groups on ADCs of the local chambers ensure the compliance of cooperated competitions with the standards.

► Trends

Over the years, the number of open public competitions in Austria has progressively decreased, reaching 26% of all ADCs. Invited competitions, meanwhile, constitute 59%. However, an invited architectural competition is only expedient when working with a small group of project teams for small and specific tasks. In case of a public procurer, the regulations of the federal procurement limits the application of invited competitions, since they pose serious constraints to the participation of small and starting offices that do not fulfil financial and/or experience requirements. Unfortunately, an increase in total takeover procedures with no quality criteria can be noticed. The Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants recommends the open architectural competition as the standard procedure.

► Fields of ADCs

Residential buildings, education buildings, hospitals and health facilities, urban planning, landscape and open space projects, other public buildings (i.e. cultural venues, administration and offices, infrastructure buildings, bridges).

► Level of Elaboration Required in ADCs

Concept design (drawings 1:200, site plan 1:500) including mass model (usually scale 1:500 as insertion model), explanatory report, characteristic values and calculations, sketches and, in some cases, renderings.

► Stages of Design after ADCs

Work stages after ADCs vary depending on contracting authorities and the type of contract. They generally include preliminary design (including building permission, scale 1:200 - 1:100) and detailed design (scale 1:50 - 1:1). Construction stages are usually not included in the contract. The Chamber's cooperation procedures consider the scope of services, aiming to secure a comprehensive contract commitment. The collaboration is not implemented if only the preliminary design is commissioned. The Chamber seeks to clarify this during the competition in the letter of intent, to avoid additional calls for services on an optional basis in the later negotiations.

Legal Framework for ADCs

► Public Procurement

The **Bundesvergabegesetz 2018** (BVerG), "**Federal Procurement Act**," is the Austrian legislative instrument that regulates procurement and integrates the EU Directive 2014/24/EU into the national law. In particular, sections 163, 164 and 165 of the BVerG specify the regulations on Architectural Design Competitions.

► ADCs

The **Wettbewerbsstandard 2010** (WSA), "**Competition Standard**," constitutes the main regulatory basis of architectural competitions organised by both public and private entities. Compliance with the WSA is mandatory for all public authorities and private competitions that are organised in cooperation with the Federal and Regional Chambers. The collaboration with the Chamber, however, is not mandatory. The main differences between cooperated and non-cooperated competitions concerns the anonymity of participants throughout the competition, the structure of the jury, and the role of the winning team after the competition.

The Role of The Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Engineer Consultants in ADCs

► ADCs Regulation

The Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants is responsible for the elaboration, revision and update of the standardised competition rules (WSA 2010).

► ADCs Organisation

In voluntarily cooperated competitions, the Federal and, particularly, the Regional Chamber's role involves ensuring that adequate project development, if necessary with preliminary studies, is carried out and that realistic competition programmes are awarded. The platform www.architekturwettbewerb.at is an important instrument in quality management and transparency. This process necessitates effective communication and mediation with project stakeholders. It also emphasises the pivotal role of ADCs in enhancing the quality of the built environment and showcasing successful practices through realised projects.

Debate and Future Development

► Open Competitions

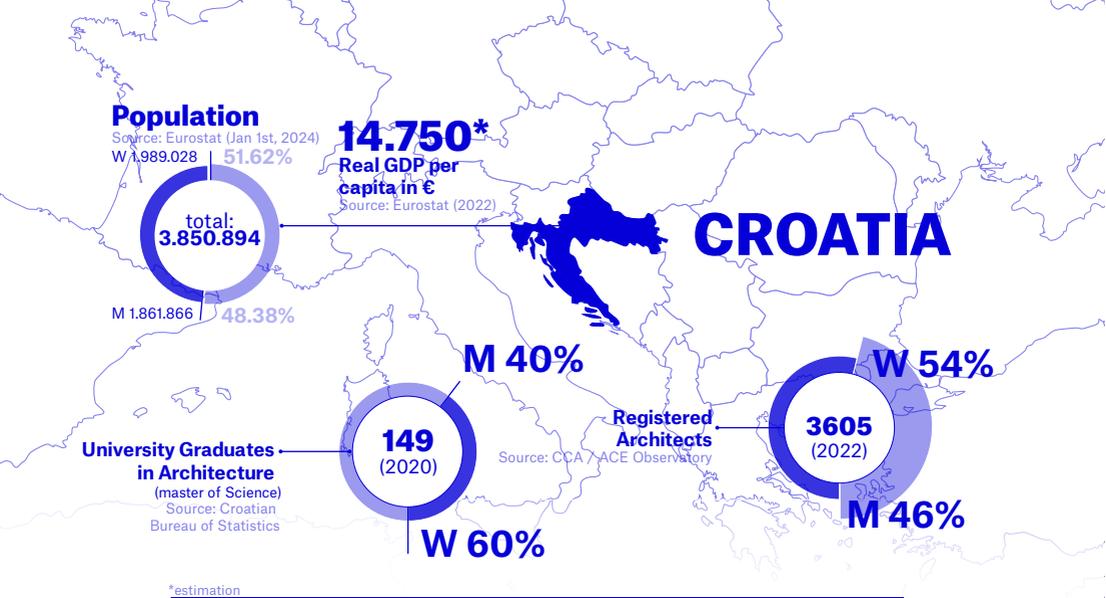
The progressive reduction of open ADCs limits opportunities for small and starting architectural offices. The organisation of more open ADCs would facilitate a larger group of professionals in the acquisition of public and private commissions. This is primarily because participation in open ADCs generally only requires a valid planning authorisation.

► More Flexibility in ADC procedures

The WSA 2010 and the possibility of cooperation with the Federal and Regional Chambers ensure a well-structured and clear procedure for ADCs. However, improvements could be considered to expand the preparation phase and make room for more flexibility (i.e. preparatory studies, site analysis, jury recommendations) for particularly complex projects.

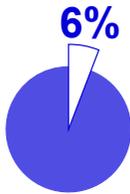
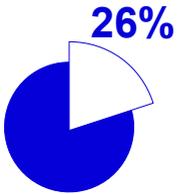
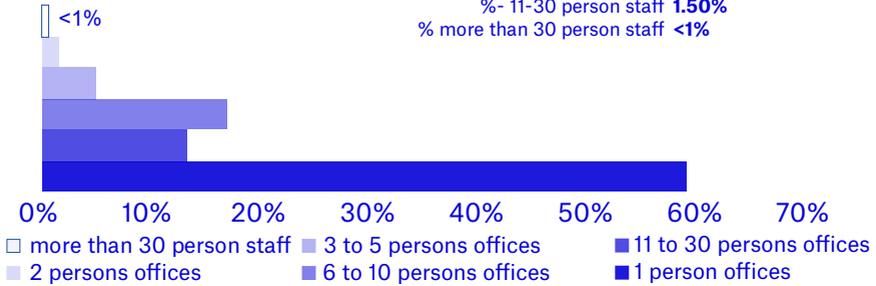
► **Small Communities**

In Austrian villages and smaller communities, negotiated procedures are a common system of procurement in which criteria of cost prevail over design quality. In these contexts, the mediation and support of the Chambers is crucial to broaden the possibilities for local architects to acquire new commissions and contribute to improving the quality of the built environment.



*estimation

Registered Architectural Offices total number 903



ADCs | total: 19

Source: CCA

% of nationally registered offices participating in ADCs



Source: ACE Sector Study 2022, Table 3.10

% of national and foreign participants in (open) ADCs **97%** national **3%** foreign

Source: CCA

% of Public and private contracting authorities **69%** public **31%** private

Source: CCA

Average number of entries in ADCs **14** Open ADCs

Source: CCA

Source: CCA

1.2 Croatia

Current Landscape of Croatian ADCs

► General Features

The majority of Croatian ADCs are open. They are all anonymous competitions, for which implementation is prescribed according to the local spatial plans. In open procedures, the only condition that participants must satisfy is that (at least) one team member holds an architect license from the Croatian Chamber of Architects or a Master's degree in Architecture. This requirement applies to both local and foreign applicants. Clients can implement ADCs with the assistance of a registered organiser; both public and private entities are entitled to organise an ADC, provided they have obtained a license from the Croatian Chamber of Architects and are included in a dedicated list. Registration in the list of the Croatian Chamber of Architects ensures the professional experience and organisational capacity of the ADC organiser.

► Trends

The Republic of Croatia has a long tradition of Architectural Design Competitions dating back almost 150 years. Since 2013, when the country entered the European Union, the implementation of ADCs has become closely connected to the public procurement system. While new guidelines have been developed to align with the prescriptions of the EU Directive, a risk emerged in the substitution of ADCs with procurement procedures, often focusing more on the economic value than the design quality of projects.

► Fields of ADCs

Education buildings, health facilities, public buildings, urban and landscape projects, monuments (public contracting authorities), and residential and office buildings (private contracting authorities).

► Level of Elaboration Required in ADC

All ADCs require a concept design (1:200). In two-stage competitions, a sketch design may be requested for the first stage.

► Stages of Design after ADC

Public ADCs are in line with the Public Procurement Act. They are followed by a public procurement negotiated procedure without prior publication process with the ADC winner, contracting main and detailed design (up to scale 1:50 - 1:1) and, in some cases, design supervision. Construction works are part of a separate procurement procedure.

Legal Framework for ADCs

► Public Procurement

The [Public Procurement Act](#) (Official Gazette 120/16, 114/22) integrates the prescriptions of the European Directive 2014/24/EU into the national law and specifies the general conditions and necessities for design contests as the public procurement procedure used for ADCs.

► ADCs

The local spatial plans have the right to define the mandatory implementation of an ADC for projects located on the municipality's publicly owned land by and when the project's scope falls within public use. In addition, the [Ordinance on ADCs](#) by the Croatian Chamber of Architects (Official Gazette 85/14) provides voluntary guidelines specifying the details of the organisational process. The cities Zagreb, Split and Dubrovnik adopted the ordinance as mandatory regulation within their area. All ADCs complying with the ordinance are registered at the Croatian Chamber of Architects. Registration ensures the quality of ADC procedure regulations and allows the formalisation of the competition and its public advertising via official platforms.

The Role of the Croatian Chamber of Architects and the Croatian Architects Association in ADCs

► ADCs Regulation

The Croatian Chamber and the Architects Association are responsible for the elaboration and revision of the Ordinance on ADCs. Moreover, they advocate for the revision of national legislative instruments affecting ADCs, as well as the architectural profession at large.

► ADCs Organisation

The Croatian Chamber of Architects holds a supervisory role, ensuring the correct organisation and implementation of ADCs through the formal registration of the procedure and organising bodies. The Croatian Architects Association (as the umbrella organisation of regional architects associations that organise the majority of ADCs) has a pivotal role in the advocacy for expanding the market for ADCs.

Debate and Future Development

► Mandatory ADCs

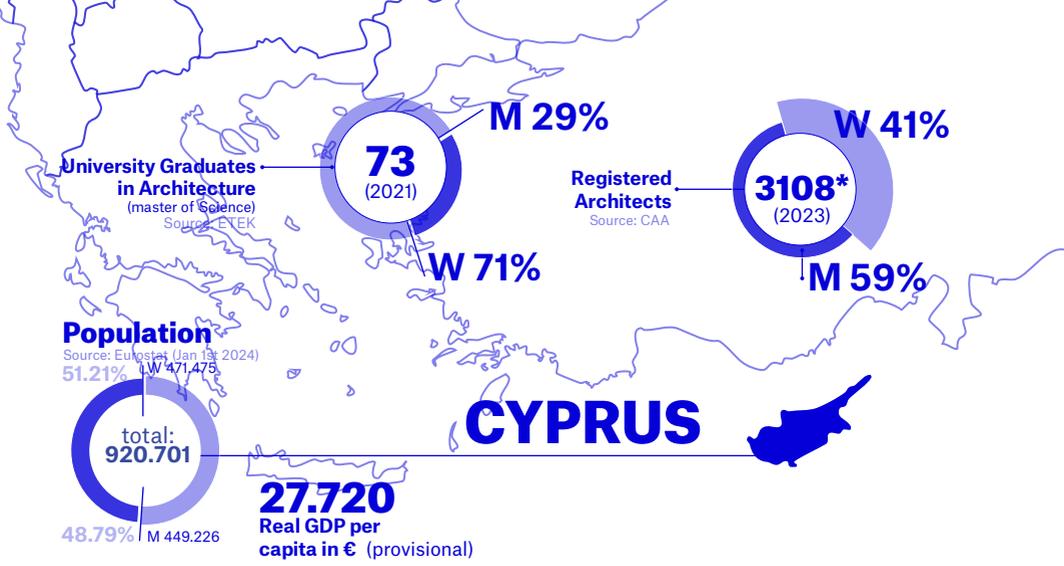
The local spatial plans are no longer allowed to prescribe mandatory ADCs on private land and for public buildings at the state level, despite the site's relevance for public use. This has caused the progressive reduction of the ADCs market through the redefinition of areas in which ADCs are mandatory. The Croatian Chamber of Architects and the Croatian Architects Association are negotiating the possibility of revisiting the prescriptions of the Spatial Planning Act with the Ministry in charge. The request is to expand the scope of mandatory ADCs in selected private and public locations to improve the quality of the built environment.

► Fees Scale

The current legislation for ADCs does not define fixed fee scales. The Croatian Chamber of Architects adopted the Ordinance on the Standard of Services of Architects to define the fee scale. Yet, the ordinance is not binding for contracting authorities, and the fees for architectural services vary from project to project. This brings the risk of reaching extremely low prices. This situation is not only detrimental to Croatian architecture professionals but also limits the attractiveness of ADCs for foreign participants.

► Small Communities

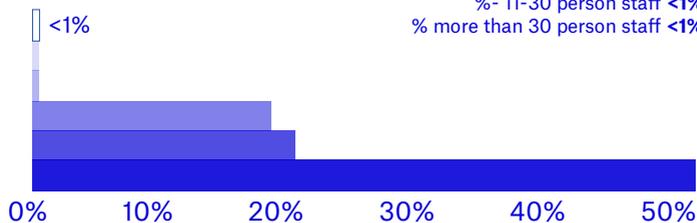
The Republic of Croatia hosts a large number of small municipalities. Due to limited knowledge, personnel, and resources in these places, local authorities tend to rely on public procurement procedures to avoid the managerial and financial challenges of ADCs. The Croatian Chamber of Architects and the Croatian Architects Association could implement a systematic collaboration with local authorities, to assist them in the implementation of ADCs and promote the long-term benefits of architectural quality.



*including landscape architects

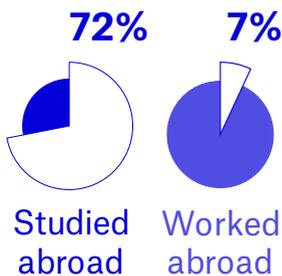
Registered Architectural Offices
total number
994

- % 1 person staff **55.50%**
- % 2 person staff **22%**
- % 3-5 person staff **20%**
- % 6-10 person staff **<1%**
- % - 11-30 person staff **<1%**
- % more than 30 person staff **<1%**



- more than 30 person staff
- 3 to 5 persons offices
- 11 to 30 persons offices
- 2 persons offices
- 6 to 10 persons offices
- 1 person offices

Source: ACE Sector Study 2022, Table 3.1



Source: CAA

ADCs | total: **3**

open **70%** | non-open **30%**

Source: CAA

% of nationally registered offices participating in ADCs **21%**

Source: ACE Sector Study 2022, Table 3.10

% of national and foreign participants in (open) ADCs **98%** national | **2%** foreign

Source: CAA

% of Public and private contracting authorities **90%** public | **10%** private

Source: CAA

Average number of entries in ADCs **11** Open ADCs

Source: CAA

1.3 Cyprus

Current Landscape of Cypriot ADCs

► General Features

The organisation of Architectural Design Competitions in Cyprus is aimed at the realisation of complex architectural and planning projects of public interest. The open and public character of ADCs has the benefit of facilitating the largest possible participation of architects. Access to the competitions is regulated by the sole condition of registration at the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber (ETEK). However, the complexity of projects and the extensive level of elaboration required may pose some restrictions to the participation of small and mid-size offices.

► Trends

In recent years, the number of ADCs has been reduced in favour of other procurement procedures, which do not include the assessment of design proposals. In 2023, out of 116 procurements and more than 50 building design tasks, only two involved an ADC. Reasons vary from the scarce promotion of ADCs' regulations and documents to the fear of competition costs and time commitments. The limited number of ADCs has considerable effects on professionals that do not meet the financial and experience requirements for procurement. Even more, it leads to the risk of extremely low offers with negative consequences for architectural quality.

► Fields of ADCs

Education buildings and public buildings (administration, offices and services), landscape and open space projects, spatial planning, and monuments.

► Level of Elaboration Required in ADCs

Concept design (scale 1:500 - 1:200), a mass model (if requested), sketches and simple perspectives (if requested), written explanatory report, calculations of areas and volume and estimation of costs. Depending on the project, calculation of economic efficiency, expected energy consumption and other numerical parameters of the design may also be requested.

► Stages of Design after ADCs

Concept design (scale 1:500 - 1:200), preliminary design (scale 1:200 - 1:100) and detailed design (scale 1:50 - 1:1).

Legal Framework for ADCs

► Public Procurement

The [Public Procurement Act](#), in force since 2016, integrates the prescriptions of the EU Directive 2014/24/EU into the national legislative system. Regarding ADCs, it defines financial thresholds, contracting authorities' obligation to commission, and the independent character of the jury. However, the Public Procurement Act does not specify the features of a competition procedure, its different formats, or copyright obligations.

► ADCs

The [Regulations for the Conduct of Architectural Competitions](#) integrates the Public Procurement Act with specific prescriptions for ADCs, including the characteristics of different competition formats (i.e. one and two-stage competitions), number and competence of jury members, deliverables, suggested fee structure, and contracting authorities' obligations. The Regulations are currently not included in the Public Procurement Act and serve as a voluntary guideline.

The Role of The Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber (ETEK) and The Cyprus Architects Association (CAA) in ADCs

► ADCs Regulation

The Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber (ETEK), in collaboration with a scientific team of Architects, elaborated the Regulations for the Conduct of Architectural Competitions as a voluntary framework for the organisation of ADCs. The Chamber, the Cyprus Architects Association and the Technical Office of the University of Cyprus are currently working on the revision and update of the regulations.

► ADCs Organisation

The Architectural Competition Committee of the Cyprus Architects Association monitors all planned architectural competitions and proposes the professional members of the jury. For this scope, the Architects Association has compiled a registry of qualified jury members to which all registered architects can apply. After the competition, the jury members proposed by the Association are asked to review the ADC. Through this strategy, the Association identifies existing shortcomings and suggests possible improvements for future ADCs.

Debate and Future Development

► Mandatory Regulations for ADCs

The Regulations for the Conduct of Architectural Competitions are currently under revision. One of the main suggested changes is the integration of the regulations into the Public Procurement Act. This would not only increase the number of projects procured through an ADC but also facilitate a better definition of the competition process, improving fairness and transparency.

► Juries' Role

In the current system of ADCs, jury members participate in the phase of the assessment of design proposals and award decisions. Their involvement in the earlier stages of the process, such as the brief preparation and revision, could be beneficial. This would require a timely selection and appointment of competent jury members, as well as dedicated training.

► Multi-annual ADC Planning

The Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber and the Cyprus Architects Association recognise the importance of a structured plan for future public projects. The availability and publicity of a multi-annual planning of ADCs would favour a public discussion on the projects to procure and establish clear parameters for the organisation of ADCs.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Population

Source: Eurostat (Jan. 1st 2024)

W 5.519.006 | 50.97%

18.480

Real GDP per capita in € Source: Eurostat (2023)



M 5.308.523 | 49.03%

University Graduates in Architecture (master of Science)

Source: CKA

345
(2022)

M 40%

Registered Architects

Source: ACE Observatory

4200
(2022)

W 32%

3% Other

M 65%

W 60%

Registered Architectural Offices
total number
1.280

% 1 person staff **56%**

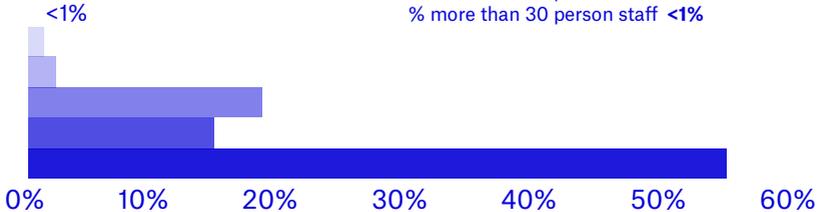
% 2 person staff **14.50%**

% 3-5 person staff **20%**

% 6-10 person staff **5.50%**

%- 11-30 person staff **3%**

% more than 30 person staff **<1%**



□ more than 30 person staff

■ 3 to 5 persons offices

■ 11 to 30 persons offices

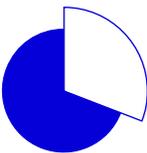
■ 2 persons offices

■ 6 to 10 persons offices

■ 1 person offices

Source: ACE Sector Study 2022, Table 3.1

31%



Studied abroad

12%



Worked abroad

Source: ACE Observatory

ADCs

total: **52**

open **60%**

non-open **40%**

Source: CKA

% of nationally registered offices participating in ADCs



Source: ACE Sector Study 2022, Table 3.10

% of Public and private contracting authorities

96% public
4% private

Source: CKA

Average number of entries in ADCs

25 open ADCs
6 non-open ADCs

Source: CKA

1.4 Czech Republic

Current Landscape of Czech ADCs

► General Features

Architectural Design Competitions in the Czech Republic include open competitions, non-open competitions, and, very rarely, invited competitions. Additional forms of selection, such as competitive workshops and dialogues are also used. These are frequently used for complex projects involving a larger number of tasks and actors. In only one case were design and build procedures implemented. The regularity of the competitions are verified by the working group for competitions within the Czech Chamber of Architects (ČKA), which assesses compliance with the Code of Competition. The basic principles of Czech ADCs are anonymity during the processing of proposals (a condition not respected in competitive workshops and dialogues), independent jury, and an appropriate amount of prizes and rewards. Most Czech ADCs are issued by municipalities, followed by state and regional authorities. The number of competitions implemented in the private sector is limited, yet, slowly increasing.

