EDUCATE Symposium
Aula Magna, Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium), 31st May 2012

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Thursday, 31st May 2012

9h00 Welcome and desk opening

9h15 Opening session by André De Herde, Dean of LOCI-UCL

9h30 Presentation of EDUCATE by Sergio Altomonte, Coordinator of the EDUCATE Action

10h30 Coffee break

11h00 Presentation of LOCI by Martin Buysse, Dean of Saint-Luc Tournai

11h30 Presentation of LOCI’s studios and modules in Architecture and Sustainable Development:
- Daylighting by Magali Bodart (UCL)
- Sustainable Architecture by Benoît Thielemans (UCL)

12h00 Presentation and conclusion of EDUCATE Work Package 5 by Sophie Trachte (UCL), Sergio Altomonte (Nottingham), Maria López de Asiain Alberich (SAMA)
- White Paper on Sustainable Architectural Education

12h30 Lunch

13h30 Presentation of Batex; “sustainable constructions competition” by Jonathan Fronhoffs (IBGE, Institut Bruxellois pour la Gestion de l'Environnement)

13h50 Presentation of the CNOA - Belgian Chamber of Architects by Jean Thiry (Board president for the French and Luxembourg branch)

14h10 Presentation and conclusion of EDUCATE Work Package by Eliana Cangelli and Lukia Fais (DATA), Paula Cadima (AA School), Hana Riemer (TUM), Sara Horváth (BME)
- White Paper on Criteria for Professional Qualification

14h40 Coffee break

15h00 Round-table: “How to apply the EDUCATE research?”
Sergio Altomonte - University of Nottingham (UK)
André De Herde - Architecture et Climat/LOCI, UCL (Belgium)
Paula Cadima - AA school (UK)
Hana Reimer - TUM (Germany)
Eliana Cangelli - DATA (Italy)
Maria Lopez de Asiain Alberich - SAMA (Spain)
Sara Horváth - BME (Hungary)

16h30 Conclusions by Sergio Altomonte, Coordinator of the EDUCATE Action

17h00 Closure
EDUCATE Symposium – EDUCATE Sustainability

The conclusive EDUCATE Symposium – EDUCATE Sustainability was held on Thursday the 31st of May 2012 at the Aula Magna in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium). The Symposium was organised by the Université Catholique de Louvain, Faculté’ LOCI, Cellule de Recherche Architecture et Climat (UCL), in collaboration with the CNOA - Conseil National de l’Ordre des Architectes de Belgique.

The Symposium aimed to present to an audience of around 60 professionals, academics and representatives of regulatory and professional bodies, the final outcomes of the EDUCATE project and discuss the potential impacts that these will have on the academic education, professional training and practice of architecture and urban design in European and non-European countries. The Symposium also provided the opportunity for launching some of the conclusive outputs of the EDUCATE project, such as the catalogue of the EDUCATE Prize, the international student competition launched by EDUCATE in 2011, and the final EDUCATE website, which also features the freely accessible online EDUCATE Knowledge Base.

Following an initial address given by prof. Andre De Herde, Dean of the Faculty LOCI (Faculté d'Architecture, d'Ingénierie Architecturale et d'Urbanisme) at the Catholic University of Louvain, the morning session started with a presentation given by Sergio Altomonte, coordinator of the EDUCATE Action. Dr Altomonte illustrated the initial aims and objectives of the EDUCATE Action, its work programme, and then presented the various results obtained by EDUCATE – including an introduction to the final white papers on the education and practice of architecture produced by the project - and its expected impacts.

After a short break, the second session of the morning was opened by a presentation given by Martin Buyssse, Vice-Dean of the LOCI Faculty and Dean of the Institute Supérieur d'Architecture (ISA) Saint-Luc de Tournai, one of the constituents of the LOCI Faculty. Martin Buyssse presented the educational challenges that drove the creation of the joint LOCI Faculty in 2010 and illustrated the current and future aspirations and ambitions for the academic teaching of architecture and urban design in Belgium.

The morning session continued with two presentations aimed at illustrating the methodologies for teaching and learning of sustainable design and the results obtained at the LOCI Faculty. The first presentation was given by Magali Bodart, who illustrated the pedagogical processes, programme of studies and the experiential and simulation tools available in the context of a daylighting studio offered to students of architecture in Louvain-la Neuve. The second presentation was given by Benoit Thielemans, who showed the methodologies of teaching and some of the outcomes obtained in education for sustainable development at the LOCI Faculty. Specifically, Mr Thielemans presented the results of the experiences in the context of the modules “Encadrement du projet d'architecture” in BAC2, and “Cours architecture durable” in MA1.

