

The logo for ARCH-E, featuring the word "ARCH" in a blue sans-serif font followed by a blue square containing the letter "E".

ARCH E

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ARCH-E's main objective is to promote high-quality architectural solutions for the built environment by increasing the use of Architectural Design Competitions (ADC) in Europe and by helping architects overcome cross-border barriers, especially for small and/or female-led practices. The amount of cross-border participation in ADCs is critically low. ARCH-E aims to create a more accessible ADC landscape that incorporates the core principles of New European Bauhaus, the Davos Declaration and Baukultur as defined by ACE.

ARCH-E's consortium, reaching over 560,000 architects, is pursuing these goals through the means of research, practical support and political advocating. ARCH-E is a project co-funded by the European Union under the Creative Europe framework (CREA).



 /arch-e-eu

 @arch_eEU

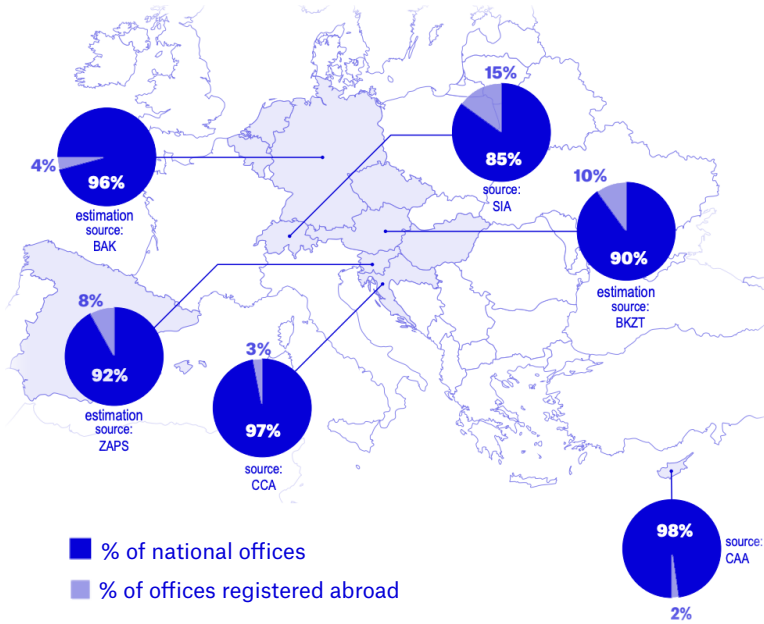
 @arch_eeu

Website: www.arch-e.eu



Co-funded by
the European Union

National and International Participation in ADCs per country

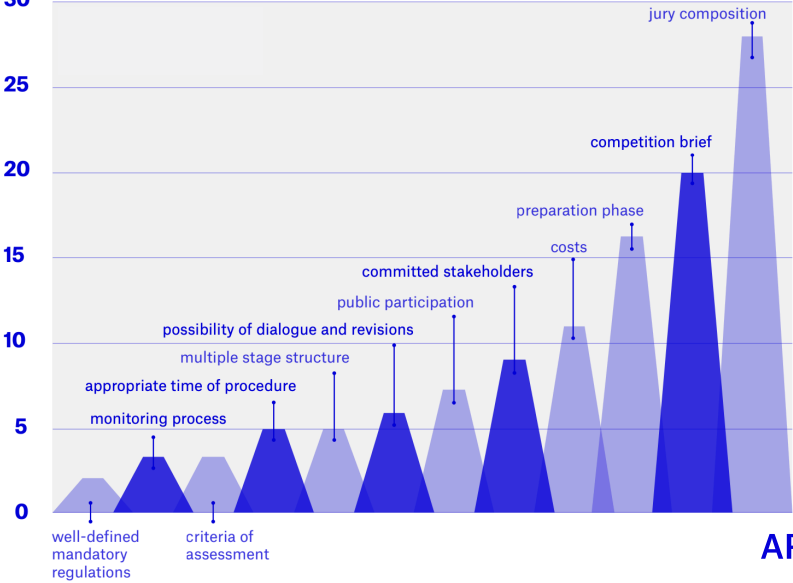


Source: The ARCH-E Map on ADCs

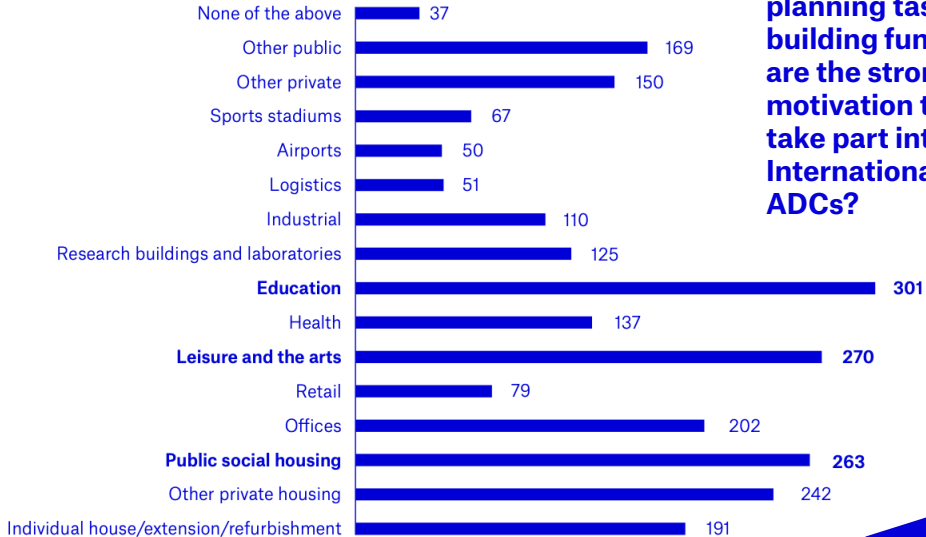
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Quality elements in ADCs

Source: The ARCH-E Map on ADCs



Which programs/ planning tasks/ building functions are the strongest motivation to take part into International ADCs?



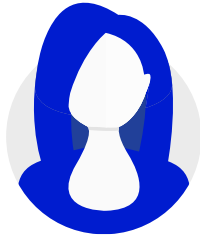
Source: The ARCH-E Architects' Needs Report

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The reality is that among ARCH-E survey respondents only **18%** of female architects participated in international ADCs, compared to **27%** of men. Men were also twice as likely to receive direct invitations: **22%** vs. **11%**



27%



18%

Gender Percentage of architects
that participated in international ADCs

Gender Gap in ADCs?



Design competitions consistently delivered high quality and more affordable buildings. Across 40 analyzed projects, winning designs reduced construction costs by an average of **18.3%** compared to maximum-size alternatives, saving a total of **€571 million**. Even when compared to projects of average building size, competition winners achieved **3.5%** savings, equivalent to **€92 million**.



This is what the ARCH-E project is doing by using design competitions to foster innovation and deliver buildings that are cost-effective, efficient, and high quality.

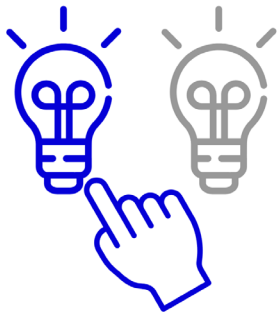
