



CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation
in Building and Construction

Providing a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

October 2008

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

TG73 - R&D Programs in Construction

Introducing a new Task Group

The CIB Programme Committee established a new Task Group: TG73 on R&D (Research & Development) Programs in Construction, with Prof.Dr. Geert Dewulf from the University of Twente as its Coordinator. A short description of the Task Group and a brief introduction of the Coordinator follows.

Background

All over the world, large-scale construction R&D programs are undertaken that aim for structural performance enhancement of the sector, innovation, industry reform, process improvement and/or strengthening the sector's knowledge infrastructure. The EPSRC program in the UK, the CRC initiative in Australia, the PSIBouw program in the Netherlands and the ECTP - the European Construction Technology Platform - are just some examples of such programs as at present in preparation. In addition there are sector wide national activities in support of innovation, reform etceteras, in countries like Norway, Finland and Hong Kong that fall within the scope of this initiative. All these programs are different in their financing structure, tender procedures and performance criteria but have similar aims in the end.

These programs all have to cope with finding the appropriate balance between:

- top-down steering (program management) and bottom-up innovations (project level)
- business and sector-wide demands and academic-driven interests. The gap between academic research and innovation in practice is often lamented. Worldwide many large industry - research partnerships have been launched to bridge the gap between research and practice. Partnership programs are seen as solutions to better exploit knowledge generated within the existing knowledge infrastructure
- public and private interests
- focus on frontrunners or a sector-wide approach.

The various national initiatives struggle with how programs should be managed effectively and efficiently. And between these program little or no

exchange takes place on best practices and lessons learned.

Objectives and Scope

Despite the attention in literature and the boost in number of programs all over the globe research on the actual management of such collaborative research programs has so far been limited. The Task Group focuses on the management issues of these large scale innovation programs within construction. The Task Group will include leading academics who play or played a major role in national or international collaborative programs. The Task Group will establish a learning community by reflecting, monitoring and designing ways to manage such programs.

The objectives are:

- establishing a network that will include leading academics involved in large scale national or international collaborative programs
- discuss and disseminate lessons learnt
- develop an overview of current practice and program management approaches
- review major collaborative programs of the past
- develop a sustainable network of academics to support new initiatives for collaborative programs.

Programme

The following actions and deliverables are envisaged for the first three years:

Year 1

- kick-off session with the Task Group (location to be decided)
- Inventory of leading national and international programs in construction
- develop an electronic community for Task Group
- state-of-the-art overview of collaborative programs, management approaches, actors involved, funds,...
- develop and distribute survey among leading stakeholders in programs
- white paper on managing collaborative programs

Year 2

- analysis of the survey
- report on the success and pitfalls of collaborative programs
- in-depth case analysis
- round table discussions in various countries
- workshop of the Task Group, if possible in conjunction with the CIB Rethinking Construction Conference in Malaysia in October/November 2009

Year 3

- report of the case studies and lessons learnt
- management report for program managers in various countries
- international symposium with leading programs (if possible in conjunction with the CIB World Building Congress in Manchester 2010)
- Industry and Government focused report on managing collaborative programs
- special issue of an International Journal

This program is complementary to the CIB Task Group TG71 focusing on research and innovation transfer. TG71 looks at mechanisms for collaboration between industry and academia at the micro and meso level and is aimed at enhancing the transfer and dissemination research outcomes. This Task Group focuses on sector level issues and on large-scale network and program management in order to reform or change the construction sector as well as strengthen the knowledge infrastructure.

Introducing the Coordinator

Prof.Dr. Geert Dewulf



Key qualifications:

Research, and lecturing in the following fields:

- Planning and Development
- Process Management
- Public Private Partnerships
- Strategic Urban Planning
- Scenario Planning

Education:

1981-1987 Utrecht University: Master of Arts in Sociology, with specialisation Planning and Policy Studies

1987-1991 Utrecht University: Ph.D. of the Faculty of Sociology

Employment Record:

1985-1986 Assistant-researcher Research voor Beleid, Leiden
 1986-1987 Student Assistant University of Utrecht, Department of Planning and Policy Studies
 1987-1991 Ph.D. researcher Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Utrecht
 1990 Visiting Fellow, Harvard University, Department of Sociology
 1991- 1993 Assistant Professor, University of Utrecht, Department of Sociology
 1993-2000 Assistant Professor, Delft University of Technology, Department of Construction Management and Real Estate Management
 1998-2000 TNO Inro, Institute for Applied Science, Senior Advisor Urban Planning
 2000 University of Twente, Professor of Planning and Development
 2001 University of Twente, Head Department of Construction Management and Engineering

Additional Information

For additional information about the CIB TG73 please contact the Coordinator: Geert Dewulf
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You also can find more information on the activities of CIB TG73 at www.cibworld.nl - section Databases - database Commissions - type TG73 in the search field Commission number.