► Trends

Since 2012, the average number of competitions started to increase from about 10-20 per year to 50 per year. Historically, the most common procedure consisted of open competitions. However, following the amendment of the Public Procurement Act in 2016, the number of non-open competitions and competitive workshops and dialogues has progressively increased. Non-open competitions now constitute 30% of the total number of ADCs. Open ADCs register a large number of emerging architectural studios, for which they represent one of the few opportunities to obtain a public commission. Although the competition documentation is mostly only available in the local language, Czech ADCs also attract offices based abroad: primarily, from Slovakia, Poland, and Hungary, but also from Denmark and Switzerland.

► Fields of ADCs

Education buildings, cultural buildings (small-size cultural centres, libraries),

healthcare facilities, urban planning, open space and landscape projects, infrastructures (bridges, footbridges, and railway station buildings), and monuments.

► Level of Elaboration Required in ADCs

Concept design (drawings 1:200, site plan 1:500), additional drawings (axonometries, diagrams, photorealistic renderings), explanatory report and tables presented on printed B1 panels, and a mass model (if requested). In most recent competitions, proposals have also been presented in virtual reality.

► Stages of Design after ADCs

In line with the ČKA Architect's Service Standard, the stages of design after an ADC include the finalisation of design stages, project for building permission, implementation project or project for the selection of a contractor, and the author's supervision. For urban planning competitions, the phase following an ADC consists of an urban plan or territorial study.

Legal Framework for ADCs

► Public Procurement

The [Public Procurement Act 134/2016](#) is the legislative instrument that regulates procurement and integrates the EU Directive 2014/24/EU into the national Czech legislation. Sections 143-150 specify the conditions of Architectural Design Competitions, including the main provisions of the Code of Competition.

► ADCs

The [Code of Competition](#) developed by the Czech Chamber of Architects integrates Act 134/2016 with more detailed regulations regarding ADCs. The main provisions of the Code are also included in the public procurement law. Contracting authorities and juries can decide which regulatory framework (Public Procurement Act or Code of Competition) to adopt for an ADC procedure. Based on compliance with the requirements of the Code of Competition, the ČKA will grant a regularity clause, regularity with reservation, or irregularity. The latter indicates the lack of compliance with the Code's requirements and the recommendation for authorised architects

not to enter the competition. **Act 360/1992** on the “Performance of the Profession of Authorised Architects and Authorised Engineers and Technicians Active in the Building Process” assigns to the Czech Chamber of Architects the authority of supervision for design competitions.

The Role of The Czech Chamber of Architects (ČKA) in ADCs

► ADCs Regulation

The Czech Chamber of Architects (ČKA) is the body responsible for the elaboration, amendment, and approval of the Code of Competition. It also assesses the compliance of ADCs with the code's provisions. Moreover, the ČKA has an advisory role in other legislative changes relevant to the architectural practice and profession.

► ADCs Organisation

The Czech Chamber of Architects has an advisory role in the organisation of competitions. This role is aimed at supporting contracting authorities and ADC organisers in the elaboration, submission, revision, and formal registration of ADC briefs according to the ČKA's approval of regularity. In addition, the ČKA offers free consultation on upcoming ADCs and training sessions for juries and ADC organisers. The Czech Chamber of Architects actively promotes ADCs through yearly panel discussions, competition exhibitions, and shows. In addition, since 1993, it has managed the unique national database for design competitions.

Debate and Future Development

► After the ADC

The phase following an ADC may consist of negotiations on contractual conditions, when the (public) contracting authority does not dispose of a specific contract model for architectural services. This often results in a lengthy and overcomplicated process. The Czech Chamber of Architects and the Chamber of Civil Engineers are developing a standard contract form to be integrated into ADC briefs and used after the competition. This will favour a more transparent negotiation process.

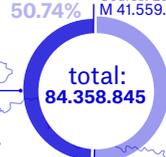
► **Invited ADCs**

Smaller design assignments (approximately 80,000 EUR) that do not fall within the regular procurement regime are often procured via invited competitions. These procedures, however, are not governed by any specific regulation, hence, compliance with the principles of equal opportunity, non-discrimination, anonymity, and transparency is not guaranteed. To date, the ČKA does not have the ability to record how many such competitions are taking place. Accordingly, it cannot advise architects on participation.

GERMANY

Population

Source: Eurostat (Jan 1st 2024)
M 41.559.052



36.290

Real GDP per capita in € (provisional)

Source: Eurostat (2023)

49.26% | W 42.799.793

University Graduates in Architecture (master of Science)

Source: Federal Statistical Office



M 39%

W 61%

Registered Architects

*this number only includes structural architects
Source: BAK

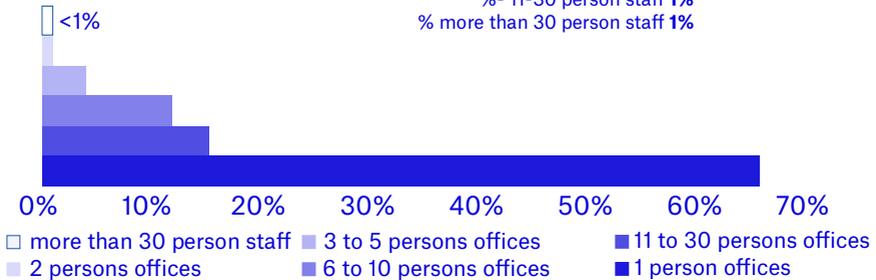


W 42%

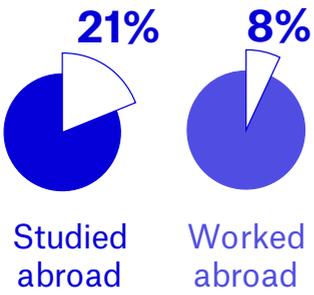
M 58%

Registered Architectural Offices total number 37.844

- % 1 person staff **66.50%**
- % 2 person staff **15.50%**
- % 3-5 person staff **12%**
- % 6-10 person staff **4%**
- % 11-30 person staff **1%**
- % more than 30 person staff **1%**



Source: ACE Sector Study 2022, Table 3.1



Source: BAK

ADCs | total: 461

open 9% | non-open 91%

Source: BAK

% of nationally registered offices participating in ADCs



Source: BAK

% of national and foreign participants in (open) ADCs: 96% national, 4% foreign

Source: BAK

% of Public and private contracting authorities: 78% public, 22% private

Source: BAK

Average number of entries in ADCs: 20-80 Open ADCs, 3-8 non-open ADCs

Source: BAK

1.5 Germany

Current Landscape of German ADCs

► General Features

Germany has one of the longest traditions of architectural competitions in Europe, dating back to the year 1867 when principles and guidelines for design contests were defined. Unlike a simple procurement procedure, ADCs allow contracting authorities to select architects based on the quality of their design, specifically elaborated for the given design task. A special feature of German design contests or ADCs is the negotiation following the award phase, in which contracting authorities are not obliged to sign or negotiate a contract with the first-prize winners exclusively. Instead, they may start a negotiated procedure with all the winners.¹³ RPW 2013 stipulates that when implementing the project, one of the award winners, usually the first-prize winner, is to be commissioned with the further planning services, taking into account the recommendation of the jury, unless there is an important reason to the contrary. This encourages contracting authorities to organise ADCs that lead to a result, which best reflects their expectations and include further qualitative aspects. These aspects include: sustainable design and construction, as well as the promotion of the aesthetic, technical, functional, ecological, economic, and social quality of the built environment.

► Trends

Until the early 1990s, a large majority of German ADCs were open to all registered professionals but restricted on a regional basis. With the introduction of the first EU directive in 1992, the participation in ADCs and procurement procedures extended to the national and European scale. This situation determined an increase of entries, while the number of open procedures started to decrease in favour of invited ADCs or ADCs with prequalification, particularly, during the last decade. Over time, although with large fluctuations, the average yearly number of ADCs remained rather stable. However, a slight decrease was registered in the past decade in parallel to a fourfold increase of all procurement procedures in the planning field between 2012 and 2022. To date, according to the data of the Federal Chamber of German Architects (BAK), the share of open procedures changes over the years,

¹³ Cf. § 80 Abs. 1 VgV

ranging between six and nine percent of all ADC procedures, with slight variations from year to year. Over time, the progressive reduction of open competitions, along with a loss of relevance of ADCs among the increasing procurement procedures, risk limiting market opportunities for starting and small architectural offices.

► Fields of ADCs

Urban planning, education buildings, landscape and open space projects, residential buildings, administrative and office buildings, other public buildings (sciences, culture and leisure), planning of engineering structures and transportation facilities, specialist technical planning.

► Level of Elaboration Required in ADC

Concept design and mass model (scale 1:500 - 1:200), sketches and simple perspectives (if required), written explanatory report, calculations of areas and volume, and estimation of costs. If additional calculations of economic efficiency, expected energy consumption and other numerical parameters are required, the prize money will increase.

► Stages of Design after ADC

Concept design (scale 1:500 - 1:200), preliminary design (scale 1:200 - 1:100) and detailed design (scale 1:50 - 1:1). Construction stages of management, supervision and, sometimes, handover are also part of the contract following an ADC.

Legal Framework for ADCs

► Public Procurement

The [Vergabeverordnung](#) (VgV), “**Procurement Ordinance**,” adopts detailed rules on the procedure to be followed for the awarding of public contracts that are subject to Part 4 of the Act against Restraints on Competition (GWB) and for the organisation of design contests by the contracting entity. The VgV is a statutory order for German public procurement, which integrates the prescriptions of the EU Directive 2014/24/EU into the national law. Accordingly, the VgV applies to the organisation of design contests above the EU threshold value.¹⁴

¹⁴ See section 106 GWB; section 1 para 1 VgV

► ADCs

The [Richtlinie für Planungswettbewerbe 2013](#) (RPW), “**Guidelines for Design Contests**,” constitutes the central instrument for the organisation of ADCs. Although the RPW does not have the value of law, it is a binding instrument: according to Section 78 II Sentence 1 VgV, design contests are based on published standard guidelines and directives. The responsible Federal Ministry has ordered that the RPW 2013 must be applied to all design contests in the area of federal construction from 1 March 2013. In addition, the RPW 2013 is mandatory in almost all of the German federal states for state-run ADCs. Other public and private ADC organisers are recommended to apply the RPW in the same way. The RPW specifies, for example, the amount of prize money and stipulates that if the project is not to be implemented from the outset (ideas competition), the prize money is increased appropriately. According to section 52 of the [Unterschwellenvergabeordnung](#) (UvgO), Sub-threshold Procurement Ordinance, ADCs can be held below EU threshold values, serving the aim of obtaining alternative proposals for planning based on published standard guidelines and directives. If public authorities decide on an ADC below the EU-threshold, they will apply the RPW or comparable guidelines during implementation.¹⁵

► Act Against Restraints of Competitions

The [Gesetz gegen Wettbewerbsbeschränkungen](#) (GWB), the “**Act against Restraints of Competitions**”, defines eligibility criteria (section 122, GWB) as well as mandatory and optional exclusion criteria for the awarding of public contracts (sections 123 and 124 GWB) following an ADC. Part 4 deals with public procurement and sets out principles for design contests (section 103 (6) GWB). According to section 122 para. 1 GWB, public contracts shall be awarded to skilled and efficient (eligible) companies that have not been excluded under Section 123 or Section 124. According to section 122 para. 2 GWB, a company is eligible if it meets the criteria (selection criteria) defined in detail by the public contracting authority for the proper execution of the public contract. The selection criteria may exclusively relate to:

1. Qualification and authorisation to pursue the professional activity;
2. Economic and financial standing;
3. Technical and professional ability.

¹⁵ Cf. Federal Gazette, BAnz AT 07.02.2017 B2.

The Role of The Federal Chamber of German Architects (BAK) in ADCs

► ADCs Regulation

The Federal Chamber of German Architects (BAK) contributed to the first elaboration of the RPW in 2009, as well as its latest revision in 2013. The BAK will also contribute to future revisions of the RPW.

► ADCs Organisation

The competent 16 State Chambers are responsible for checking compliance of the ADC documents with the RPW and its principles and registering the competition procedure. The State Chambers can also assist in the selection of competent jury members. Currently, the elaboration of a register of jury experts is in preparation in the Federal States to guarantee quality, expertise, diversity and change within ADC juries. The effort of the Federal and the State Chambers is recognised in advocating for the promotion of ADCs among public and private parties as a means to ensure the best quality for design tasks.

Debate and Future Development

► Eligibility Requirements

The reduced number of open ADCs limits opportunities for starting, small and mid-size architectural practices. Strict requirements based on reference projects and economic turnover render access to non-open ADCs difficult for several groups of professionals and limit the possibility of moving across different market fields. However, the RPW clarifies that smaller practices and emerging professionals should be appropriately involved through suitable access conditions.

► Costs and Complexity of ADCs

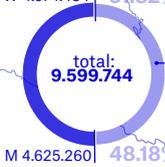
According to BAK statistics, the yearly number of ADCs is relatively stable. After a peak in 2017-2019, the number of ADCs has been slightly decreasing, reaching a long-term average of approximately 450 competitions a year. There are several reasons behind the diminishing relevance of ADCs. These reasons include the increasing number of all procurement procedures in the field of planning (up to four times as many) and the limited capacity of

public administrations to manage more ADCs and concerns regarding the costs and complexity of ADCs, which may extend the projects' timeline. A possible mitigation approach can be found in the differentiation of type and size of competitions according to the tasks, to contain the efforts in organisational capacity.

HUNGARY

Population

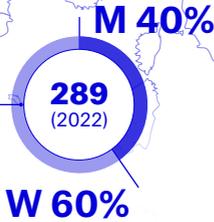
Source: Eurostat (2023)
W 4.974.484 | 51,82%



14.430

Real GDP per capita in € Source: Eurostat (2023)

University Graduates in Architecture (master of Science)
Source: MEK



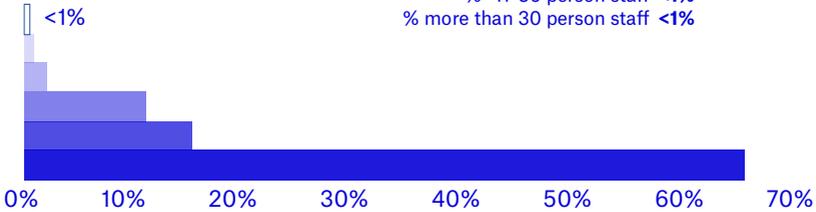
Registered Architects
*including landscape, interior and spatial planners
Source: MEK



*estimation

Registered Architectural Offices
total number 1.333*

% 1 person staff **65.50%**
% 2 person staff **18%**
% 3-5 person staff **11.50%**
% 6-10 person staff **4%**
%- 11-30 person staff **<1%**
% more than 30 person staff **<1%**



- more than 30 person staff
- 2 persons offices
- 3 to 5 persons offices
- 6 to 10 persons offices
- 11 to 30 persons offices
- 1 person offices

Source: ACE Sector Study 2022, Table 3.1



ADCs | total: **12**
open **85%** non-open **15%**

Source: MEK

% of nationally registered offices participating in ADCs



Source: ACE Sector Study 2022, Table 3.10

% of Public and private contracting authorities

95%* public
5%* private

Source: MEK

*estimation

Source: ACE Observatory

1.6 Hungary

Current Landscape of Hungarian ADCs

► General Features

Architectural design competitions in Hungary are recognised as the procedure to find the best quality solution for the realisation of large and mid-scale public projects. Most ADCs are open to all licensed professionals registered in the National or European Chamber. However, the complexity of projects and the related level of detail requested for submission often entail practical limitations to the participation of less experienced professionals and small architectural offices. Invitations are also common for particularly complex projects. In this case, other offices that fulfil the requirements can access the competition along with the teams invited by the contracting authority.

► Trends

Until the early 2000s the number of architectural competitions per year used to be above 50, but, recently, it has gone down to an average of 10 ADCs a year. This situation is related to the tendency of contracting authorities to opt for procurement procedures, which they consider faster and less expensive. However, public procurement without an ADC brings the risk of favouring criteria of cost over design quality, and its strict requirements (i.e. reference projects, office turnover, insurance, composition, etc.) exclude a large group of professionals.

► Fields of ADCs

Education buildings, public buildings (culture and leisure), administration (municipality and city government) and office buildings, institutional and religious buildings, residential buildings, private buildings.

► Level of Elaboration Required in ADC

ADCs in Hungary usually require a concept design level (scale 1:500 - 1:200), very rarely up to a preliminary design (scale 1:100). The following work phases fall within the scope of the Design Contract Agreement.

► Stages of Design after ADC

Concept design (scale 1:500 - 1:200), preliminary design (scale 1:200 - 1:100), detailed design (scale 1:50 - 1:1). Approximately 50% of projects procured through an ADC may also require regular architectural supervision at the construction site, supervision and handover.

Legal Framework for ADCs

► Public Procurement

The [Act CXLIII on Public Procurement](#) is the Hungarian legislative instrument that integrates the prescriptions of European Directive 2014/24/EU into the national Law. According to the Act on Public Procurement, the national threshold for the mandatory organisation of an ADC is 500,000 EUR (c.a. 200 million Hungarian Forints).

► ADCs

Architectural Design Competitions in Hungary are regulated by the [Government Decree 310/2015 \(X.28.\) on Design Competition Procedures](#). This decree has the scope to apply to the Act CXLIII of 2015 on public procurement, covering design competitions within the meaning of Section 3 (40). The application of the provisions of the decree is mandatory for all public contracting authorities.

► Latest Developments in Hungarian Legislation

Since 2023, the Hungarian legislation concerning the architectural field has undergone substantial changes due to the introduction of two new laws: the [Law on Hungarian Architecture](#) (Act C/ 2023) and the [Law on the Order of State Construction Investments](#) (Law LXIX/ 2023). The enforcement of these laws affects the Act on Public Procurement and, accordingly, the **Government Decree 310/2015**, which are currently under revision by the Chamber of Hungarian Architects.

The Role of the Chamber of Hungarian Architects (MÉK) in ADCs

► ADCs Regulation

The Chamber of Hungarian Architects is currently involved in the revision of the

legislative instruments concerning public procurement and ADCs. Revisions address the increasing promotion of ADCs as the preferred procedure for design tasks and the definition of quality criteria for the assessment of design proposals.

► ADCs Organisation

The Chamber plays an advisory role in the organisation of competitions, offering support to contracting authorities (upon request) and a MÉK delegate on the basis of Government Decree 310/2015, a suitably qualified chamber member for the jury. Through the delegate professional, the Chamber can ensure the procedure's compliance with the law. In the past, the MÉK used to evaluate ADCs with the scope of advising architects on participation.

Debate and Future Development

► More ADCs

With the introduction of the new laws, more public projects are expected to be procured through architectural competitions. However, a revision of the current legislative instruments should include a better definition of the mandatory rules for the organisation of ADCs to encourage contracting authorities in their implementation. These issues will be clarified in the law's executive order, expected from 1 October 2024.

► Professional Expertise in ADCs

As the market for ADCs is expected to grow, a greater involvement of architectural professionals and a targeted education of contracting authorities will be necessary to ensure quality throughout the competition process.