Source: The ARCH-E White Paper

Did you know?



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Architectural competitions are remarkably inexpensive yet can deliver massive returns. The average cost of an ADC is just **0.7%** of total construction costs. In terms of return on investment, every **€1** spent on a competition saves **€18** in construction costs on average, with the best-case scenario reaching up to **32×** savings.



This is exactly what the ARCH-E project seeks to demonstrate. ARCH-E research shows that ADCs provide a transparent, comparative process that ensures the best possible solution is identified and successfully implemented.

Did you know?



Source: The ARCH-E White Paper

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Did you know?



Negotiated procedures often lack a verified design basis — meaning price is rarely tied to quality. For inexperienced public clients, this can result in billions of avoidable costs every year. Without real competition, the chance of ending up with a sub-optimal — or even the worst — project is far higher than achieving an average one.



ARCH-E tackles this challenge by avoiding negotiated procedures, saving billions and reducing the risk of sub-optimal projects.

Source: The ARCH-E White Paper

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The average potential savings in construction costs is **18.3%**. Through the lens of economic analysis, we can also appreciate how architecture contributes efficiently to addressing societal challenges. High-quality selection processes in competitions reveal innovation, technical excellence, and a rational approach that should be recognized and valued as the economically viable solution.



The ARCH-E project is working to achieve these goals, ensuring that Competitions are Democratic, Transparent, and Expert-Driven.

Source: The ARCH-E White Paper

Did you know?



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Ivan Capdevila

PLAYstudio



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.

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Bálint Bachmann
APM Studio



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“[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.”

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Melanie Karbasch
Architekt Melanie
Karbasch ZT GmbH



“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.”

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Roman Šilje
Croatian Architects'
Association



"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."

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