

9-11 JUNE 2026

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY WEEK

20
YEARS

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Architecture for Europe's Housing Future

2026 EUSEW - ACE Energy Day Policy seminar

Thursday 11 June 2026
from 15h00 to 16h30 CEST

COMET, Place Stéphanie 20, Brussels, Belgium
Webstreamed via Zoom

ace-cae.eu



Co-funded by
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Europe's built environment is at a crossroads: the intersecting crises of housing affordability, climate change, and public health demand a radical renewal. As Member States implement the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the EU Commission rolls out its Affordable Housing Plan, a holistic design philosophy is essential, not just for individual buildings, but for entire cities, districts, and communities.

This transformation requires embedding the New European Bauhaus (NEB) principles - sustainability, inclusion, and aesthetics - alongside Whole Life Carbon approaches into both professional practice and regulatory frameworks. High-quality architecture plays a pivotal role as a bridge between innovation, sustainability, social cohesion, cultural values, and economic prosperity. By embracing circularity, climate-responsive design, and a focus on health and well-being, we can create a built environment that is regenerative, adaptable, and equipped to meet the needs of future generations.

As part of the 2026 European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) is hosting a public seminar to explore how innovative architectural solutions can address these challenges and how the regulatory framework must evolve to enable them. This is a unique opportunity to connect policy with practice, ensuring that the architectural community's expertise directly shapes the future of EU initiatives affecting housing and the built environment.

The session brings together architects, policymakers, and construction stakeholders to showcase exemplary housing projects and discuss regulatory bottlenecks.

The program will consist of two interlinked sessions:

- A curated series of case studies demonstrating climate-resilient housing and innovative building repurposing;
- A moderated discussion deconstructing the barriers and enablers for design excellence.

The seminar will conclude with actionable policy recommendations for EU institutions, ensuring the architectural community's expertise directly shapes the future of the EU initiatives affecting housing and the built environment.

An event co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.



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Agenda

15h00

Welcome & introduction

Daniel FÜGENSCHUH, ACE President

Greta TRESSERRA, Co-Chair of the ACE Sustainable Architecture Work Group

15H15

Case studies presentations

Luca VOLPI, Societat Organica, presentation of the WikiHousing Barcelona project

Mellis HAWARD, Director at Archio Ltd

Niki GAITANI, Associate Professor at the Dept. of Architecture and Technology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

Lorenzo PAGLIANO, Professor at Politecnico di Milano, representative of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

16H00

Panel discussion

With all speakers and presenters, moderated by

Gearoid CARVILL, Co-Chair of the ACE Sustainable Architecture Work Group

16H20

Closing remarks

Judit KIMPIAN, Member of ACE Executive Board, Coordinator of the ACE *"Achieving Quality in the Built Environment"* Thematic Area



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