THE NETHERLANDS

Population

Source: Eurostat (Jan. 1st, 2024)
M 8.850.309 | **49.69%**

total:
17.811.291

44.460

Real GDP per
capita in € provisional
Source: Eurostat (2023)

50.31% | W 8.960.982

W 30%*

10.714
(2023)

**Registered
Architects**

Source: Architectenregister Jaarverslag 2023

M 70%*

*estimation

Registered Architectural Offices

**total number
6.820**

% 1 person staff **79%**

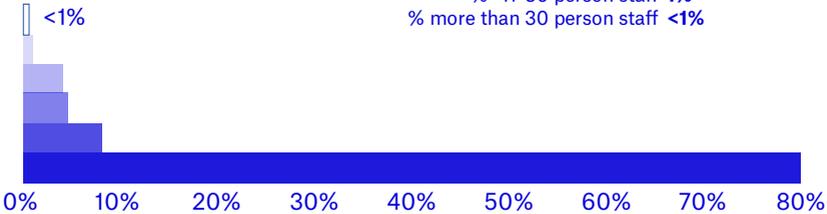
% 2 person staff **8%**

% 3-5 person staff **4.50%**

% 6-10 person staff **4%**

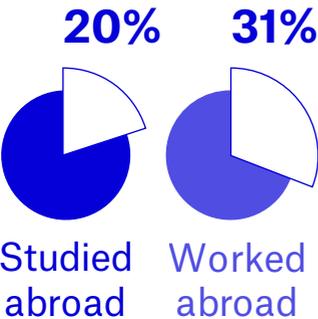
% 11-30 person staff **1%**

% more than 30 person staff **<1%**



- more than 30 person staff
- 3 to 5 persons offices
- 11 to 30 persons offices
- 2 persons offices
- 6 to 10 persons offices
- 1 person offices

source: Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS) 2024



Source: ACE Observatory

ADCs | total: **67**

open **22%** non-open **78%**

Source: Rapportage-Steunpunt-Ontwerpwedstrijden-2012-2022

% of nationally
registered offices
participating
in ADCs



Source: BNA

% of Public and private
contracting authorities **54%** public
46% private

Source: Rapportage-Steunpunt-Ontwerpwedstrijden-2012-2022

Average number of
entries in ADCs **3 to 7** non-open
ADCs

1.7 The Netherlands

Current Landscape of Dutch ADCs

► General Features

In the Dutch procurement system, the terms tendering (*aanbesteding*), design competition (*ontwerpwedstrijden*) and contest (*prijsvraag*) are often used interchangeably. This uncertainty reflects on both the regulation and implementation of competitions by different contracting authorities and results in varied procurement procedures. In the realm of architecture, the most common selection methods include competitions with pre-selection for architectural offices and multidisciplinary teams based on portfolio, professional insurance, and conduct. When design competitions are implemented by private investors, developers, and/or housing corporations, they mostly consist of invited ADCs, wherein the architect acts as a subcontractor. Traditional open, public design competitions are rare and typically limited to the formulation of ideas. The general tendency to favour non-open competitions is seen by contracting authorities as a strategy to mitigate risks, but it might leave design quality in a secondary position.

► Trends

Over the past decade (2012-2022), 1,476 architectural contracts have been awarded through a tendering process. Among those, 673 constitute procurement procedures for architectural services, of which about 80% were characterised by a non-open selection.¹ According to the TenderNed sector report, the number of open public design competitions remains very low and barely exceeds an average of three competitions per year.² Over time, the widespread preference for non-open procedures has significantly narrowed market opportunities for starting professionals and small offices, primarily due to strict proficiency requirements. The number of contracts awarded to foreign offices is generally very low, especially, due to language barriers (all documents are written in Dutch and must be submitted in Dutch) and the condition to visit candidates' reference projects in the Netherlands.³

¹ Architectuur Lokaal, 2022.

² See the Sectorrapportage: <https://bit.ly/3xQr3HW>.

³ Architectuur Lokaal, 2010.

► Fields of ADCs

Education buildings, cultural venues, public buildings (offices, administration, courthouses, police stations, fire stations), landscape and open space projects, infrastructure buildings (i.e. station buildings) sports and recreation facilities, healthcare facilities, and housing developments (in private competitions in which developers and architects can form a team).

► Level of Elaboration Required in ADC

Depending on the type and complexity of projects: concept design (scale 1:500 - 1:200) and preliminary design (scale 1:200 - 1:100), including estimation of costs (if requested).

► Stages of Design after ADC

Design stages vary greatly depending on the competition task, usually, including design stages up to developed design (scale 1:100 - 1:50) and detailed design (scale 1:50 - 1:1). Construction and building use stages vary in accordance with the contract documents.

Legal Framework for ADCs

► Public Procurement

The [Aanbestedingswet](#), or **Dutch Public Procurement Act**, integrates the prescriptions of the EU Directive 2014/24/EU into the national law. In addition to this legislative instrument, the mandatory [Gids Proportionaliteit](#), or **Proportionality Guide**, details the application of the principle of proportionality for works and services, including architectural services, procured above and below the EU threshold value.

► ADCs

The Dutch legislative system does not indicate mandatory prescriptions for architectural services below the EU threshold value. The independent organisations of BNA (Trade Association of Dutch Architectural Firms) and the former *Architectuur Lokaal* elaborated several manuals and guidelines for fair and transparent selections (i.e. [KOMPAS](#) and [Richtlijn Gezonde Architectenselectie](#)). Contracting authorities can voluntarily consult and use these guidelines, which are accessible

via the platform of the tendering expertise centre Pianoo.⁴

Professional Associations Involved in Dutch ADCs

► ADCs Regulation

Currently, the BNA is the professional association with a formal advisory and advocacy role in the legislative field affecting the architectural profession. In the past, the BNA collaborated with the independent organisation *Architectuur Lokaal* (no-longer active) in the elaboration of voluntary guidelines for ADCs.

► ADCs Organisation

Due to the lack of a centralised Dutch institution for the architectural profession, such as a national chamber, the organisation of design competitions and other selection processes heavily relies on contracting authorities, resulting in diverse approaches and practices. In recent years, the College van Rijksbouwmeester en Rijksadviseurs (Board of Government Architect and Government Advisors) has promoted innovation in Dutch competition culture by fostering sustainable design approaches for urgent societal issues and collaboration among various professional groups.

Debate and Future Development

► Fair Regulations for ADCs

The lack of mandatory guidelines for ADCs not only confuses the distinction between design competitions and other procurement procedures but also determines very different assignments, procedures, and conditions for each process with the risk of negative effects on the workload and treatment of architects. The fair regulation of ADCs should primarily consider: appropriate remuneration (in addition to award prizes and distinct from the commission), a contained level of elaboration of submissions, and a quality-centred assessment of designs. Defining clear and mandatory rules for ADCs would particularly favour transparency and fairer treatment of architectural teams. A positive example can be found in the 2014 initiative *'Protocol Ontwerperselectie'* (Designer Selection Protocol) of the Rotterdam Municipality. Additionally, the governmental report *Actieprogramma*

⁴ Pianoo website accessible at: <https://www.pianoo.nl/>.

Ruimtelijk Ontwerp (Action Program for Spatial Design)⁵ indicates two different model strategies to improve the Dutch competition culture: the competitions launched by the College van Rijksbouwmeester en Rijksadviseurs and the Flemish Open Call system.

► **Small and Emerging Architectural Practices**

As most of Dutch competitions are non-open procedures with high demands for reference projects, the chances of accessing ADCs for smaller and emerging architectural practices are considerably limited. Improvements can be sought in the encouragement and acceptance of architects' collaboration with engineering teams to ensure building capacity. Moreover, assignments and modes of selection should be differentiated and proportionate to guarantee more equitable chances for all offices.

► **Architectural Expertise and Contracting Authorities**

For many local contracting authorities, such as small municipalities, the organisation of design competitions is occasional. Due to limited experience, they often rely on external consultants and tend to favour risk mitigation over architectural quality in the selection process. Increasing architectural expertise at the local level, for instance, by strengthening the role of the *Stadsbouwmeester* (City Architect) in ADCs, would have a positive influence on the procurement of design tasks and, accordingly, on the architectural quality of Dutch cities.

⁵ See the report: <https://bit.ly/3W776WL>.

SLOVENIA

Population

Source: Eurostat (Jan 1st 2023)
W 1.053.701 | 49.77%



22.130

Real GDP per capita in € Source: Eurostat (2023)

University Graduates in Architecture (master of Science)

193
(2022)*

M 34%

W 66%

Registered Architects
Source: ZAPS

1613
(2024)

W 47.6%

M 52.3%

* including spatial planners and landscape architects

Registered Architectural Offices
total number 1024*

% 1 person staff **88.8%**

% 2 person staff **8.5%**

% 3-5 person staff **2.1%**

% 6-10 person staff **0.60%**

%- 11-30 person staff **0%**

% more than 30 person staff **0%**



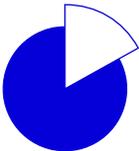
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80%

more than 30 person staff
 3 to 5 persons offices
 11 to 30 persons offices
 2 persons offices
 6 to 10 persons offices
 1 person offices

*number of registered architects in the same office

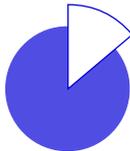
Source: ZAPS

17%



Studied abroad

14%



Worked abroad

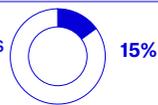
ADCs | total: **20**

open **90%***

non-open **10%***

Source: ZAPS

% of nationally registered offices participating in ADCs



Source: ACE Sector Study 2022, Table 3.10

% of national and foreign participants in (open) ADCs **92%** national
8% foreign*

Source: ZAPS

% of Public and private contracting authorities **90%** public
10% private

Source: ZAPS

Average number of entries in ADCs

11 Open ADCs

Source: ZAPS

*estimation

Source: ACE Observatory

1.8 Slovenia

Current Landscape of Slovenian ADCs

► General Features

In the Slovenian system of ADCs, the majority of procedures are open, public, anonymous project competitions aimed at the realisation of the winning design proposal. Specific eligibility requirements may also apply for particularly complex projects. Participation in open ADCs is regulated by the sole condition of having at least one Slovenian or EU registered architect in the team. This requirement applies to both local and foreign teams. After the ADC is completed a negotiation phase leading to the signing of the contract and the production of project documentation starts. This process, which usually constitutes a separate procedure, follows the order of winners (first, second, third prize winner). The architectural firm signing the contract is expected to be registered in Slovenia, the EU, the EEA or Switzerland. However, due to the bureaucratic complexity of obtaining a building permit, cooperation with a local office is often recommended.

► Trends

The open culture of ADCs has not always been the norm. Due to the interventions of various governments in the period from 2007-2015, the rich practice of competitions witnessed a temporary interruption. This situation required a committed and long-term effort of the Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning (ZAPS) to guarantee the maintenance of ADCs and their further implementation in national legislative instruments. To date, about 18 ADCs are organised by public authorities each year and an additional 2 by private clients.

► Fields of ADCs

Education buildings, residential buildings, public buildings (administration and offices), cultural venues, sports facilities, health facilities, transport stations, landscape and open space projects, spatial planning and monuments.

► Level of Elaboration Required in ADC

Concept design (drawings 1:200, site plan 1:500). Explanatory report, cost estimate, sketches, and renderings (if requested). Sometimes mass model (scale 1:500 as an insertion model).

► Stages of Design after ADC

Contracts following an ADC usually include all stages of project documentation: from preliminary design (scale 1:200 – 1:100) to detailed design (scale up to 1:50 – 1:1) and project for building permit. When they are commissioned they include: monitoring or supervision on the building site and, exceptionally, direction of the works during the construction phase.

Legal Framework for ADCs

► Public Procurement

The [Public Procurement Act](#) (ZJN-3) takes over the general rules for design competitions as laid down in the European Directive 2014/24/EU and specifies the obligation (threshold of investment sum or area surface) for the mandatory organisation of ADCs for public contracting authorities, such as municipalities or ministries. Organising an ADC is mandatory for facilities in public use whose investment value exceeds 2.5 million euros for buildings and 500,000 for sports and recreation facilities and for changes in the purpose of an area larger than five hectares.

► ADCs

The [Spatial Planning Act](#) (ZUREP-3) details the criteria for the mandatory implementation of ADCs and the rules for alternative forms of competition. The by-law [Rules on Public Competitions](#) (PJN) constitute the binding guideline for mandatory ADCs, laying down procedural details and substantive requirements for their conduct. ADCs must be open; restriction by pre-selection is allowed only in exceptional cases for public contracting authorities. Non-mandatory ADCs usually follow the same rules with the possibility of adaptations in favour of the client regarding jury composition or the invitation of architectural teams (non-open, invited ADCs).

The Role of The Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia (ZAPS) in ADCs

► ADCs Regulation

The Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning has a pivotal advisory role in the elaboration of regulations concerning ADCs. In addition, ZAPS redacts specific guidelines and manuals to support contracting authorities at every step of ADC organisation.

► ADCs Organisation

The Rules on Public Competitions recommends the collaboration of contracting authorities and ZAPS in the organisation of ADCs. ZAPS assists clients by preparing the competition rules and reviewing and formally approving the brief elaborated by clients. The review and approval are to ensure that the brief complies with the rules and guarantees architects' rights. The Chamber identifies professional members of the jury, who are involved in the revision of the brief. Additionally, ZAPS is responsible for the assessment of ADCs which are organised without the collaboration of ZAPS and published on the Slovenian public portal, via the "traffic light" assessment. This system ensures that compliance or noncompliance of the competition with the regulations is highlighted, and advises potential participants on the risks and opportunities of a competition. It also facilitates a systematic documentation of the majority of public ADCs held in Slovenia.

Debate and Future Development

► Mandatory ADCs and Threshold Values

A unique characteristic of Slovenian ADCs is their mandatory implementation for public clients under specific conditions of investment value and surface area. Article 100 of the ZJN-3 defines and differentiates threshold values for the mandatory organisation of ADCs, based on project functions. However, the relatively low value of the thresholds (2.5 million EUR for buildings) causes the obligation for an ADC for small projects and presents a difficulty for smaller communities with limited financial and professional resources. In the near future, a revision of the threshold value may be considered, along with a more consistent involvement of other clients (i.e. private clients) for who ADCs implementation is not compulsory.

1.9 South Tyrol

Current Landscape of South Tyrol ADCs

► General Features

Architectural Design Competitions in South Tyrol comprise different procedures: open calls for ideas, open competitions (with one or two stages), competitions with pre-qualification (non-open), and invited competitions for private contractors and/or for projects below 150,000 EUR. The quality of ADCs is guaranteed through the collaboration of contracting authorities and the Bozen Chamber of Architects and its dedicated working group. The coordinators of the working group (generally, architecture professionals) are responsible for collecting data and the client's requests, preparing the competition brief, appointing jury members and coordinating jury meetings, verifying compliance with the principle of anonymity at every step of the process, verifying compliance with competition standards and planning regulations, and checking the correct submission of entries.

► Trends

In South Tyrol, ADCs are the most widely used tool for the procurement of architectural projects. Participation is quite high, ensuring a good quality of project proposals. However, in recent years, there has been a growing preference among contracting authorities for negotiated procedures. This form of procurement is not recommended by the Bozen Chamber of Architects, as it tends to favour economic aspects over the quality of design proposals.

► Fields of ADCs

Residential buildings, education buildings, health facilities, cultural venues, administration and office buildings, infrastructure and large-scale urban projects (i.e. military and public transport areas).

► Level of Elaboration Required in ADCs

Concept design (drawings 1:200, site plan 1:500) including mass model (scale 1:500 as an insertion model), explanatory report, characteristic values and calculations, sketches, and renderings (if requested).

► Stages of Design after ADCs

Work stages after ADCs vary depending on contracting authorities and the type of contract. They generally include preliminary design (including submission / building permission, scale 1:200 - 1:100) and detailed design (scale 1:50 - 1:1). Construction stages are usually not included in the contract, although it is recommended to ensure the continuity of the designer team throughout all phases of the project until realisation.

Legal Framework for ADCs

► Public Procurement

The **New Italian Public Procurement Code**, namely, the [Legislative Decree 36/2023](#) (D. Leg.vo 36/2023), is the legislative instrument that governs the procurement of works and services in South Tyrol, integrating the provisions of the European Directive 2014/24/EU. In particular, article 3(l) of the decree specifies the definition of design contests, and article 46 specifies the provisions for design and ideas contests in line with the Directive 2014/24/EU.

The Role of the Bozen Chamber of Architects in ADCs

► ADCs Organisation

The role of the Bozen Chamber of Architects involves ensuring that adequate project development is carried out and that realistic competition programs are awarded. This process necessitates effective communication and mediation with project stakeholders, emphasising the pivotal role of ADCs in enhancing the built environment's quality and showcasing successful practices. The competition working group has established competition coordinators as the professional figures responsible for providing support and guidance throughout the competition process and, ideally, until the realisation of the projects. At the moment, the Bozen Chamber of Architects is developing a digital platform where ADCs will be uploaded, as required by the New Italian Procurement Code.

Debate and Future Development

► Responsibilities of the Jury

The growing role of the Bozen Chamber of Architects in the organisation of competitions is crucial to ensure the appropriate qualification and professional capacity of jury members. This relates particularly to regional expertise and sensitivity to local issues and landscapes. To achieve this goal, a strong presence of architects within juries is essential, while containing the influence of technical representatives from the municipalities. This approach fosters the awareness of the role of ADCs in achieving the highest quality of designs and improving the quality of the living environment.

► Negotiated Procedures

Encouraging the implementation of design competitions over negotiated procedures could improve the quality of design outcomes. However, in smaller municipalities with limited resources and professional capacity, having a greater flexibility in the selection of procurement procedures could be beneficial. This could be achieved through a revision of the threshold value and facilitating direct commissions for smaller projects.

SPAIN



University Graduates in Architecture
(master of Science)
*including civil engineers



25.620

Real GDP per capita in €
(provisional)

Source: Eurostat (2023)

Population

Source: Eurostat (Jan. 1st 2024)

M 23.565.593 | 49%



Registered Architects

Source: ACE Observatory

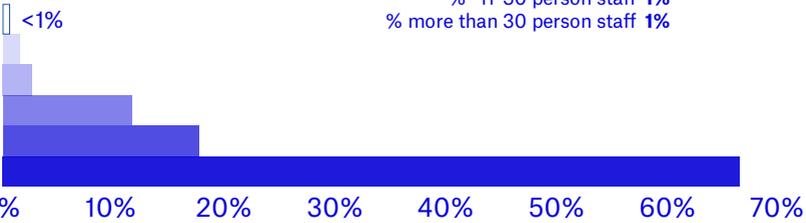
W 34%

50.000

M 66%

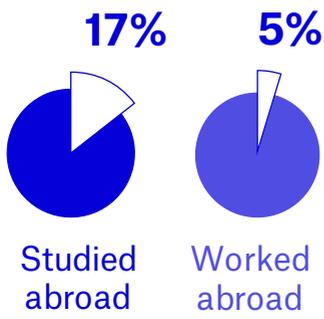
Registered Architectural Offices

total number 13.625



- more than 30 person staff
- 3 to 5 persons offices
- 11 to 30 persons offices
- 2 persons offices
- 6 to 10 persons offices
- 1 person offices

Source: ACE Sector Study 2022, Table 3.1



Source: ACE Observatory

ADCs | total: 62

- % idea competitions 14%
- % open project competitions 75%
- % non-open project competition 11%

Source: Spanish Public Procurement Platform, 2022



Source: ACE Sector Study 2022, Table 3.10

% of Public and private contracting authorities 100% public
no data for private

Source: Spanish Public Procurement Platform, 2022

Average number of entries in ADCs **22** Open ADCs
5-6 non-open ADCs

Source: Spanish Public Procurement Platform, 2022

1.10 Spain

Current Landscape of Spanish ADCs

► General Features

The Spanish Law on Public Procurement defines two types of ADCs: ideas and project. Ideas ADCs are usually characterised by innovative principles and expert professional juries, but their outcome rarely develops into a concrete project. In contrast, most project competitions fall within the regular procurement procedure in which proficiency and costs criteria of eligibility and award prevail over design innovation and quality. This hinders the participation of large groups of professionals. In Spain, public procurement is mandatory for all public service commissions with fees that exceed €15,000 (excluding VAT). This includes the designing of public buildings or spaces. Given that fees for such projects typically surpass this amount, a public tender is nearly always required, with or without an ADC. In contrast, private clients are neither obligated to follow the procurement process nor to promote a design competition.

► Trends

The number of design competitions published in the official Spanish Procurement Platform in 2022 was 62, including 53 project competitions and 9 ideas competitions. Over the last few years, the number of ADCs has progressively decreased, especially, in the area of Madrid. However, in the autonomous communities of the Balearic Islands and Catalunya, the IBAVI¹⁶ (Instituto Balear de la Vivienda) and IMPSOL (Institut Metropolità de Promoció de Sòl i Gestió Patrimonial), respectively, developed two innovative procedures for the procurement of social housing complexes. These ADC systems share an open format, which favours the participation of young professionals and values the quality and long-term vision of proposals. To date, the high societal and architectural quality promoted through these ADCs has produced projects which have garnered international recognition and awards.

¹⁶ See *El Croquis* dedicated n. 219.