The final session of the morning was fully dedicated to the presentation of the white paper on “Sustainable Architectural Education”, one of the final outputs of the EDUCATE project. The presentation was given by Sophie Trachte, of the research unit Architecture et Climat, Catholic University of Louvain, who had coordinated the development of this final task. The white paper on “Sustainable Architectural Education” presents a series of pedagogical principles – illustrated in terms of mission agenda, learning outcomes, programme structure, methods for teaching & learning, and strategies for transfer of pedagogy – to promote the implementation of sustainable environmental design at different stages of higher education. The white paper aims to provide guidelines for curriculum and course development, yet supporting the requirement for flexibility, autonomy, cultural diversity and innovation in academic and professional training.

The morning was concluded by a question & answer session with the participation of all the speakers, where some of the results presented were discussed and a debate on the future orientations of academic teaching and professional practice towards the preservation of a sustainable environment was initiated.

The afternoon session of the EDUCATE Symposium was opened by a presentation given by Jonathan Fronhoffs of the IBGE (Institut Bruxellois pour la Gestion de l’Environnement, Brussels Institute for the Management of the Environment). Mr Fronhoffs presented the experience and the outcomes of an architectural competition informed by the aims, principles and values of sustainable environmental design: Batex (Bâtiments Exemplaires). The competition Batex 2011, organized for the fourth time by the Bruxelles-Capitale region, has awarded a total of 39 winners (on a total of 69 candidates). The recipients of the awards
have committed to build or renew one or more buildings for a total surface of ± 106,500 m², including different typologies. A new call for projects has already been launched for 2012.

The second presentation of the afternoon was given by Jean Thiry, vice-president of the CNOA (Conseil National de l’Ordre des Architectes de Belgique) and delegate for the French and Luxembourg branch. Mr Thiry presented the mission and the structure of the CNOA, and illustrated the strategies and priorities current in place at the Chamber of Architects to respond to the current challenges that are facing the professions of architecture and urban design at both a national and international level.

The afternoon session continued with a presentation given by Lukia Fais of the Department DATA, University of Rome La Sapienza. Dr Fais illustrated in detail the aims, structure and contents of the white paper on “Criteria for Professional Qualification”, one of the two final outcomes of the EDUCATE project, whose development was coordinated by DATA. The white paper on “Criteria for Professional Qualification” proposes principles and strategies – illustrated in terms of demands of the building market, education and training towards professional qualification, regulatory frameworks, learning outcomes and priorities for sustainable practice - to measure and verify the knowledge, skill and competence of sustainable environmental design that is expected of graduates and practitioners at every level of their academic education and professional training and within the practice of architecture and urban design. Founded on the principles of Article 46 – Training of Architects of the European Directive 2005/36/EC, the white paper features a critical review of national legislation with the aim of defining strategies to promote consistency in the requirements for qualification in Europe and potentially support their transfer to non-European countries.

Following a short break, the afternoon session of the Symposium continued with a round table, to which all the project managers at EDUCATE partner institutions were invited to participate, providing their views on the potential applications and impacts of the EDUCATE project at their academic organisation. Specifically, the round table was chaired by Sophie Trachte of Architecture et Climat, Catholic University of Louvain, and was attended by Sergio Altomonte of the University of Nottingham (UK), André De Herde of Architecture et Climat/LOCI, Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium), Paula Cadima of the Architectural Association School of Architecture (UK), Hana Reimer of the Technical University of Munich (Germany), Maria Lopez de Asiain Alberich of the Seminar of Architecture and Environment, (Spain) and Sara Horváth of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (Hungary). The round table was also animated by a lively discussion with the public, particularly focusing on current issues such as: the competition between academic organisations also following the current challenges of the global economical climate; the potential for sharing experiences and results of advanced research between higher education institutions and in collaboration with professional bodies; the role of professional bodies and the key contribution they could give in promoting the mandates of sustainable environmental design in the practice of architecture; the evolving regulatory framework and the necessity for an international consistency in the conditions that grant access to the professions concerned with the design of the built environment.

The Symposium was concluded by a final presentation given by the EDUCATE Action Coordinator, Sergio Altomonte of the University of Nottingham. Dr Altomonte summarised the three years’ experience of the EDUCATE project and acknowledged the contribution of all the staff members from participating academic organisations, of the representatives of European professional bodies, of international architects who contributed to the EDUCATE Advisory Group and the Project and Financial Officer from the EDUCATE’s funding body, the European Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI).