

9-11 JUNE 2026

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY WEEK

20  
YEARS

#EUSEW2026  
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# Architecture for Europe's Housing Future

## 2026 EUSEW - ACE Energy Day Policy seminar

Thursday 11 June 2026  
from 14h45 to 16h15 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

**14h45**

## Welcome & introduction

**Daniel FÜGENSCHUH**, ACE President

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

**15H00**

## 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)

**15H40**

## Panel discussion

**With all speakers and presenters**, moderated by

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

**16H10**

## Closing remarks

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

**16H15**

## End of the seminar



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