► Level of Elaboration Required in ADC

The level of elaboration required for an ADC varies significantly based on its specific requirements.

► Stages of Design after ADC

Design stages following an ADC are not strictly defined but generally include design stages up to the developed (scale 1:100 - 1:50) and detailed design (scale 1:50 - 1:1). Following the design phases, the building process requires supervision by an architect (*dirección de obra*).

Legal Framework for ADCs

► Public Procurement

The [Spanish Law on Public Procurement](#) is the legislative instrument that transposes the prescriptions of European Directive 2014/24/EU into national law since 2017. **Articles 183-187** specify the provisions regarding ADCs, including the scope of application of design contests and their general organisational and award principles.

► Law 9/2022 of 14 June on Quality in Architecture.

[Law 9/2022](#) on **Quality in Architecture** integrates Article 184 of the Law on Public Procurement, which establishes the criteria of the assessment of ADC proposals based on technical, functional, architectural, cultural and environmental quality. In practical terms, Law 9/2022 affects public procurement procedures through the creation of a “Council of Quality in Architecture” with the role of ensuring the respect of quality criteria.

The Role of The Superior Council of Colleges of Architects of Spain (CSCAE) in ADCs

► ADCs Regulation

The Spanish Council (CSCAE) holds a formal advisory role in the elaboration of regulations regarding design contests. To support public authorities in the organisation of ADCs, the council also developed a model procurement and contract for design contests.

► ADCs Organisation

Although not formally involved in the organisation of ADCs, the council advocates for increasing the implementation of ADCs as the best procedure to guarantee a high architectural quality for the projects procured and to favour the fair and equal treatment of participants. It also recommends a greater involvement of itself in the organisation of ADCs and the composition of juries.

Debate and Future Development

► Mandatory organisation of ADCs

According to the Spanish Law on Public Procurement, the sole condition for the mandatory organisation of an ADC is the “special complexity” of projects. The legal uncertainty of this term leaves its definition to contracting authorities and allows them to opt for any other procurement procedure. A better definition of mandatory conditions for design competitions may increase the number of ADCs and improve the architectural quality of the objects procured.

► Abnormally low tenders

The EU Directive specifies the award criterion of public procurement as the most economically advantageous tender identified on the basis of the best price-quality ratio. This criterion, however, is not integrated into the Spanish Law on Public Procurement, causing the risk of abnormally low tenders. The Spanish Council (CSCAE) advocates for the integration of this principle into the national legislative framework.

► After the ADC

The existing legislation that applies to design contests is lacking provisions to secure the future development of competition results. Such provisions are crucial to guarantee and protect the role of architectural teams, their intellectual property and their leading role in the design process following an ADC, regardless of the political changes that may occur over time.

SWITZERLAND

Population

Source: Eurostat (Jan. 1st 2024)
M 4.379.953 | 49.69%

total:
8.815.385

50.31% | W 4.435.432

63.490

Real GDP per
capita in € (2024)
Source: Eurostat

M 55%

862

University Graduates
in Architecture
(master of Science)
Source: SIA

W 45%

Registered
Architects
Source: SIA

26.715*

W 25%*

M 75%*

*estimation

Registered Architectural Offices

total number
12.909

Source: SIA

ADCs

open **40%**

Source: SIA

total: **250**

non-open **60%**

% of national and foreign
participants in (open) ADCs

Source: SIA

85%

national

15%

foreign

% of Public and private
contracting authorities

Source: SIA

95%

public

5%

private

Average number of
entries in ADCs

Source: SIA

30

open ADCs

10

non-open ADCs

1.11 Switzerland

Current Landscape of Swiss ADCs

► General Features

Design competitions in Switzerland have an outstanding history closely connected with the development of the Profession of Architects and Engineers since the 19th century. Deeply rooted in the national architectural culture, ADCs are integrated into a formal procurement system that allows for a variety of procedures. The national ADC system differentiates solution-based and performance-based procurement options. In Switzerland, all solution-based procedures are understood as design competitions. They include open competitions, competitions with prequalification (non-open), invited competitions, and non-anonymous study commissions. The Swiss ADC system is characterised by a commitment to award the contract to the first prize winner. Thus, design competitions are usually followed by bilateral negotiations between the contracting authority and the winning team.

► Trends

In recent years, the monitoring of procurement trends by the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA) has registered an increase in the number of open ADCs. However, the progressive growth of open competitions remains lower than the total number of procedures. To date, about 50% of all ADCs are non-open procedures, while approximately 40% are open competitions. Invited ADCs are frequently implemented for small-size projects. Non-anonymous and non-open study commissions are also common, due to their capacity to enable a cooperative approach to solving design tasks. However, their share based on the total number of procedures is slightly decreasing.

► Fields of ADCs

Residential buildings, education buildings, health facilities, cultural venues, administration and offices, infrastructure buildings, and bridges.

► Level of Elaboration Required in ADCs

According to SIA Regulations: concept design (site plan at scale 1:500, selected

plans, facades, and sections at scale 1:200), mass model (scale 1:500), volume and area calculations. Despite the provisions of SIA Regulations, the level of elaboration may vary depending on contracting authorities.

► Stages of Design after ADCs

The most common stages following an ADC usually include preliminary design (scale 1:200 - 1:100), detailed design (scale 1:50 - 1:1), construction stages, and survey stages.

Legal Framework for ADCs

► Public Procurement

At the national level, the [Federal Law on Public Procurement](#) (BöB) and the **Ordinance on Public Procurement** (VöB) are the most important basis. In these documents, rules on competitions and study commissions are included in Articles 13-19. At the cantonal and municipal levels, the [Intercantonal Ordinance on Public Procurement](#) (IVöB) and individual cantonal procurement laws and ordinances apply.

► ADCs

Additional non-binding regulations integrate the Federal Law and the Ordinance on Public Procurement. These include the **Guidelines for Conducting Competitions** published by the Coordination Conference of Public Building Owners (KBOB), [SIA Regulation 142](#) (SIA/142) constituting the national competition standard since 1877, and [SIA Regulation 143](#) (SIA/143) on study commissions. SIA/142 and SIA/143 are a proven instrument to implement ADCs and, although not formally binding, are widely applied by most public and private contracting authorities.

The Role of The Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA) in ADCs

► ADCs Regulation

The Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA) is responsible for the elaboration, revision and update of the standardised competition rules fixed in SIA 142. The elaboration of SIA/142 and SIA/143 (for study commissions) ensures

the quality in both anonymous and non-anonymous competition procedures.

► ADCs Organisation

The Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA) recognises that the quality of ADCs is closely linked to the quality of its management and organisation. Therefore, SIA has been increasingly engaged in communication efforts with contracting authorities to enhance an informed and adequate selection of procurement procedures for each design task. SIA offers reviews and validation of competition briefs through a formal stamp which is printed on the ADC document and supports professionals in the participation decision. Moreover, through the dedicated web platform “wegweiser planungsbeschaffung”¹⁷, SIA provides templates and materials for implementing an ADC. SIA advocates for a better quality of competition management and is committed to the qualification of its members through the offer of training courses by its agency ‘SIA-Inform’ for competition management and sustainable quality procurement.

Debate and Future Development

► Increasing Expenditure

In recent years, the level of elaboration of ADC entries has risen sharply. SIA advocates for lean procedures in which submission requirements are limited to what is necessary to support assessment and decision of the jury.

► Responsibilities of Jury Members

Jury members have a great responsibility that goes beyond the selection of the best design idea; ensuring fair conditions within the competition process is also part of their duty. Therefore, SIA engages in raising awareness among jury members and provides them with systematic support to ensure a fair ADC procedure, assessment, and decision-making.

¹⁷ Link to the platform: www.wegweiser-planungsbeschaffung.ch.

CHAPTER 2:
**Five
Parameters
for a
European
Debate on
ADCs**

2.1 Regulations: The Legislative Framework(s) for ADCs

Understanding the legal framework regulating ADCs across Europe is not an easy task. It entails unpacking various layers of legislation and their integration into specific cultural systems and territorial scales. The European Directive 2014/24/EU refers to ADCs as “**design contests**”,¹⁸ defining them as being in the field of town planning, architecture, and engineering and enabling contracting authorities to acquire a plan or design previously selected by a jury and awarded with a prize.¹⁹ Design contests fall within a particular procurement regime in public service contracts that distinguishes two possibilities for organisation: either as part of a procedure leading to the award of a public service contract or as a “design contest” with a prize and payments leading to a simplified negotiated procedure without prior publication.²⁰ Directive 2014/24/EU, however, only indicates the general principles for design contests; it does not specify the procedural details underlying their organisation and implementation.

Chapter II of Title III, dedicated to the **Rules on Governing Design Contests**: **1)** explains the difference between project and ideas competitions,²¹ **2)** includes the organisational principles related to the admission to participation, and **3)** defines the possibilities for limiting the number of participants in compliance with the principle of non-discrimination.²² Finally, it also indicates the basic rules on the composition of juries and the ethics of their decision process.²³ The general character of EU provisions implies that Member States have a wide margin of flexibility regarding the actual implementation of design contests. For this reason, many EU countries have integrated national laws on public procurement with dedicated legislative instruments or guidelines for ADCs in compliance with the EU Directive. Among many of the partner countries of the ARCH-E Project (particularly Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, and Slovenia) national guidelines on ADCs either work in combination with or are (partially) integrated in the national public procurement legislation as to be rendered binding.²⁴ In the other countries, instead, ADC regulatory instruments and manuals serve as a voluntary framework.

¹⁸ Directive 2014/24/EU, art. 2.

¹⁹ See ACE Recommendations: <https://bit.ly/3zd9emF>.

²⁰ Directive 2014/24/EU, art. 78.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Directive 2014/24/EU, art. 80.

²³ Directive 2014/24/EU, art. 81-82.

²⁴ In the case of Austria and Croatia, guidelines are binding under specific conditions, as indicated in the respective country profiles in Chapter One.

Benefits of Dedicated Guidelines for ADCs

The elaboration of specific legislative instruments for ADCs ensures a well-defined structure and clear conditions for all procedures, contributing to improving transparency in the national competition system. In addition, **binding guidelines can set criteria and standards for competitions above and below the EU threshold amounts, favouring a quality-centred approach** to the procurement of designs and plans.²⁵ In turn, the absence of binding regulations for ADCs leaves contracting authorities the autonomous definition of the conditions for each contest, resulting in a variety of procedures, criteria, and outcomes of selection. It should be considered, however, that the existence of country-specific rules increases the differences between national ADC systems, cultures, and practices.

National Regulations and Cross-border Participation

During the 40 interview sessions with ADC experts from ARCH-E partner countries (Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Hungary, Germany, Slovenia, Spain, and the Netherlands), the impact of national legislative frameworks on the EU market for ADCs was discussed. In 55% of interviews, the differences in legislation, bureaucracy, and competition documentation were mentioned as the main discouraging factors related to participation and interest in ADCs outside of one's own country. Moreover, nine respondents expressed the desire for greater standardisation of procedures across Europe. **While flexibility in the procurement of services is crucial to preserve the uniqueness of local architectural cultures, aesthetics, and contextual values, other procedural aspects may be the ground for European harmonisation.** Important structural features of an ADC include: **1)** the recognition of the title of architects, **2)** limited conditions for eligibility criteria, **3)** intellectual rights of authors, **4)** contractual obligations, and **5)** the definition of a proportionate calculation of fee scales based on the country's economic system. Addressing these features could be the starting point for improving the EU directive provisions and bringing about a more homogeneous approach to ADCs regulation across Europe.

2.1.1 Sustainability: ADCs Potential and Shortcomings

The public procurement of works and services, including architectural designs and urban plans, is not a simple management strategy. It has the potential to be a

²⁵ Many national guidelines for ADCs are based on the guidelines and standards indicated in the UIA Competition Guide. For more information visit the link: <https://bit.ly/3yypS0n>.

powerful policy instrument to produce change and create societal value, especially, by addressing socio-environmental challenges.¹⁸ In light of this potential, the **European Green Deal** (2019) **indicates public procurement as an instrument to achieve the Sustainability Development Goals** (2015) and encourages public authorities to lead by example through the implementation of environmentally and socially innovative standards in their award decisions.¹⁹ However, the actual translation of sustainability into building design is a complex and contested matter. Buildings play a key role in the transition towards sustainability, thus, clients, architects, engineers, builders, and other relevant stakeholders must take responsibility for environmental and social impact along the entire life cycle of buildings. Some public contracting authorities are reviewing their cost-effectiveness approaches favouring the lowest life cycle cost in the initial investment assessment. In this way acquisition, use of energy, maintenance, end-of-life, and costs linked to environmental externalities (works, supplies, services, emissions, etc.) are calculated.

In the field of architectural design and urban planning, the provisions for “Green Procurement” intersect with the ambitions of the **New European Bauhaus** (2020), which aims to improve the quality of our living environment through a sustainable development approach, focusing on the three core values of **sustainability**, **aesthetics**, and **inclusion**. Yet, the ultimate decision for implementing sustainable innovation and creating impact lies within Member States through national procurement and competition systems. Then, how can ADCs contribute to being a driver of change in the way we think about building and promoting a meaningful dialogue on sustainable development among various stakeholders?

Need for Context and Task-specific Demands

When discussing sustainability in ADCs, it is important for contracting authorities to clarify what exactly is at stake with environmental and/or social sustainability.²⁶ These two concepts encompass multiple challenges (carbon footprint, management of existing resources, selection of materials, nature-inclusive design, or intergenerational programmatic models), all of which strongly influence design choices. **As 22 respondents** (55% of 40 interviews) **have pointed out, clarity and specificity of the task in relation to sustainability matters entail a serious commitment** of the organising team from the very early stage of the competition.

²⁶ Interesting doctoral research has been conducted by Matthias Fuchs analysing criteria and indicators for the integration of sustainability requirements into competition procedures and including practical recommendations. See Fuchs, 2013.

Through in-depth studies of the socio-environmental context and adequate estimation of costs, the competition brief can better target core sustainability questions from the start.

Accordingly, the criteria of assessment should reflect the same questions to ensure that, in the decision and award phase, the jury will appropriately weigh each entry, either through the introduction of expert members or with the support of external advisors. Otherwise, there is a risk of turning sustainability ambitions into a generic and misleading “greenwashing” that may end up in equally disappointing proposals. A positive example can be found in the Dutch competition series “*Een Nieuwe Bouwcultuur*” presented in Chapter 3. The design tasks for these competitions specifically focus on the construction technologies of biobased materials and introduce a thematic and quality-centred assessment method for the pre-selection of participants.

The Competition Phase Cannot Answer All Questions

It is widely accepted that the early design phases play a crucial role to lay the foundation for meaningful integration of sustainability measures, but a certain scepticism about the actual possibility of resolving sustainability questions in a competition phase remains. **Thirteen interviewees expressed their concerns regarding the shortcomings of the conceptual status of competition entries.** Considering the level of detail requested in most ADC submissions, respondents find the demand for technical details, calculations, and certifications unfeasible: it overloads the level of elaboration of entries and has a detrimental effect on the team’s workload. In addition, according to 12 respondents (30% of 40 interviews), excessive emphasis on sustainability questions, when these are not the central problem of the ADC, is unnecessary. In the realisation phase, the winning design will eventually comply with regular building laws, which align with the Directive 2018/844/EU on the energy performance of buildings. Other respondents, however, emphasised the relevance (and often the lack) of appropriate financing plans to support the effective implementation and operation of sustainable technologies at a later stage.

The existence of standards in regular building laws does not mean that sustainability questions should be ignored in ADCs. Rather, the opposite is true: the conceptual status of design reveals crucial information about the project’s strategic approach and its development possibilities. For this reason, and given the ongoing debate on how to effectively enact the concept of sustainability, **ADCs**

should be seen as a tool to rethink visions, challenges, and indicators for a new building culture. As a viable strategy to address this need, the German Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) at the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) has developed the SNAP methodology to adapt complex requirements of sustainable construction into a more flexible system, which better relates to the competition stage.²⁷

Taking Innovation Seriously

“The main purpose of competitions is to discover something new, to introduce a topic that really needs to be discussed. [...] Otherwise, it reinforces what is already known.”

Ivan Capdevila – PLAYstudio

If ADCs are the best instrument to produce high-quality and innovative design solutions, their potential should be utilized to the fullest to renew the existing building culture, in line with the ambitions of the New European Bauhaus. In this sense, ADCs represent a unique opportunity to research, invent, test and, even more radically, question the need for building. Raising the bar of innovation through design entails the capacity of contracting authorities to take in a certain degree of risk and give up the control of outcomes through strict requirements, including the “greener” ones (prescription of selected materials, certifications, technical requirements and, obviously, reference projects). To mitigate such risk, **the educational effort of various stakeholders becomes crucial to promote a dialogue between clients and architectural teams, as well as between organisers, designers, and local communities.**

Chapter 3 offers an example in the EUROPAN competition for the urban regeneration of the Lušić area in Karlovac. In 2021, the winning design “the Fantastic Forest Phenomenon” was nominated NEB’s Rising Star Finalist. In this case, collaboration and communication among the parties involved contributed to pushing the boundaries of the competition task in favour of the long-term benefits of sustainable urban development and accompanying the broader public towards the discovery of alternative visions of planning. **In light of the innovative and**

²⁷ See BBSR, 2021a and BBSR, 2021b.

educational role of ADCs, the implementation of cross-border exchange among countries acquires a prominent relevance. The circulation of different ideas and experiences of Baukultur is particularly beneficial to expanding learning opportunities and imagining new ways of living.

2.2 Accessibility: Facts, Perceptions, and Strategies

The statistical data on the participation of architectural offices in ADCs collected by the ARCH-E Project shows a similar rate of interest across EU countries. This corresponds to an average of approximately 20% of all registered offices (Figure 1.7).²⁸ Through the opinion of different experts in ADCs, this section offers additional details on which factors influence access to design competitions, paying particular attention to how these may affect some groups of professionals more than others.

Limitations of Eligibility Requirements

In the commissioning of architectural projects, contracting authorities are faced with budget considerations and other management complications. These are not only related to the competition phase but also, and especially, to the realisation of winning designs. In the effort to mitigate risks, they often opt for a stricter definition of eligibility requirements. These requirements are the set of conditions (reference projects, team's size, composition, financial capacity, etc.) that interested participants must meet to be able to submit a design proposal. Strict requirements are used to ensure clients of the participants' capacity to bring the project to completion, but at the same time they risk prohibiting access to competitions for large groups of professionals.

“This is particularly problematic in a small country like Cyprus: we do not have so many theatres or hospitals [...]. These requirements make it impossible for young architects to participate or even for an experienced practice to extend its knowledge to different fields.”

Marios Christodoulides – SIMPRAXIS Architects

²⁸ Cf. ACE Sector Study 2022: 44.

Twenty-six respondents (65% of 40 interviews) indicated that requesting a portfolio of built projects as an eligibility requirement is one of the main factors limiting access to ADCs for younger, emerging professionals and small to mid-size offices. Reference projects tend to confirm the role of well-established architectural practices, in particular, those that have specialised in a specific business field over time. Access to ADCs becomes even more difficult if one adds the office's turnover and financial conditions to the criteria of selection. To address this problem and reinforce compliance with the procurement principle of non-discrimination, EU Member States have adopted different measures. In German ADCs, contracting authorities are not allowed to request references limited to the same typology of the design task; they must also allow building types of a similar complexity. In the Netherlands, eligibility requirements referring to the practice's turnover and financial condition are no longer admissible. While these initiatives aim to introduce a fairer selection, the practice often reveals that those measures are not consistently applied. For this reason, the consultancy and advocacy role of chambers and architects associations is crucial to introduce clients to the design benefits of a more open approach and to professionally assist them throughout the competition process.

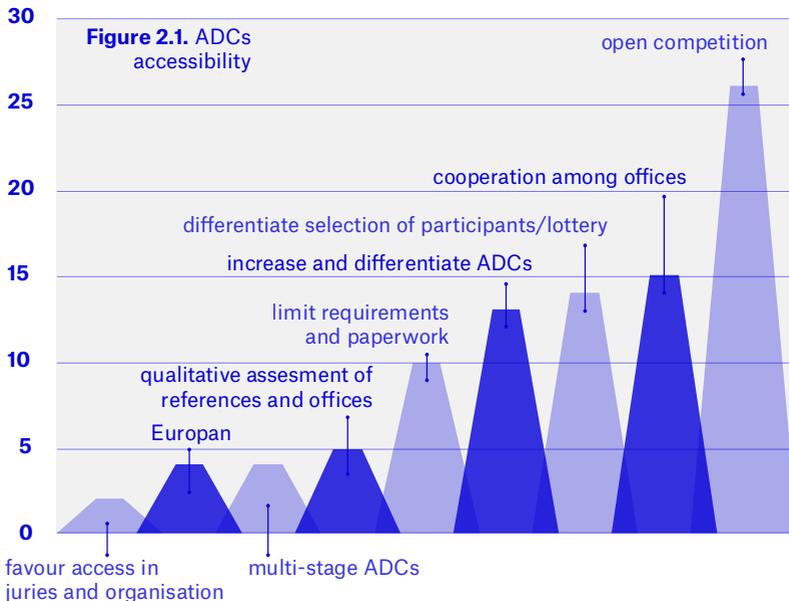


Figure 2.1: Accessibility to ADCs. The opinions of interviewees on viable strategies and practices to favour accessibility to ADCs, particularly for emerging professionals and small offices. (The figure indicates the absolute number of responses; multiple answers per interviewee are possible.)

The strategy that most interview respondents consider successful in guaranteeing equal opportunities to access ADCs is the open competition (Fig. 2.1). An open procedure, whether it is a single or multi-stage ADC, does not impose any condition or criteria to be eligible for participation. On the one hand, it represents a unique chance for young and starting offices to obtain a first commission and develop their practice. On the other, it provides contracting authorities with a larger variety of innovative design options. While this type of procedure has been decreasing in most EU countries over time, ARCH-E data show that in Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, and Spain, open ADCs represent the largest majority of procedures (Fig. 1.6). Promoting cooperation among offices of different sizes and expertise is also a viable strategy to fulfil eligibility requirements, when present, and welcome new design ideas. In Cyprus, where ADCs are often organised for complex projects, this strategy is frequently promoted: both to safeguard the client's risks about the realisation phase and to favour the inclusion of a larger number of architectural practices.

A Problem of Investment

“[Taking part in open competitions] is quite hard, to be honest. It takes time and resources to win and, if you do not, you just lose a lot of money. When we did not have any employees, we would take this risk, but now we cannot anymore.”

Floor Frings – Werkstatt

If eligibility criteria play an important role in filtering access to ADCs, the financial risk of participation also has a strong impact. Interviewees have emphasised that competitions are becoming increasingly demanding, not only in terms of requirements, but also at the level of elaboration of submissions. **Rendering and visualisations, sketch models, sustainability certifications, BIM requirements, and paperwork increase the investment that architectural firms must undertake, while limiting the number of practices with sufficient financial and staff capacity.** To address this challenge, organising parties must consider that the work and effort of teams should be primarily directed towards the design proposal, rather than documentation and calculations. To favour participation, not only the number of ADCs should increase but, depending on the task, different formats should be tested (i.e. open ADCs with single or multi-stage procedure, ADCs with

pre-selection, etc.). This would better calibrate demands and expectations while broadening the range of opportunities for architects.

A successful example of enhancing accessibility for diverse professional groups is the IMPSOL competition series in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, discussed in Chapter 3. This ADC model, structured in two stages, allows participation from any architectural team while reducing the size of the investment for practices. The first stage maintains a conceptual level of elaboration, and only in the second stage are teams expected to submit more detailed proposals, for which they are appropriately compensated. The IMPSOL model demonstrates that even with open eligibility, high-quality outcomes can still be achieved.

Diversity and Inclusion in ADCs

“It is important to take part not only in competitions but also in juries. I have learnt a lot by being a jury member and understanding every step of the process, from the beginning to the end.”

Melanie Karbasch – Architekt Melanie Karbasch ZT GmbH

During the interview sessions of the ARCH-E project, the role of gender was also discussed. Due to the condition of anonymity applying to most ADCs, participants unanimously agreed that gender does not influence accessibility to design competitions. Nevertheless, some respondents have pointed out that an equal representation of male and female professionals in the larger competition process (including the composition of juries, contracting and organising teams) is rarely achieved. This issue relates to the fact that fewer women hold leadership positions in the architectural and construction field than their male counterparts.²⁹ **Yet, the opportunity to include a more diverse group of professionals (taking into account diversity of gender, as well as age, nationality, and disciplinary expertise) in juries and organisational processes of ADCs is closely connected to fairer accessibility.** It allows a larger group of architects to acquire knowledge of competition procedures and dynamics, with the prospect of increasing their future chances of success in ADCs.

²⁹ See the “Career Tracker Tool” developed for the project “Yes We Plan” in 2020: <https://yesweplan.eu/career-tracker/>.

2.2.1 Cross-Border Mobility in European ADCs

When looking at the percentage of foreign teams participating in the competitions of ARCH-E partner countries, the numbers are extremely low and rarely surpass 10% (Figure 1.8). These data are not surprising; when accessing a design contest in a different country than the one in which the office is based, challenges increase. To the common problems related to eligibility requirements and financial investment, these architects must add the difficulties related to **finding open calls, overcoming differences in language, regulations, and fee structures, as well as further practical challenges** (such as travel time and expenses) that considerably increase the size of their investment. Some respondents have also emphasised the relevance of context and local culture in architectural design, especially, for public commissions. Given the time constraints of an ADC, it is very difficult for non-local architects to acquire the same knowledge as local competitors. This may mean less chances of success abroad for participants and more uncertainties on the professional knowledge of foreign teams for clients.

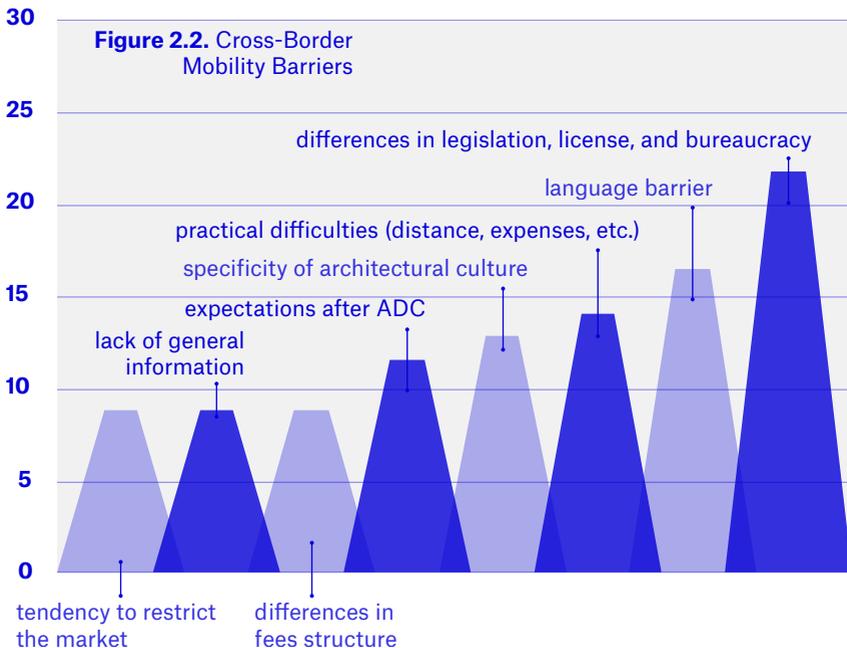


Figure 2.2: Cross-border mobility barriers. The opinions of interviewees on the main obstacles influencing the decision to participate in ADCs outside of one's own national context. (The figure indicates the absolute number of responses; multiple answers per interviewee are possible).

Different Scales of Accessibility

“We speak English, French and Spanish so, probably, we could cover 80% of the world market. But this is our strategy: we place Barcelona at the centre of a map and draw a circle with a two-hour flight radius maximum. This is our market.”

Miquel Lacasta – Archikubik

Moving across borders to enter an ADC entails several practical difficulties related to the size and capacity of offices; these may affect some nationals more than others. Participants from Cyprus, for example, highlighted the island’s geographical distance and lower availability of transportation as a decisive limitation to entering other EU design competitions. In contrast, contracting authorities in less economically competitive Member States struggle to attract distant participants due to the lower value of fees. **A relevant aspect that emerged from the conversations with ADC experts is the success of cross-border mobility and collaborations at the regional scale among neighbouring EU countries**, where languages, cultures, economies, and building practices are often similar.³⁰ In light of these observations, it may be worthwhile to reconsider the challenges and ambitions of EU-level ADCs and explore the potential of new models of competition across neighbouring countries and regions.

The Importance of the ARCH-E Network

The improvement of cross-border exchange in ADCs does not exclusively depend on the interest of architects, but also entails **the commitment of contracting authorities and organising bodies to involve international parties and make a call internationally visible and understandable**. This is often the case of unique competitions for projects with a global resonance and very large investments. However, in regular ADCs the competition system tends to maintain a local perspective, which manifests in the composition of juries and organising teams, the language of documents and requested submissions, as well as the results of pre-selections and winning projects showing the widest majority of local professionals.

To overcome this challenge and bridge inevitable knowledge gaps, foreign

³⁰ See the “Interreg Project Austria-Bayern 2014-2020”: https://www.arching.at/aktuelles/interreg_projekt.html.

architectural teams can rely on collaboration with local partners. While some practices have a well-established net of international connections, for those offices without extensive experience outside their own country, this may represent an additional difficulty. Interview respondents (10) have highlighted that **the existence of a platform to establish connections with other professionals would definitely facilitate collaboration and generate more interest in cross-border competitions**. In this regard, the ARCH-E Project aims to build an international network that not only fosters cooperation among European architects but also connects architectural associations and representational bodies. The goal is to ensure a long-term commitment to the exchange of knowledge and expertise on ADCs beyond national boundaries.

2.3 Quality: Key Elements for High-quality ADCs

In January 2018, the European Ministries of Culture met in Davos, Switzerland, and signed the **Davos Declaration**. This document underscores the central role of culture in the production of a built environment “characterised by a high-quality of life, cultural diversity, individual and collective well-being, social justice and cohesion, and economic efficiency”.³¹ Through the concept of Baukultur, culture is linked to the design and construction of buildings, cities, infrastructures, public spaces, and landscapes. **The Davos Declaration calls on policy- and decision-makers to adopt new instruments that prioritise culture-centred and sustainable approaches** for developing the living environment at various scales. From this view, **Architectural Design Competitions (ADCs) are a crucial tool in identifying quality solutions for architectural and urban challenges**.

ADCs not only address functional and technical demands but also stimulate debates on design, recognising its cultural value and its ability to meet people’s social and psychological needs. To better achieve the goals of the Davos Declaration and embody the principles of Baukultur in design outcomes (governance, functionality, environment, economy, diversity, context, sense of place, and beauty³²) the quality of procedural aspects of ADCs is paramount. When asked about the elements that most strongly influence the quality of competition procedures, interview participants expressed similar views. **Over half of the respondents identified the competition brief (50%) and the jury composition (67%) as having the greatest impact on**

³¹ Davos Declaration, 2018: 8.

³² Swiss Federal Office of Culture, 2021.

the quality of both procedures and results. But what determines the high-quality of the brief and juries?

Making Room for Creativity

“The brief has to be clear in the definition of the problem, not in the exact number of square meters.”

Mojca Gregorski – KONTRA Arhitekti

The brief is the first means of communication between contracting authorities and design teams. It must communicate the expectations, visions, and requests of the client in a language that is understandable in architectural terms. **A good competition brief should specify the task without compromising the creative potential of proposals.** This means it should not provide details about the expected answer (suggesting a restricted range of design options) but rather focus on precise questions: what is the problem at stake? What are the conditions to consider from an environmental and societal perspective? Which aspects are particularly relevant to the project and what weight is attributed to each?

To achieve the formulation of a detailed and high-quality brief, the appropriate time for preparation is of uttermost importance. This entails communication among stakeholders, several rounds of revision from Chambers and competent professionals, the participation of future users, and the support of specialised architectural offices. The collaboration with external architectural firms, frequently applied in German ADCs, is recognised by interview participants as a particularly successful strategy to obtain not only a good brief but also a well-structured ADC procedure. Another good example of preparation comes from Switzerland, where preliminary studies, site analyses, and test designs may precede the call for an actual competition as non-anonymous study commissions (regulated by SIA/143). These studies, produced by architecture offices and/or professionals, translate the brief into spatial concepts and provide directions for ADC participants to enter the creative process and develop their best proposals.



Figure 2.3: Quality elements in ADCs. According to the interview respondents, high-quality jury composition and a good brief have a central role in guaranteeing the quality of design outcomes. Costs, in this context, refer to the appropriate estimation of project budget. (The figure indicates the absolute number of responses; multiple answers per interviewee are possible).

A Matter of Commitment

“I do not think that [the composition of the jury] has necessarily to do with professional experience. Rather, it is related to a sense of responsibility towards the public interest”

Roman Šilje – Croatian Architects’ Association

The assessment of architectural projects is a complex task that requires the capacity to integrate quantitative and qualitative aspects, from the estimation of costs for the project’s budget to the overall aesthetic, functional, social and environmental value

of proposals. Most ADC guidelines in partner countries prescribe architectural professionals as the majority of jury members. This approach usually ensures that architectural quality remains the main criteria of assessment and that political and/or economic interests are not put first.

Nevertheless, **multidisciplinary methods** and the inclusion of advisors and jurors who are outside the discipline of architecture are becoming increasingly popular. Such an approach **supports the assessment phase from different points of view, considering the broader and long-term effects of the project on its surroundings**. Multidisciplinary approaches and collaborations align with the Davos Declaration, which emphasises that high-quality Baukultur can only be achieved through interdisciplinary dialogue and multi-sectoral cooperation. Therefore, it is important that the experience of jury members not only includes knowledge of the ADC tasks but also proves a **committed attitude and a cutting-edge vision towards the quality of the living environment**. Diversity and change, especially gender and generational diversity, within juries is also recommended. It brings new perspectives into the discussion while allowing more architecture professionals to acquire knowledge on ADC procedures, increasing their chances of success in future competitions.

Quality as Collective Sense-making

Decision-making in architectural tenders entails complexity and uncertainty. Existing studies, therefore, have conceptualised it as a process of sense-making to indicate the creation of a common understanding among a group of actors with different needs and expectations.³³ These features do not relate merely to quantitative criteria and point systems but, rather, require the integration of qualitative methods. Although the complexity of design involves both qualitative and quantitative parameters, point systems in ADCs are frequently used as risk avoidance strategies and are often perceived as more transparent. Accordingly, jury reports may be supported by a legal and evidentiary language to substantiate their decision.

While specific demands must be addressed, and the client's requests should correspond to a precise weight, the **assessment of design projects should create the opportunity for an open debate, as to bring to the fore those quality elements that cannot be quantified**. This means recognising that a collective

³³ Volker, 2010; Volker, 2012.

process of “sense-making” is not less objective than a numeric system, but rather thorough and more complete.³⁴ Such a position requires the allocation of time to discuss, review, and assess projects. It can also provide participants with accurate feedback, which can be an important determinant in the prevention of formal complaints. **The possibility of a more open debate, not only among jurors but also between the jury and the participants, has been mentioned as a positive experience in ADCs.** The German ADC principles provide the instrument of colloquia, which serve to promote dialogue between the ADC organiser and participants, to clarify queries and to specify the task. The minutes of the colloquium become part of the contest notice (Paragraph 5 Section 1 Subsection 2 RPW 2013). This practice is also common in Belgian competitions already prior to the submission of entries.

2.3.1 Fairness: High-quality and Fair Conditions for Architects

When it comes to criticism of design competitions, the loudest and most widespread opinion in the architectural community is that ADCs are often much too risky for architectural practices.³⁵ **Even when expenses are compensated for all participants, the amount typically falls short of covering the actual costs incurred by the firms.** ARCH-E interviewees confirmed this problem, particularly in open competitions or ADCs with a large number of participants, in which remuneration rarely corresponds to the actual work produced. Among the countries providing more adequate remuneration and prizes, interview participants mentioned French and Swiss ADCs, although they also emphasised their highly demanding character in terms of deliverables. Addressing this problem, multi-stage ADCs could offer a compromise between open accessibility in the first stage and an appropriate level of elaboration progressively requested throughout the following phases of the competition. Finally, Dutch interviewees have highlighted that competitions organised by private clients often allow for negotiating the conditions of remuneration; a possibility that rarely occurs with public contracting authorities.

In the analysis of various strategies and approaches, **the significant economic differences among EU Member States, including the national proportion of fees relative to overall construction costs, should be considered.** The need for an appropriate calculation system for architectural fees in competitions is recognised across borders. For instance, Spanish and Hungarian interviewees have

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Appenzeller, 2023; Hurst, 2018; Schade-Bünsow, 2015.

pointed out that the growing complexity of both ADCs and construction tasks (due to factors like energy certifications, BIM requirements, digitalisation, maintenance, etc.) necessitates a timely revision of current architectural fee structures at the national level. Considering the experiences, opinions, and examples of various countries, it is evident that EU Member States can do more to enhance an equitable remuneration for design services in public and private commissioning through ADCs. The challenge lies in finding the appropriate balance between fair remuneration for architects and reasonable costs for contracting authorities. This is important in order to secure the consistent implementation of ADCs over time and guarantee access to new commissions to a growing number of professionals.

Focus on the Ideas

“We are often debating about reducing the number of deliverables but, in my opinion, it does not really matter: the main work consists of the time you invest to come up with the winning idea”

Andres Schenker – Schenker Salvi Weber Architekten

One way to address the disproportionate relationship between architects' work and their compensation is through a more considerate approach to the production of ideas. **The goal of Architectural Design Competitions (ADCs) is to find the best design solution for a given task.** This involves identifying the best concept and overall design strategy among the proposals, but it does not require the detailing of all answers at a very preliminary stage. In this sense, **multiple-stage competitions may represent a viable strategy towards fairer ADC procedures.** A multi-stage process allows the competition to progressively increase the level of complexity while reducing the number of participants. Moreover, streamlined bureaucratic procedures and limited paperwork can positively contribute to decreasing the amount of work, allowing architectural teams to spend more time on developing the design. Regarding the specific types of deliverables, the opinion of respondents varies greatly: from those suggesting sketches and visions to those who find photorealistic visualisations can best showcase their design. While the ADC should allow participants to present their proposals in the way that best reflects their artistic expression, it is also important to limit and precisely define the amount of deliverables, as to ensure a more equal and fairer assessment.

2.4 Transparency: Starting with Exchange

Along with equal treatment and non-discrimination, transparency constitutes one of the core principles defining the ethical conduct of procurement procedures.³⁶ In European ADCs, the correct application of the principle of transparency highlights an extra layer of complexity. The specificity of architectural and tendering cultures of Member States renders the competition process more opaque to the eyes of non-local participants. ADCs are also a highly political matter and, accordingly, knowledge of the individuals involved, their expectations, and agendas for the project's future may remain hidden from those who are not familiar with the context. These aspects represent **a set of information and unwritten rules which are not easily accessible from the outside and risk compromising the success of foreign European participants**. In general, one should consider that a certain dose of prejudice is closely related to unfamiliarity and lack of knowledge of local competition systems from the perspective of both participants and clients.

Making ADC procedures and dynamics more transparent at the national and European levels is a complicated task. Through the present study, showcasing policies and practices of selected EU Member States, **the ARCH-E Project initiates a conversation among various countries and ADC experts to enhance knowledge, experience, and information exchange as the starting point of a more transparent EU competition culture**.

³⁶ Cf. Art. 40 and Art. 76 of the EU Directive 2014/24/EU

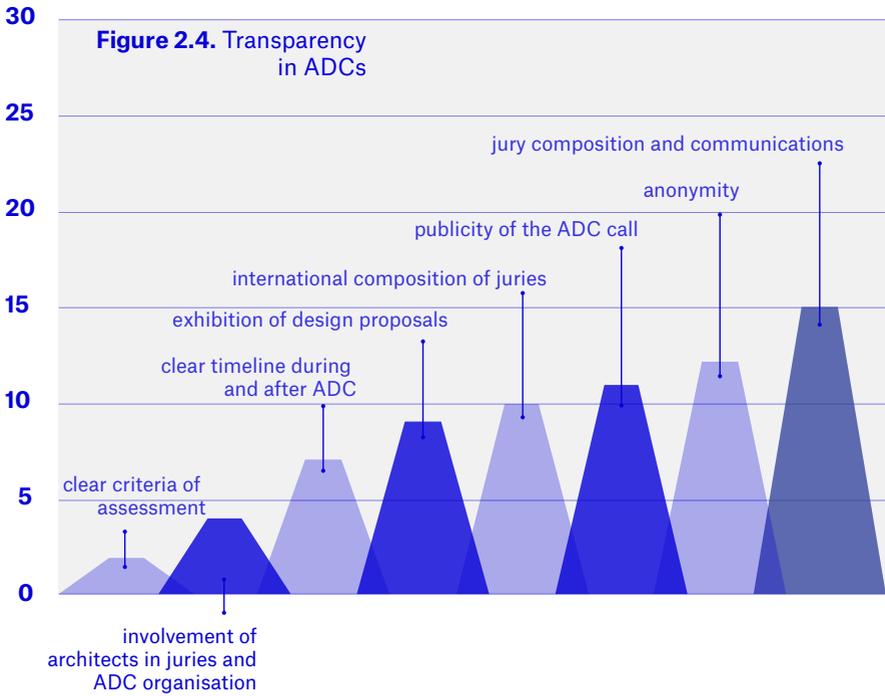


Figure 2.4: Transparency in ADCs. The opinion of interviewees on the elements that facilitate and ensure transparent ADC procedures and practices. (The figure indicates the absolute number of responses; multiple answers per interviewee are possible).

Responsibilities of ADC Stakeholders

“To ensure transparency, we must work on every single detail, making things clearer and easier.”

Edda Kurz – Kurz Architekten GbR

Ensuring transparency of an ADC is an effort encompassing the entire competition process, from the preparation phase to the negotiations following the award decision. At the European level, the differences among national tender cultures require that no aspect of the process is taken for granted, but rather that contracting authorities and all parties involved in the organisation dedicate extra

effort to make the procedure as transparent as possible. For this reason, **a clear definition of all steps (before, during, and after the ADC) is crucial, as well as the correct advertisement and accessibility of the call**, including language accessibility, on the dedicated platforms. Respondents have also highlighted **the importance of maintaining anonymity throughout the process**, both in single and multi-stage ADCs. Although often considered a basic standard, anonymity is particularly challenging in smaller countries and communities, due to a direct knowledge and familiarity with the production, approach, and field of work of local offices.

Finally, a major transparency risk lies in the substantial differences concerning national rules governing author rights and the negotiations leading to project documentation and the signing of contracts. **To protect the intellectual rights of architects and ensure fair and transparent conditions of commissioning, professional entities must be involved in the supervision of competitions**. As a good practice, the Austrian and Slovenian Chambers have developed a system to register, monitor, and assess ADC procedures (colloquially called “traffic light” systems). This method provides architects with relevant advice and information about the risks and benefits of specific procedures, which are not organised by the respective Chambers (particularly, in the case of Slovenia) and may not comply with the relative competition rules. Similarly, the Swiss Association of Engineers and Architects has developed a free procedure of revision leading to the application of a formal stamp on the ADC document, which certifies compliance with Ordinance SIA/142, as discussed in Chapter 3.

Transparency in Decision-making

The assessment and award phases of ADCs play a major role in transparency. As 15 interviewees emphasised, **the communication of identity, background, expertise, and role of jury members constitutes a determinant factor in guaranteeing a reliable procedure**. Accordingly, a clear definition of assessment criteria from the start helps substantiate the jury’s decision and selection process in the dedicated reports. Change and diversity within juries at the local level lead to quality and open the debate around architectural designs. Enlarging the exchange to an international audience, at the European level, is particularly beneficial. **Inviting non-local jury members shows the commitment of clients and ADC organisers to European openness and is recognised as a transparent practice, which encourages foreign professionals to participate in the ADC**.

“Through an open discussion, you can create transparency.”

Thomas Zinterl – Zinterl Architekten ZT GmbH

Given the scarce opportunities for communication among contestants, juries, clients, and communities in ADC procedures, it is challenging to render the decision-making process clearer to all. A good practice can be found in exhibitions and public debates with jury members and architectural teams after the award decision. Through these, **the benefits of transparency are not closed behind the doors of the design competition but extend to the entire community of users**. For this reason, it is important to include citizens in the ADC process and foster identification with the design outcome, as demonstrated by the experience of the Luise Büchner Educational Campus and the Lemba Culture Village presented in Chapter 3. Participatory practices, public debates, and exhibitions have the potential to **enhance a sense of belonging and commitment to improving the living environment, recognising the value of ADCs for a high-quality Baukultur**.

2.5 The Benefits and Risks of European ADCs: Stakeholders’ Perspectives

The ADC parameters presented so far (regulations and sustainability, national and cross-border accessibility, quality, and transparency) bring to the fore the strengths and areas for improvement of competition systems in view of a more open EU market for ADCs. From their analysis, it emerges that rethinking the scale of design competitions at the European level requires different stakeholders to take responsibility for increasing complexity. This last section discusses the risks and benefits of contracting authorities and ADC organisers, architecture professionals, and the community of users in the committed effort to build a transnational culture of Architectural Design Competitions.

Investment Benefits for Contracting Authorities

The increased complexity of EU-open ADCs impacts various aspects of the competition process. This includes making the procedure more international, not only by including foreign participant teams but also through the possible

involvement of non-local experts, jurors, and consultants and the translation of documents. In essence, this means prioritising openness and flexibility over traditional methods. These elements might be seen as causing additional cost and time commitments as well as potential complications posed by a foreign winning team. These legitimate concerns may reduce the interest of contracting authorities in international competitions and the involvement of non-local professionals, but they should not overshadow the benefits of a more open competition culture. In fact, as the studies produced by ZAPS demonstrate, **the quality of the winning solution produced by an ADC more than justifies the investment in terms of additional time and budget for a design competition, when these are considered in relation to the total investment cost and time commitments.**³⁷

The duration of **a standard ADC** from the moment of its announcement to the publication of results **takes about four months, at the end of which clients have already identified a design and a team** for the following phases of procurement.³⁸ In terms of expenditure, the data of ZAPS show that the **ADC's cost** (including ADC preparation, the costs of the jury, and the prize-compensation fund) **represents less than 1% (0,84%) of the total investment costs**, while 5,45% of costs goes to the elaboration and production of project documentation, and 93,71% to the construction costs.³⁹ This percentage obviously changes according to the project's size, but it is even more advantageous if related to the longer term benefit of a high-quality solution for the built environment. Actually, **greater openness in EU-level ADCs allows for a broader and more varied range of solutions, enhancing innovation in established architectural practices.**

Finally, institutions such as Chambers, architects associations, and other stakeholders involved in the organisation of ADCs can support contracting authorities through communication, knowledge sharing, and education, as well as with practical measures. For example, interview respondents highlighted successful international experiences in which clients and organisers take the initiative to partner winning design teams with local engineers and consultants. Adopting such practices can support contracting authorities during the development of investments, while also alleviating the responsibilities and challenges faced by non-local architectural teams.

³⁷ Kryżanowski et al., 2023.

³⁸ Ibid. 11: according to ZAPS data, the duration of a standard ADC constitutes approximately 4% of the total duration of the project development.

³⁹ Ibid. 12.

A Boost for Architects' Growth

The challenges and complexity of EU-level competitions affect architectural teams in a way similar to contracting authorities. Respondents emphasised additional difficulties related to a lack of knowledge about the expectations and cultures of local communities in the design of public buildings, as well as the lower chances of winning as the number of competitors increases. These uncertainties may discourage architects from participating in ADCs beyond their national boundaries. Nevertheless, **accessing a larger European market for architectural services can facilitate the growth of architectural practices when national opportunities are limited. It is only through an ADC that particularly unique and rare projects, such as theatres, museums, cultural and administrative buildings, can be publicly procured.** For this reason, it is important that the market for such projects remains transnationally open.

“[EU competitions] have the same benefit as traveling abroad, looking at new buildings and what happens elsewhere [...]. They have a positive influence on architects to measure their competencies and ideas based on international winning projects.”

Bálint Bachmann – APM Studio

In addition to the possibility of enlarging their market, interviewees highlighted several benefits of EU-wide ADCs for architectural practices. International competitions offer **a valuable learning opportunity**, especially for younger professionals and offices looking to broaden their expertise. **The novelty of tasks, collaboration with new partners, reviews by international juries, and the chance to present innovative design ideas to a broader public stimulate architects' professional growth and revitalise their practice.** This perspective is also supported by the statistics developed by ZAPS, according to which 63% of Slovenian architects indicated the opportunity of professional development as the main reason supporting the decision to participate in ADCs. An additional 22% mentioned the possibility of securing a contract as the reason for participation.⁴⁰ To guarantee such positive effects of EU-open ADCs, it is paramount that stakeholders and decision-makers involved in the organisation and regulation of design competitions commit to the provision of high-quality

⁴⁰ Ibid.: 21.

conditions of competition for architects. This entails addressing the challenges of transparency, equal opportunities for participation, fair remuneration, and a reasonable workload.

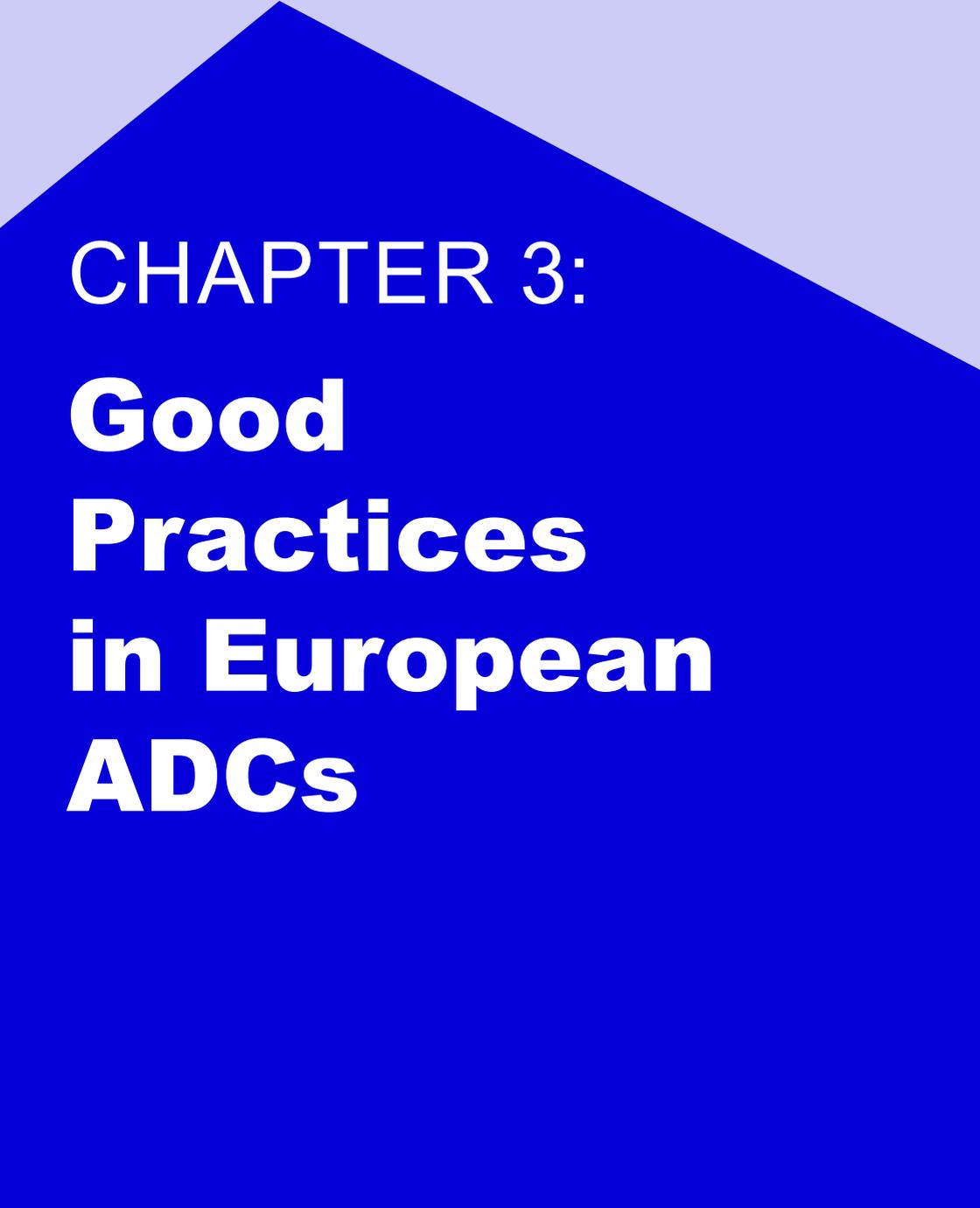
Circulating Ideas, Building EU Baukultur

The quality of European architecture, history, and culture resides in the differences of regions, their heritage, and building traditions. These include architectural languages and typologies, the use of materials, and the creation of what the Davos Declaration calls “sense of place”: the establishment of a special relationship between a place and its inhabitants, which makes it attractive to others as well.⁴¹ How, then, can we harmonise ADC procedures and foster a transnational competition culture while preserving the uniqueness of places within Member States?

For this scope, it's crucial to distinguish openness from sameness, and connection from homogenisation to avoid the risk of eroding the quality of differences. **Promoting and facilitating access to design competitions across borders is first and foremost an opportunity to enhance the circulation of architectural ideas, knowledge, and expertise at the European scale.** Through this exchange, building practices and architectural cultures can evolve, explore technological innovations, and produce unexpected outcomes. From this view, European ADCs become a “contact zone”,⁴² **a common ground where stakeholders and communities can nurture the debate about architecture and the role of architects in improving our living environment.** They can thereby assume a pedagogical role to guide a broader public towards understanding the principles of Baukultur and recognising the democratic value of design competitions.

⁴¹ Swiss Federal Office of Culture, 2021: 24.

⁴² Mejía-Hernández and Nuijsink, 2020.



CHAPTER 3:
**Good
Practices
in European
ADCs**

3.1 Cooperated ADCs in Austria: The Case of Graz University Library



Figure 3.1: View of Graz University Library extension.
Photo credits: Michael Kopp (Pixabay)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Location | Graz (Austria) |
| Year of competition launch | 2015 |
| Contracting Authority | Public Contracting Authority: BIG Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft mbH, Vienna, AT |
| Competition Organisers / Management | ADC organised in cooperation with the Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers |
| Winning Team / Architect | Atelier Thomas Pucher ZT GmbH (architect) Bollinger and Grohmann ZT GmbH (structural engineer) |
| Type of ADC procedure | Open ADC, single stage |
| Number of entries | 35 |
| Realisation | Realised (2017-2019) |

The Cooperation with the Federal Chamber as a Good Practice in ADC Regulation and Organisation

The Architectural Design Competition for Graz University Library was launched to renovate the library building of Karl-Franzens University. The contracting authority for this project was the Federal Agency Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft (BIG). This agency is one of the most experienced parties in the organisation of ADCs and commissioning of public projects in Austria and has a long-standing consensus with the Federal Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers. BIG launched an open ADC with the cooperation of the Federal Chamber, which allowed the participation of a broad number of teams (35 entries), hence, a large variety of design approaches for the given complex task. Thanks to the experienced and bold attitude of the jury, an outstanding architectural solution was selected. The winning design responded to the task by demolishing selected sections of the structure and exposing the original classical building, which had already been extended several times. A larger interior space was created through a vertical extension. This long glass block cantilevers over the building's new main entrance, while creating a canopy for a new public square below. The design is a symbiosis of old and new from the urban planning level to its architectural details. The cooperation of contracting authorities with Federal or Regional Chambers in Austria is not compulsory, but, as this case shows, it guarantees several advantages for the fair and successful management of ADCs. First of all, cooperated ADCs require the mandatory application of the Austrian competition standards (WSA 2010) throughout the process, which represents a legally proven and procedurally reliable regulatory framework. In addition, cooperation also entails the nomination of independent, experienced judges by the local ADC work groups of the Chamber, which ensures a fair process for the participation of qualified teams and the selection of best design outcomes, as proven by the case of Graz University Library.

3.2 Slovenian ADC Regulation: The Extension of the Plečnik's Baragova Seminary



Figure 3.2: Winning design for the extension of the Plečnik's Baragova Seminary. Image credits: Denis Hitrec.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Location | Ljubljana (Slovenia) |
| Year of competition launch | 2023 |
| Contracting Authority | Public Contracting Authority: Municipality of Ljubljana |
| Competition Organisers / Management | Chamber of Architecture and Spatial planning of Slovenia (ZAPS) |
| Winning Team / Architect | Matej Vozlič, Denis Hitrec, Tadej Urh, Anja Rudolf, Zala Babič (architecture) Urška Kristina Škerl (landscape design) |
| Type of ADC procedure | Open competition, 1 stage |
| Number of entries | 9 |
| Realisation | Not realised yet |

Elimination Vis à Vis Evaluation: A Good Practice in ADC Regulation

The extension of Plečnik's Baragova Seminary is an example of an ADC that follows the Slovenian legislation on open competitions. In Slovenia, ADCs are mandatory for public contracting authorities under specific conditions of project value and area surface. The project task for the extension of the Plečnik's Baragova Seminary consists of the renovation of the cultural centre building (a monument of national importance), the addition of a new modern theatre with underground garages, and a comprehensive arrangement of the outdoor areas including a new square. For such a complex project, compliance with the Rules for Competitions and the application of the ZAPS (Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia) Competition Quality Standard guaranteed high-quality management of the competition process. This renders the case an example of good practice in ADCs for several reasons. First, despite the high level of complexity, the client, in cooperation with ZAPS, opted for the organisation of an open ADC in which reference projects were not requested as a condition for participation, thus facilitating access for all professionals. The role of ZAPS, in this case, was crucial to use the consultation with the client as an opportunity to advocate in favour of an open ADC, while offering the adequate professional assistance throughout the process. Second, a clear separation between elimination criteria (timeliness, anonymity, references etc.) and evaluation criteria in the assessment of design proposals (a standard in ZAPS ADCs) aided the client in selecting the best solution, even in cases of deviations from the competition brief. In most Slovenian ADCs, the project's site is strictly constrained and characterised by the maximum program distribution, which undergoes a strict revision through an urban planning test prior to the competitions. As a result, the ADC solution must take into account restrictions, along with the client's directions regarding the program. Lack of compliance with these numerous urban and programmatic restrictions, however, is not an automatic elimination criterion (usually defined as reasons for elimination or mandatory content requirements in other EU-country ADCs). This allows the jury to assess proposals with a more holistic approach based exclusively on evaluation criteria. Specifically, in the case of Baragova's Seminary, designers could propose a solution that deviated in certain elements from the substantive directions of the brief, provided the future possibility of obtaining a building permit without significant design revisions. Without this clear distinction between elimination and evaluation criteria, the winning project, unanimously selected by the jury as the best solution, could not have been awarded the first prize.

3.3 “Een Nieuwe Bouwcultuur”: The Case of Nieuwe Veemarkt in Zwolle



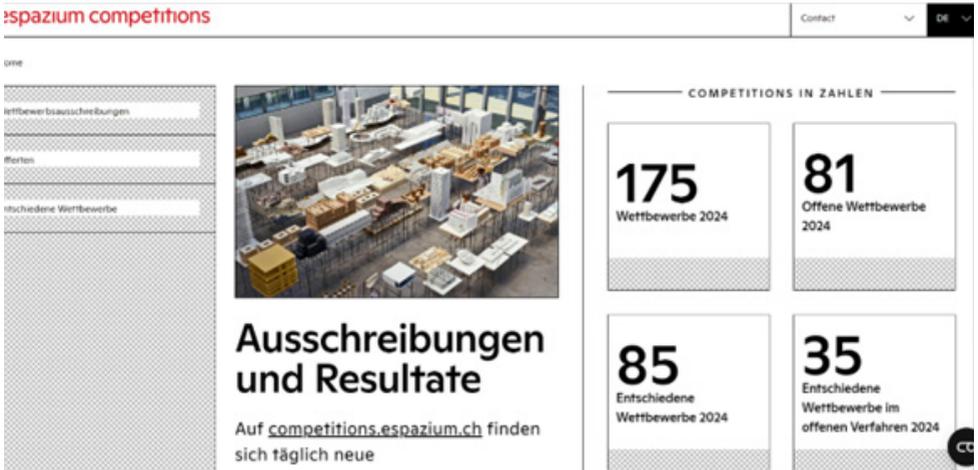
Figure 3.3: Winning design for the Nieuwe Veemarkt in Zwolle. Image Credits: Joost Emmerik, Studio Nauta, Mulder Zonderland.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Location | Zwolle (The Netherlands) |
| Year of competition launch | 2022 |
| Contracting Authority | Public Contracting Authority: Municipality of Zwolle |
| Competition Organisers / Management | College van Rijksbouwmeester en Rijksadviseurs (Board of Government Architect and Advisors) |
| Winning Team / Architect | Studio Nauta & Mulder Zonderland i.s.m. Schipper Bosch, Solid Timber, Studio Joost Emmerik, Treetek, DWA, BC Materials, and And The People |
| Type of ADC procedure | ADCs with preselection, 2 stages |
| Number of entries | 5 entries (first stage) and 3 entries (second stage) |
| Realisation | Not realised yet |

Innovating Tasks, Requirements, and Criteria: A Good Practice in ADC Sustainability

The competition for the Nieuwe Veemarkt in Zwolle is part of the program “*Een Nieuwe Bouwcultuur*” (A New Building Culture), initiated by the Dutch *College van Rijksbouwmeester en Rijksadviseurs* (Board of Government Architect and Advisors). The program consists of a series of multidisciplinary “research by design” ADCs, which are a direct response to the ambitions of the New European Bauhaus (NEB). The competition task for the Nieuwe Veemarkt fosters a transformative approach to sustainable neighbourhood development, placing innovation at its core. Moving beyond conventional technicalities of calculations and certifications, it makes room for visionary perspectives. Accordingly, design proposals can embrace diverse innovation opportunities, such as 1) the use of biobased and locally available construction materials, 2) context-specific solutions aimed at long-term adaptation and future expansion, 3) a nature-inclusive design, and 4) multidisciplinary collaborations. Moreover, the sustainability ambition determines a revision of the pre-selection methods. In this ADC, as well as in the competition series, pre-selection is open to all licensed architects and is based on the anonymous assessment of a three-page portfolio according to criteria of innovation, imagination, affinity with the task, and team composition. There are no restrictions related to the projects’ realisation, typology, size, or costs. This means that references are evaluated based on quality and design potential. Such an approach to pre-selection facilitates access to public commissions for small size and young emerging professionals, even via a non-open competition. However, the novel character of the *Een Nieuwe Bouwcultuur* program inevitably causes it to encounter some obstacles: from the scepticism of professionals who see it as producing exclusively idea competitions, with little chance of being fully implemented, to legislative limitations in current policy instruments. The long-term ambition of the program involves increasing awareness within society, as well as in the professional field, and influencing relevant authorities in the elimination of policy bottlenecks to move towards a new building culture.

3.4 SIA Ordnung 142: Regulation and Tools of the Swiss ADC System



The screenshot shows the 'Espazium Competitions' website. The header includes the logo and a language selector set to 'DE'. The main content area features a navigation menu on the left with categories like 'Wettbewerbss Ausschreibungen', 'Portale', and 'Entschiedene Wettbewerbe'. The central focus is a large image of a modern office interior with the heading 'Ausschreibungen und Resultate' and a sub-heading 'Auf competitions.espazium.ch finden sich täglich neue'. To the right, a 'COMPETITIONS IN ZAHLEN' section displays four statistics for 2024: 175 Wettbewerbe, 81 Offene Wettbewerbe, 85 Entschiedene Wettbewerbe, and 35 Entschiedene Wettbewerbe im offenen Verfahren.

Figure 3.4: Snapshot of the Platform “Espazium Competitions”. Link to the platform: <https://competitions.espazium.ch/de>. Accessed on: 09.07.2024

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Location | Switzerland |
| Year of competition launch | — |
| Contracting Authority | Public authorities at all levels Private enterprises |
| Competition Organisers / Management | Contract authority, usually, in cooperation with External ADC advisors |
| Winning Team / Architect | — |
| Type of ADC procedure | Open ADCs, ADCs with prequalification, project and idea ADCs |
| Number of entries | — |
| Realisation | Based on SIA 142, realisation contract with the 1st prize winner team (project ADCs) |

The Swiss SIA Framework as a Good Practice in ADC Regulation

National ADC systems aim at establishing a comprehensive procedural framework, adaptable to a wide range of design tasks. This only succeeds if a solution-based approach is the standard procedure for procuring architectural services. The Swiss SIA Regulation 142 (SIA/142) and its related tools are presented as an example of such a framework. SIA/142 constitutes the regulatory basis for Swiss ADCs, in which the fundamental principles of anonymity, non-discrimination, equal treatment, transparency, and an independent jury are respected and every step of the competition procedure is detailed. The provisions of SIA/142 are linked to the Federal Law on Public Procurement 2021 (BöB) as a subordinate regulatory framework. Due to this seamless integration, SIA/142 is generally accepted as the national ADC standard and applied in most public and private procedures. SIA/142 is regularly updated by the ADC Commission of the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA), through a consultation process open to all its members, builders organisations, and other associations. Based on SIA/142, a standard procedure for a municipal building (e.g. education or sports facility) would consist of an EU-level open ADC, with an average of 30-40 participant teams of architects and landscape architects. The jury (made of a maximum of 13 members with the majority being external independent experts) assesses the proposals based on architectural quality and functional, ecological, and economic criteria. Additional SIA/142 provisions regulate the appropriate level of elaboration, a fair prize amount, and the obligation to commission the first prize winner, regardless of experience. The SIA supports the correct application of SIA/142 through several tools: online guides including the description of a standard brief and procedure timeline,⁴³ a free review process, ensuring compliance with SIA/142 and resulting in the application of a formal stamp on the ADC document,⁴⁴ and SIA's procurement counselling website, which advises contracting authorities about the most advantageous procurement solutions for design tasks.⁴⁵ Finally, a dedicated platform provides access to national ADC contract notices.⁴⁶ The national ADC system, as part of the national procurement system, is subject to a procurement monitor for the building sector,⁴⁷ which allows for the identification of ADC trends for different regions of Switzerland. These tools, along with SIA's magazines, facilitate the application of SIA regulations, support the correct implementation of ADCs, and also guarantee high visibility for the winning ideas within the professional community.

⁴³ https://shop.sia.ch/normenwerk/ingenieur/142_2009_d/D/Product

⁴⁴ <https://www.sia.ch/de/cms/dienstleistungen/programmabegutachtung>

⁴⁵ www.wegweiser-planungsbeschaffung.ch

⁴⁶ <https://competitions.espazium.ch/de>

⁴⁷ www.bauenschweiz.ch/de/vergabemonitor/

3.5 From Idea to Plan: The Urban Transformation of the Former Military Barracks in Lušćić

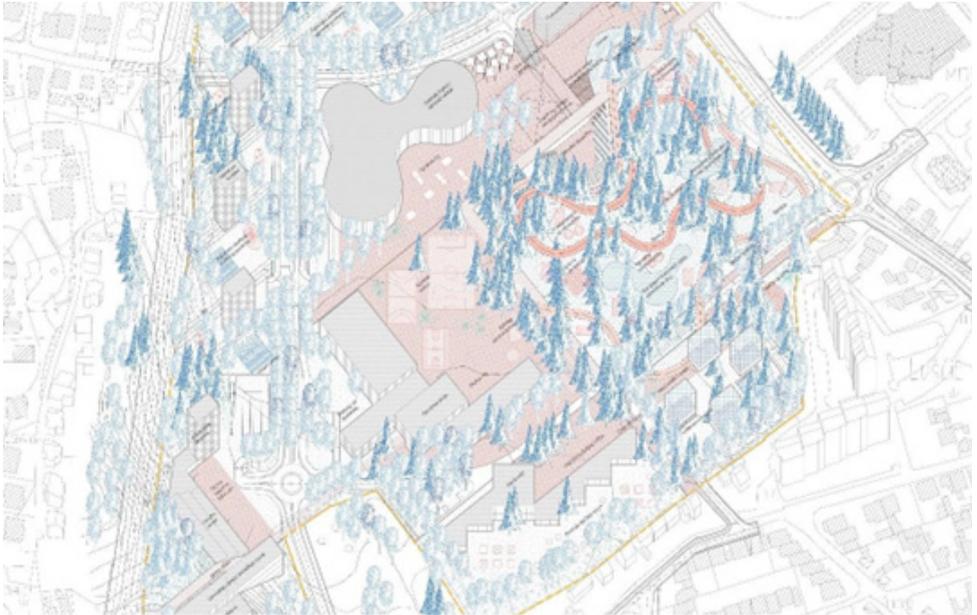


Figure 3.5: Urban Development Plan Lušćić Centre. Image credits: Municipality of Karlovac.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Location | Karlovac (Croatia) |
| Year of competition launch | 2019 |
| Contracting Authority | Public Contracting Authority: City of Karlovac |
| Competition Organisers / Management | EUROPAN Croatia |
| Winning Team / Architect | Krešimir Renić, Hana Dašić, Iva Erić, Jana Horvat, Ria Tursan |
| Type of ADC procedure | Open ADC, 1 stage |
| Number of entries | 10 |
| Realisation | Urban Development Plan Lušćić-Centre adopted in 2022 |

EUROPAN as a Good Practice in ADC Accessibility for Young European Architects

In 2019, the city of Karlovac launched an Architectural Design Competition as part of EUROPAN 15, aimed at the urban regeneration of the former Lušćić barracks. This competition welcomed teams from across Europe, led by at least one qualified architect, with the flexibility to include additional professionals in the discipline of architecture or related fields, as well as students with bachelor's or master's degrees. The sole age requirement specified by the EUROPAN framework was that each team member must be under 40 years old at the submission deadline. The implementation of an ADC served as a basis for drafting the Urban Development Plan Lušćić-Centre. This was possible thanks to the initiative of the organiser, EUROPAN Croatia, which set up an advisory board to support Karlovac in implementing the winning design into the urban development plan. The members of the advisory board included representatives of EUROPAN Croatia, Karlovac, the local architects association, the jury, and the author of the ADC brief. From an early stage, the local community was also involved in the process, with activities that took place after the award decision and before the drafting of the urban development plan. This elaborate participatory process resulted in the high-quality Urban Development Plan Lušćić-Centre, whose design idea focuses on sustainability and public facilities. In 2022, the urban plan finally came into force. The experience of the Lušćić ADC constitutes a good example of how the innovative ideas of young European architects, formulated for an open competition, can be developed in practice without compromising the winning design concept. To make this possible, a well-managed, participatory, and collaborative process involving all relevant stakeholders (from public authorities to the local community) is paramount.

3.6 IMPSOL Competition Series: The Case of 85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà



Figure 3.6: Interior view of the 85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà by Peris+Toral Arquitectes. Photo credits: © José Hervia.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Location | Barcelona Metropolitan Area (Spain) |
| Year of competition launch | 2017 |
| Contracting Authority | Public Contracting Authority: Municipality of Barcelona |
| Competition Organisers / Management | Metropolitan Institute for Land Development and Property Management (IMPSOL AMB) of Barcelona |
| Winning Team / Architect | Peris + Toral Arquitectes |
| Type of ADC procedure | Open ADCs 2 stages |
| Number of entries | 57 (first stage) |
| Realisation | 2021 |

The IMPSOL System as a Good Practice in the Accessibility and Fairness of Spanish ADCs

The selected project “85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà” by Peris+Toral Arquitectes is probably the most outstanding of the numerous public social housing initiatives promoted and constructed by the Metropolitan Institute for Land Development and Property Management of Barcelona (IMPSOL AMB) since 2017, counting 26 national and international awards for its architectural excellence. The case of Cornellà serves to show how the IMPSOL system fosters a change in the Spanish procurement of architectural services, by promoting access to competitions and fair conditions of participation to young offices, and contributing to improving the quality of social housing architecture. To be eligible for participation in IMPSOL ADCs, the only condition is a certificate from the Chamber of Architects and a commitment to obtaining a civil liability insurance proportioned to the project’s value. Appropriate technical and economic solvency is requested after winning the ADCs, rather than as eligibility criteria for participation. For young offices, this means the possibility of collaboration with specialised professionals at a later stage. Accessibility to emerging architects is also encouraged through the two-stage structure of competitions, which reduces the size of a practices’ investment. While, at the first stage, the submission is constrained to one A3 sheet, the teams advancing to the second stage receive financial compensation to engage in a more detailed design phase. The commitment of IMPSOL ADCs to high architectural quality is emphasised by criteria of selection that prioritise design quality, energy efficiency, and the quality of life for future residents, incorporating a gender perspective. Operating within the national procurement framework and in line with the Spanish Law on Quality in Architecture, IMPSOL develops a public tender system with an ADC that ensures high-quality projects and constructions funded by public money. The realised case of 85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà and its recognised architectural excellence proves that the IMPSOL system sets the example for public administrations in the promotion of high-quality architecture through a positive application of existing legal instruments.

3.7 Architectural Heritage and Innovation: The New Educational Building for the Health Sciences Faculty of Semmelweis University



Figure 3.7: Interior view of the Health Sciences Faculty of Semmelweis University. Photo credits: © Barta Bálint.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Location | Budapest (Hungary) VIII. district (Downtown) Vas str. 17. and Szentkirályi str. 12. |
| Year of competition launch | 2016 |
| Public Contracting Authority | Executive Board of Procurement of Semmelweis University |
| Competition Organisers / Management | MÉK Nonprofit Kft. |
| Winning Team / Architect | Studio Fragment (Imre BŐDI, Zsolt FRIKKER) |
| Type of ADC procedure | National, open, anonymous ADC 1 stage |
| Number of entries | 15 entries |
| Realisation | Realised (2020-2022) |

A Quality-centred ADC as a Good Practice in the Preservation of Architectural Heritage

Semmelweis University is a leading institution of higher education in the area of medicine and health sciences in Hungary and the Central European region. In 2016, the Faculty of Health Sciences launched an open Architectural Design Competition for designing the extension to the historical educational building from the early 1900s. The competition task included the creation of seminar rooms, demonstration rooms, and two large lecture halls. The project site, in the “palace quarter” of Budapest is characterised by historical and architectural relevance, due to the presence of palace-style *maisons*, as well as important cultural and educational institutions of the 19th and early 20th century. The competition was won by Studio Fragment, which proposed the integration of the new and existing volumes into a coherent complex. The design principle was based on a sophisticated accordance with its environs, obtained through the façade rhythm of geometries and shadows recalling Budapest’s historical buildings, and the light and neutral materials generating a clear and resting interior atmosphere. The jury, composed of well-known architectural professionals and the Chief Architect of the VIII District, assessed the entries, considering both quantitative and qualitative principles. Regarding the quality of concept and design, special emphasis was given to the spatial connections with the existing building and its surroundings and the integration into the downtown environment, solving the streetscape of Szentkirályi Street. Energy saving and sustainability strategies were also relevant criteria in the jury evaluation. This case shows how a quality-centred approach in ADCs extends beyond the mere architectural project. It aims at the improvement of its surroundings, with attention to the city’s cultural and historical values, rendering the ADC a relevant instrument for both innovation and preservation of architectural heritage.

3.8 Transparency through Participation: The Luise Büchner Educational Campus



Figure 3.8: Citizens' dialogue with two of the prize-winners of the Luise Büchner Educational Campus, 10 October 2016. © Bürogemeinschaft Sippel, Buff, Stuttgart.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Location | Darmstadt (Hesse), Germany |
| Year of competition launch | 2016 |
| Contracting Authority | Public Contracting Authority: Magistrate of the City of Darmstadt |
| Competition Organisers / Management | Darmstädter Stadtentwicklungs GmbH & Co.KG (DSE) |
| Winning Team / Architect | Waechter + Waechter Architekten BDA PartmbB (architecture) foundation 5+ architekten landschaftsarchitekten (landscape architecture) merz kley partner (structural planning) |
| Type of ADC procedure | Non-open, interdisciplinary ADC according to RPW (Guidelines for Design Contests) |
| Number of entries | 28 entries |
| Realisation | Realised (2021) |

Citizen Participation as a Good Practice in ADC Transparency

The decision of the city of Darmstadt was to transform the Lincoln area, a former American military site, into a new residential neighbourhood with an inclusive educational centre, providing space for up to 5,000 inhabitants. The vision for the renovation of this site was to create a “city of short distances”. The ADC for the neighbourhood centre combined open space and building planning with the architectural project for the Luise Büchner Educational Campus, the core element of the Lincoln conversion area. In the preparation and implementation of the ADC, the citizens of Darmstadt were invited to take an active part in the process from its outset. The first occasion for their involvement occurred in November 2015, before the tendering phase. In this public participation event, citizens not only received information about the ADC but also had the opportunity to actively engage in the planning for the neighbourhood centre by sharing comments and suggestions for improving the draft competition brief. They could also express further ideas on the design to be created later through the ADCs. The insights from the citizens were then examined by the administration for a revision of the task. During the competition phase, four citizens were selected by lot, including one young representative and one member of the “WIR auf Lincoln!” initiative. These citizens took part in the jury as experts without voting rights. The various initiatives of citizen participation implemented in the preparation and development of this ADC represent a good example of how the principle of transparency can translate into the practice of design competitions, resulting in architectural projects that enhance community inclusion and belonging.

3.9 Fostering Community and Creativity: Lemba Culture Village



Figure 3.9: Aerial view of Lemba Culture Village. Photo credits: © Charis Solomou.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Location | Lemba, Paphos District (Cyprus) |
| Year of competition launch | 2016 |
| Contracting Authority | Public Contracting Authority: Cyprus Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth |
| Competition Organisers / Management | Cultural Services and Cyprus Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth |
| Winning Team / Architect | Spyrou Spyrou, Charis Christodoulou, Angela Zisimopoulou and Charis Solomou (architects team) |
| Type of ADC procedure | Open ADC 1 stage |
| Number of entries | 40 entries |
| Realisation | Realised (2022-2024) |

The Benefits of High-quality ADCs for the Entire Community

The Lemba Culture Village was an ambitious project designed to cultivate a vibrant hub for artistic creation and education. This small-scale initiative embodies the principles of Baukultur, presenting the cultural value of a high-quality, socially integrated, and sustainable built environment, and enhancing a more inclusive community. The winning design fosters a genuine village atmosphere that encourages interaction through the thoughtful arrangement of workshops and guesthouses for Cypriot students and international artists. Common courtyards facilitate connection and interaction, opening spaces for art education and creation. The flexible configuration of both indoor and outdoor spaces supports the organisation of local and regional cultural events, providing for the opportunity of meaningful encounters with the local community and Cypriot society. The development of this ADC benefited architectural professionals, especially emerging architects, by providing a platform to showcase their talents to a wider audience. Additionally, the competition process in Lemba fostered community and user inclusion, by allowing residents to contribute to the project's development. This collaborative approach enhanced community identification and a sense of belonging even before the project's completion, and also enabled designers and organisers to better understand the community's needs. The Lemba Culture Village project demonstrates the potential of cultural villages as models for community-based tourism. The initiative aims to establish similar cultural villages in Cyprus and other countries to preserve and promote local culture, arts, and crafts. This ADC not only enriches the living environment but also serves as a method for creating long-term, resilient, and sustainable cities.

3.10 Challenges and Innovation in Czech ADCs: Lessons from the Chýně–Hostivice Community School



Figure 3.10: Visualisation of the Chýně–Hostivice Community School's exterior. © Dousek–Záborský.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Location | Chýně (Czech Republic) |
| Year of competition launch | 2021 |
| Contracting Authority | Public Contracting Authority: Union of municipalities Chýně and Hostivice |
| Competition Organisers / Management | Ing. arch. Radek Janoušek / Ing. Karla Kupilíková / Ing. arch. Tomáš Zdvihal |
| Winning Team / Architect | ov architekti s.r.o. Jiří Opočenský a Štěpán Valouch |
| Type of ADC procedure | Non-open ADC with pre-selection 1 stage |
| Number of entries | 6 entries |
| Realisation | Construction began in 2024 |

Diversifying ADC Formats for the Benefit of Different Stakeholders

The competition for the community school of Chýně–Hostivice, a voluntary association of municipalities, is the second ADC for a new elementary school in a few years. The first open competition resulted in a negative experience, leading to extreme complications during the realisation of the winning design by a French team. In addition to the past ADC challenges, earlier mistakes in spatial planning, along with the rapid development of the village and the influence of developers have contributed to put pressure on the plan for a new school. Despite the tight schedule and the previous unsatisfactory experience, the association of municipalities decided to implement another architectural competition. This time, however, contracting authorities tested a different format of ADC: a non-open competition with the pre-selection of six architectural teams. This choice was meant to ensure a high-quality design, sufficient experience of the professional teams, and a contained time commitment. The preparation and implementation of the competition procedure took approximately six months. After this process, the signing of the contract with the winning team and the stages of project documentation followed in a short time. The project construction started within two years after the award decision; a unique case for a project of 30 million EUR that positively changed clients' prejudice on the duration and complexity of competitions. Both schools, designed and realised through an ADC, are expected to serve not only pupils but the entire community, functioning as public buildings for all citizens. This example demonstrates that ADCs are closely linked to contextual, economic, and time needs. Therefore, it is important to carefully calibrate the selection of the right procedure to the needs of each case, considering the possibility of varying competition formats.

Conclusion

The ARCH-E Map on ADCs provides a comprehensive overview of distinctions and similarities within the field of Architectural Design Competitions across Europe. This overview is derived from the analysis of selected EU Member States and dialogues with various stakeholders. The comparative maps and country-specific information presented in the first chapter reveal significant variations in the ADC landscape across the EU. For example, the annual number of design competitions varies widely, with Germany averaging 461 competitions per year, compared to just three in Cyprus (Figure 1.6). Another notable difference is the preferred competition format: open ADCs are predominant in Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, and Spain, whereas the other ARCH-E Partner countries have gradually shifted towards non-open procedures. These differences, as emphasised throughout this report, are deeply rooted in the specific public procurement legislation of each country, as well as in their unique political, economic, and cultural systems. This complexity highlights the limitations of relying solely on statistical data to capture the full spectrum of knowledge within the ADC field.

Despite these variations, several commonalities have emerged. These include the similar rates of the participation of architects in ADCs (Figure 1.7) and the distribution of local versus foreign competitors (Figure 1.8). However, the data also indicate that the interest and involvement of architects in both national and EU competitions remain relatively low. This issue deserves further attention and investigation to determine what specific actions are needed to enhance existing ADC systems, facilitate cross-border access, and ensure high-quality procedures. While the Architects' Needs Report will address some of these questions in greater detail, initial insights have already surfaced in the second and third chapters of this report, which can be summarised as follows.

Lessons Learned from the ARCH-E Map on ADCs

The Importance of Binding Regulations

The availability of ADC opportunities and their effective implementation is closely related to the legislative framework that governs them. In all Member States the

procurement of architectural services adheres to the European Directive 2014/24/EU generally, but the development of specific, binding **ADC Regulations** guarantees a high-quality and transparent process. The connection and/or integration of such regulations into the national public procurement law can ensure additional benefits, such as the continuity of ADC implementation, architects' regular access to public commissions, and a quality-centred approach to public procurement. To facilitate a more effective implementation and the improvement of cross-border competition practices, national ADC regulations should adapt to a more international context. This means that local competent authorities should engage in a long-term commitment to aligning criteria, standards, and core procedural aspects through the exchange of experience and practices with other experts across Europe. Such an effort also includes the direct involvement of international parties in juries and organising committees. In practical terms, a more EU-open approach towards ADCs entails rendering national legislation and guidelines available in English and easily accessible, to facilitate the process of collaboration and exchange. Viable strategies, as the ones mentioned above, would make local ADC frameworks more accessible without standardising specific competition and architectural cultures.

ADCs as Tools to Advance Sustainability in Architecture

The effective achievement of **sustainability** ambitions in Architectural Design Competitions manifests several challenges, from the limitations of the design stage of ADCs to the choice of assessment criteria and methods. Nevertheless, the examples presented in Chapter 3, particularly, the case of Nieuwe Veemarkt in Zwolle and the EUROPAN competition in Karlovac, show that an ADC can be deployed to test innovative design and building strategies. This requires a change in the traditional methods of selection and design implementation, finding the right balance between the acceptance of a certain degree of uncertainty that comes with innovation and the financial and time risks of project implementation. To mitigate risks, it is important to foster a dialogue among stakeholders and architects to map the long-term benefits of sustainable development and involve the broader public in the search for new visions of living. Such an approach would not only promote sustainable architectural solutions but also reinforce the educational role of ADCs.

Accessing ADCs Beyond National Borders

Accessibility to Architectural Design Competitions is influenced by a variety of factors: from the type of procedure (open, non-open, invited) and requirements

Conclusion

(eligibility criteria) reflecting the necessities of contracting authorities to the capacity of the architects to sustain work and time investments. In the transnational field of European ADCs, additional obstacles impact cross-border participation. These relate, on the one hand, to overcoming practical difficulties (finding ADC calls, language barriers, limited information, travel distance, etc.). On the other hand, they are inscribed in prejudice and knowledge gaps. ARCH-E activities focus on addressing both such barriers by initiating information and knowledge sharing, as well as through the development of digital tools. In particular, the ARCH-E network stimulates and facilitates the connection of relevant experts, authorities, and professionals. Possible outcomes of their interaction may include involving international parties in the organisation of ADCs, rendering calls internationally visible and accessible, fostering transparency, and enabling the cooperation of architectural teams.

High-quality and Transparent Procedures in a European Market

Architectural Design Competitions are a crucial tool in identifying quality solutions for architectural and urban challenges, in line with the Davos ambitions for a European Baukultur. In this commitment, the **quality of procedural aspects** of ADCs acquires a central role. This entails a committed approach to quality at all stages of a procedure, from the formulation of the design task to the phases following the award decision. To achieve this goal it is necessary to have the involvement of competent actors with a committed attitude and a cutting-edge vision towards the quality of the living environment. Through the active participation of experts and stakeholders, the main phases of an ADC can represent the opportunity for a debate open to the wider community of users. As in the case of Luise Büchner Educational Campus presented in Chapter 3, the collective dimension of an ADC contributes to rendering the procedure more **transparent**, and reinforces the recognition of high-quality architecture as public good.

The commitment to high-quality design competitions should not neglect the **fair treatment** of architectural teams. The most widespread criticism of ADCs encompasses the unbalanced relation between the workload and investment of architects versus remuneration and the value of awards. It is important, therefore, that the voices and demands of architects do not go unnoticed. ARCH-E engages in the call for action to improve ADC conditions and to make them fair, transparent, and beneficial for a growing number of professionals. The

first step of ARCH-E's commitment to architects' needs is the development of the Architects' Needs Reports, which will shed light on the specific requests and concrete areas of intervention to facilitate professionals in the European market for architectural services.

Complexity as Common Benefit

The three chapters of this report have highlighted the complexity that characterises Architectural Design Competitions in the European context. Unpacking the composite and heterogeneous landscape of ADCs is a first step against biased preconceptions and distrust that feed risk-avoidance approaches. The ARCH-E Map on ADCs emphasises that greater openness in EU-level design competitions allows for a broader and varied range of solutions, enhancing innovation in established architectural practices. In the varied experience of ARCH-E Partners and Cooperation Partners, other professional institutions actively involved in the regulation and implementation of ADCs can find a useful resource to identify gaps and improve national competition systems. In a nutshell, promoting and facilitating ADC openness across borders is seen in the light of enhancing the circulation of architectural ideas, knowledge, and expertise: a **benefit** for public and private clients, professional associations and practices, and, especially, the inhabitants of European cities.

Future Directions

The research activity undertaken for the ARCH-E Map on ADCs should be seen as an ongoing endeavour rather than a completed task. Currently, the study encompasses the Member States associated with ARCH-E Partners and Cooperation Partners. However, to create a more comprehensive picture of European design competitions, it is essential to expand the Map to include a broader range of countries and their respective ADC systems. This expansion would not only provide a more complete picture but also unveil new opportunities for cross-border collaboration and participation.

Moreover, expanding the types of data collected and involving a wider range of stakeholders in the data provision process are crucial areas for further research. The current study offers a preliminary overview of European ADCs, emphasising the opportunities and challenges within the EU market. However, future research should focus on the roles of various actors from a practical perspective, with

an eye towards implementing concrete interventions through pilot projects and collaborative activities. In this regard, the ARCH-E Platform and its digital tools (the Glossary, the online ADC Map, and the Network) serve as valuable resources to facilitate research expansion.

In conclusion, the initiatives and research outcomes of ARCH-E underscore the benefits of a cross-border collaborative approach in addressing the complexities of Architectural Design Competitions in Europe. The involvement of diverse stakeholders and experts within the architectural profession (including representatives from Chambers, policy experts, designers, managers, clients, and academics) highlights that a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of ADCs requires sustained cooperation, exchange, and dialogue. Therefore, it is crucial to broaden the network of interested parties and promote experimental methods of collaboration in order to challenge traditional competition models and foster innovation. By recognising the pivotal role of competitions in achieving architectural excellence, The ARCH-E Map on ADCs opens up the arena for a committed debate on design competitions and invites new participants into the ongoing conversation about the proactive improvement of Europe's living environment.

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Annex I

National ADCs Regulations and Guidelines

| Country | Regulations | Type and regulatory nature | Obligation to organise ADCs | Link to the regulation |
|---------|---|--|--|---|
| Austria | Bundesvergabegesetz 2018 (BVergG) / Federal Procurement Act | Act, legally binding | No. ADCs are not required under this Act. However, they may be organised as a public procurement pre-phase followed by a negotiated procedure without prior publication, followed by awarding of contract. | https://bit.ly/40dOMOI |
| | Wettbewerbsstandard 2010 (WSA) / Competition Standards | Recommended guidelines. Formally non-binding, but to organise an ADC in cooperation with the Federal Chamber the application of WSA is required for both public and private clients. | – | https://bit.ly/4eLUF9P |

| Country | Regulations | Type and regulatory nature | Obligation to organise ADCs | Link to the regulation |
|---------|--|---|--|--|
| Croatia | Zakon o javnoj nabavi (Narodne novine 120/16, 114/22) / Public Procurement Act (Official Gazette 120/16, 114/22) | Act, legally binding | No. ADCs are not required under the Act. However, they may be organised as a design contest followed by a negotiated procedure without prior publication. If local spatial plans define the obligation to ADCs public contracting authorities conduct them under this Act. | https://bit.ly/3Nubg64 https://bit.ly/3CJEFah |
| | Local Spatial Plans | Legally binding | Yes, by definition of areas with obligation to an ADC | – |
| | Pravilnik o natječajima s područja arhitekture, urbanizma, unutarnjeg uređenja i uređenja krajobraza Hrvatske komore arhitekata (Narodne novine 85/14) / Ordinance on Competitions in the Fields of Architecture, Urban Planning, Interior Design, and Landscape Design by the Croatian Chamber of Architects (Official Gazette 85/14) | Ordinance, legally binding only in the cities of Zagreb, Split, and Dubrovnik | – | https://bit.ly/3NuPbUM |

| Country | Regulations | Type and regulatory nature | Obligation to organise ADCs | Link to the regulation |
|----------------|---|---|--|---|
| Cyprus | Public Procurement Act | Act, legally binding | No. ADCs are not required under this Act. However, they may be organised as a public procurement pre-phase followed by a negotiated procedure without prior publication, followed by awarding of contract. | https://bit.ly/3UeZHDm |
| | Regulations for the Conduct of Architectural Competitions | Non-binding | – | https://bit.ly/4hbSOFw |
| Czech Republic | Public Procurement Act 134/2016 | Act, legally binding | No. ADCs are not required under this Act. However, they may be organised as a public procurement pre-phase followed by a negotiated procedure without prior publication, followed by awarding of contract. | https://bit.ly/4f7X1iR |
| | Code of Competition | Recommended guidelines. The Code is usually applied by public contracting authorities when an ADCs (design contest) is used according to the Public Procurement Act as procurement pre-phase. | – | https://bit.ly/3Yt2lmj |

| Country | Regulations | Type and regulatory nature | Obligation to organise ADCs | Link to the regulation |
|---------|---|--|--|---|
| Germany | Vergabeverordnung (VgV) / Procurement Ordinance | Ordinance, legally binding | No. ADCs are not required under this Ordinance. However, they may be held in advance of a procurement procedure, followed by a negotiated procedure without competitive tender, where, following an ADC, a service contract is to be awarded under the rules provided for in the contest to the winner or one of the winners; in the latter case, all winners of the contest must be invited to participate in the negotiations. | https://bit.ly/3zSez3R |
| | Richtlinie für Planungswettbewerbe 2013 (RPW) / Guidelines for Design Contests | Published standard guideline. In combination with VgV it is binding for public contracting authorities in the area of federal construction. Other public and private tenderers are recommended to apply the RPW in the same way. | – | https://bit.ly/3Nrh7cl |
| | Gesetz Gegen Wettbewerbsbeschränkungen (GWB) / Act against Restraints of Competitions | Act, legally binding | – | https://bit.ly/4f2zVtW |
| | Unterschwelvenvergabeordnung (UVgO) / Sub-threshold Public Procurement Ordinance | Rules of procedure for the award of public supply and service contracts below the EU thresholds, binding for public contracting authorities only through application order, e.g. from law, statutory order. | – | https://bit.ly/40ih9Li |

| Country | Regulations | Type and regulatory nature | Obligation to organise ADCs | Link to the regulation |
|---------|---|--|--|---|
| Hungary | Act CXLIII on Public Procurement | Act, legally binding | Yes, for public complex projects by definition of threshold investment value. In the case of a private investor or real estate developer, the announcement of a design competition is not mandatory. | https://bit.ly/4dQEUwM |
| | Government Decree 310/2015 (X.28.) on Design Competition Procedures | Legally binding for public contracting authorities and any organisation or person not qualifying as a contracting authority according to the rules of the Public Procurement. If a private investor decides to organise an ADCs the Decree 310 is still binding. | – | https://bit.ly/3BPIEBF |
| | Law on Hungarian Architecture (Act C/2023) | Law, legally binding | – | https://bit.ly/3Abrw8P |
| | Law on the Order of State Construction Investments (Law LXIX/2023) | Law, legally binding | Yes, according to art. 35. § (1) the designer preparing the concept plan of the investment shall be selected through a design competition unless otherwise specified by the Ministry. | https://bit.ly/3NChvVu |

| Country | Regulations | Type and regulatory nature | Obligation to organise ADCs | Link to the regulation |
|----------|--|---|--|---|
| Slovenia | Zakon o Javnem Naročanju (ZJN-3) / Public Procurement Act | Act, legally binding | Yes, for the design of public facilities by definition of threshold investment values for buildings and threshold area size for changing the intended use of the land. | https://bit.ly/3YqYXNW |
| | Zakon o urejanju prostora (ZUREP-3) / Spatial Planning Act | Act, legally binding | Yes, by definition of areas with obligation to ADCs | https://bit.ly/3Y9YsGJ |
| | Municipal Spatial Acts | Act, legally binding | Yes, in special cases for extremely important buildings or areas. | – |
| | Pravilnik o javnih natečajih za izbiro strokovno najprimernejših rešitev prostorskih ureditev in objektov (PJN) / Slovenian regulation (by-law) on ADC | Legally binding guidelines for public contracting authorities. Recommended guidelines for private clients. Always used when an ADC is organised in cooperation with ZAPS. | – | https://bit.ly/4ePQ86m |

| Country | Regulations | Type and regulatory nature | Obligation to organise ADCs | Link to the regulation |
|---------|---|---|--|---|
| Spain | Spanish Law on Public Sector Contracts 9/2017 | Law, legally binding | Yes, according to art. 183 ADCs are mandatory when the subject of the service involves drafting architectural, engineering, and urban planning projects of special complexity, and when the service contract is related to complementary work and construction management. | https://bit.ly/3A1ly9r |
| | Spanish Law 9/2022 on Quality in Architecture | Law, legally binding | – | https://bit.ly/3B0pk7M |
| | Catalonian Law 12/2017 on Architecture | Law, legally binding in the Autonomous Community of Catalonia | Yes, art. 12 and 18 define the obligation to an ADCs when an architectural service is involved in the tendering of public contracts for new construction, rehabilitation, or renovation projects with estimated investment value of €60.000. | https://bit.ly/3V3jLcu |

| Country | Regulations | Type and regulatory nature | Obligation to organise ADCs | Link to the regulation |
|-------------|---|--|---|---|
| Switzerland | Bundesgesetz über das öffentliche Beschaffungswesen (BöB) / Swiss Federal Law on Public Procurement | Law, legally binding | No. ADCs are not required under this law. | https://bit.ly/3A5NQRf |
| | Interkantonale Vereinbarung über das öffentliche Beschaffungswesen (IVöB) / Swiss Intercantonal Ordinance on Public Procurement | Ordinance, legally binding | No. ADCs are not required under this ordinance. | https://bit.ly/48iVVPd |
| | SIA 142 | Recommended guidelines, non-binding. Voluntary commitment on municipal level and by numerous public equivalent bodies and private sector. | – | https://bit.ly/4dTdNBx |
| | SIA 143 | Recommended guidelines, non-binding. Voluntary commitment on municipal level and by numerous public equivalent bodies and private sector. | – | https://bit.ly/48cUkur |

| Country | Regulations | Type and regulatory nature | Obligation to organise ADCs | Link to the regulation |
|------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| The Netherlands | Aanbestedingswet 2012 / Public Procurement Act | Act, legally binding | No. ADCs are not required under this Act. However, they may be organised as a public procurement pre-phase followed by a negotiated procedure without prior publication, followed by awarding of contract. | https://bit.ly/4f9pFjE |
| | Gids Proportionaliteit / Proportionality Guide | Guidelines, legally binding in combination with the Public Procurement Act | | https://bit.ly/4haRyJX |
| | KOMPAS Light Prijsvragen / Guidelines for Competitions | Non-binding | | https://bit.ly/3YhvQvw |
| | Richtlijn Gezonde Architectenselecties / Guideline for Healthy Architect Selections | Non-binding | | https://bit.ly/48ktNeD |

Annex II

List of Interviews

- ▶ **Interview with Nicolás Maruri** (amanncanovasmururi, Spain). January 15th, 2024. 13:00-14:00 CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Maja Kireta** (Varaždin Society of Architects, Croatia). January 16th, 2024. 10:00-11:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Melanie Karbasch** (Architekt Melanie Karbasch ZT GmbH, Austria). January 17th, 2024. 8:00-9:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Jure Hrovat** (SVET VMES, Slovenia). January 18th, 2024. 15:00-16:00 CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Iván Capdevila** (PLAYstudio, Spain). January 22nd, 2024. 17:00-18:00 CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Mojca Gregorski** (Kontra Arhitekti, Slovenia). January 23rd, 2024. 11:00-12:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Boris Bežan** (BAX Studio, Slovenia and Spain). January 23rd, 2024. 16:00-17:00 CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Špela Kryžanowski* and Vlado Krajcar*** (ZAPS, Slovenia). January 24th, 2024. 11:00-12:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Kata Marunica** (NFO, Croatia). January 25th, 2024. 11:00-12:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Francesco Veenstra** (Vakwerk / College van Rijkadviseurs, The Netherlands). January 25th, 2024. 15:00-16:00 CET.

- ▶ **Interview with Miquel Lacasta** (Archikubik, Spain). January 26th, 2024. 11:00-12:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Benjamin Hossbach** ([phase eins]. Germany), January 29th, 2024. 15:00-16:00 CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Andres Schenker and Monica Resines** (Schenker Salvi Weber Architekten, Austria). January 30th, 2024. 9:00-10:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Roman Šilje** (Croatian Architects' Association). January 30th, 2024. 16:00-17:00 CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Josep Borrell Bru and Ana Zhukova** (IMPSOL AMB, Spain). January 31st, 2024. 9:00-10:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Thomas Zinterl** (Zinterl Architekten ZT GmbH, Austria). January 31st, 2024. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Helena Knifić-Schaps** (European Croatia). January 31st, 2024. 15:00-16:00 CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Hrvoje Njirić** (njiric+ arhitekti, Croatia). February 1st, 2024. 15:00-16:00 CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Marcos Marcou** (Cyprus Architects Association). February 5th, 2024. 10:00-11:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Janez Koželj** (Municipality of Ljubljana, Slovenia). February 5th, 2024. 12:36 a.m. CET. Upon request of the participant, this interview was carried out in the written form of email exchange.
- ▶ **Interview with Anja Kotlan** (Berlin Chamber of Architects, Germany). February 5th, 2024. 15:00-16:00 CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Barbara Ettinger-Brinckmann** (Agentur Ettinger-Brinckmann, Germany). February 6th, 2024. 12:00-13:00 CET.

- ▶ **Interview with Andreas Papallas** (Scientific and Technical Chamber of Cyprus). February 12th, 2024. 9:00-10:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Bálint Bachman** (APM studio, Hungary). February 15th, 2024. 15:00-16:00 CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Elke Sterling-Presser and Nicolas Sterling** (Sterling Presser Architects + Engineers, Germany). February 16th, 2024. 10:00-11:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Edda Kurz** (Kurz Architekten GbR, Germany). February 19th, 2024. 15:00-16:00 CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Vassos Olympios, Christina Sierepekli, and Aggeliki Pilati** (University of Cyprus, Technical Services). February 20th, 2024. 10:00-11:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Ferenc Makóvnyi** (MÉK, Hungary). February 22nd, 2024. 10:00-11:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Christos Christodoulou** (Simpraxis Architects, Cyprus). February 28th, 2024. 9:00-10:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Elias Molitschnig** (Abteilung IV/B/4 “Architektur, Baukultur und Denkmalschutz”, Austria). February 29th, 2024. 15:00-16:00 CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Dolores Galán** (Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España). March 1st, 2024. 10:00-11:00 a.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Bernd Wiltschek** (Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft Abteilung Schulbau, Austria). March 6th, 2024. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Floor Frings** (Werkstatt, The Netherlands). March 11th, 2024. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CET.
- ▶ **Interview with Gabriella Grand** (Sagra Építész Kft. Hungary). March 22th, 2024. 10:00-11:00 a.m. CET.

- ▶ **Interview with Marieke Kums** (STUDIO MAKS, The Netherlands).
March 22th, 2024. 15:00-16:00 CET.
 - ▶ **Interview with Marios Christodoulides** (Simpraxis Architects, Cyprus).
March 27th, 2024. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CET.
 - ▶ **Interview with Jeroen de Willigen** (De Zwarte Hond / BNA, The Netherlands).
April 3rd, 2024. 12:00-13:00 CET.
 - ▶ **Interview with András Bordás and Tamás Noll** (Teampannon Építészmérnök Kft, Hungary). April 12th, 2024. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CET.
 - ▶ **Interview with Michiel Riedijk** (Neutelings Riedijk Architects, The Netherlands). May 1st, 2024. 17:00-18:00 CET.
-

All interviews have been conducted online via Microsoft Teams and recorded with the consent of participants for later transcription (reviewed by the Ethical Review Board (ERB) of the Technical University of Eindhoven and approved on September 25, 2023. Ethical Review Code: ERB2023BE63)

ARCH-E | Map on ADCs | Colophon

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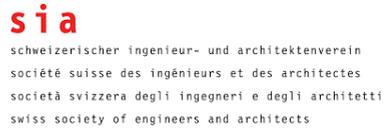


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