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U Zagrebu, 27. listopada 2023. godine

Vlada Republike Hrvatske
Andrej Plenković, predsjednik
Trg svetog Marka 2
10 000 Zagreb

Predmet: Osiguranje provedbe javnih arhitektonsko-urbanističkih natječaja

Poštovani predsjedniče Vlade Republike Hrvatske,

strukovne i znanstvene organizacije iz područja arhitekture u Republici Hrvatskoj obraćaju Vam se ovim pismom kako bismo upozorili na **nesagledive posljedice provedbe nedovoljno kvalitetnog Zakona o prostornom uređenju**¹, a kojim se ugrožava očuvanje prirodnih vrijednosti, kulturnog krajolika i kvaliteta izgrađenog okoliša u Republici Hrvatskoj.

Odredbama Zakona o prostornom uređenju u bitnome se ograničava implementacija arhitektonsko-urbanističkih natječaja, čime je Republika Hrvatska uskratila temeljene strukovne alate i ustavom priznata prava jedinica lokalne samouprave na osiguranje kvalitete izgrađenog okoliša, a samim time i kvalitete života svih građana. Nedavnom Uputom koju je izdalo Ministarstvo prostornoga uređenja, graditeljstva i državne imovine, dodatno je sužen opseg primjene arhitektonsko-urbanističkih natječaja u Republici Hrvatskoj. Ovime se izravno utječe na kvalitetu budućih investicija, a samim time i na kvalitetu izgrađenog prostora i vrsnoću arhitekture.

Arhitektonsko-urbanistički natječaji prepoznati su u svijetu kao najbolja metoda kojom se, kroz pozitivnu konkurenciju, omogućava odabir najkvalitetnijeg planskog ili projektnog rješenja za zahvat u prostoru ili za pojedinačnu zgradu. Postupak je to u kojem stručnjaci okupljeni u ocjenjivački sud odabiru najkvalitetnije idejno rješenje između svih ponuđenih, uz poštovanje anonimnosti natjecatelja. Projektni natječaj ujedno je i provjerena metoda kojom se potiču istraživanja, razvoj i inovacije. Sve je to preduvjet osiguranja transparentnog i održivog procesa upravljanja prostorom kao osnove očuvanja nepokretne kulturne baštine i povijesnih urbanih cjelina kojima Republika Hrvatska obiluje.

Javni arhitektonski i urbanistički natječaji u Hrvatskoj tradicija su duga preko 150 godina, a kojom su oblikovani ključni zahvati u prostoru kojeg danas baštinimo. Prvi nacionalni pravilnik o provedbi natječaja datira iz 1880. godine kada se Hrvatska oslanja na suvremene europske političke, gospodarske i kulturne prakse tog vremena. Višestoljetni doprinos hrvatske kulture natjecanja u vrsnoći arhitekture, obogatio je europsku kulturnu baštinu što je prepoznato od strane svih zemalja članica EU-a te kolega arhitekata u Vijeću arhitekata Europe (ACE) i Međunarodnom udruženju arhitekata (UIA).

Hrvatska komora arhitekata, zajedno s 20-tak drugih partnera iz EU sudjeluje u projektu ARCH-E, stvaranju središnje platforme za arhitektonske natječaje u Europskoj uniji, financiranom upravo iz sredstava EU. Cilj platforme je poticanje prekogranične suradnje i natjecanja u kvaliteti projektnih rješenja unutar članica EU, sukladno dokumentima EU kojima je i Republika Hrvatska potpisnik.

Prije svega to je **Deklaracija iz Davosa** s ciljem osiguranja visokokvalitetne kulture građenja (Baukultur - za Europu), a koja svojim temeljnim načelima propagira važnost organizacije i provedbe arhitektonsko-urbanističkih natječaja. Međunarodno udruženje arhitekata (UIA) i Vijeće arhitekata Europe (ACE) u zajedničkoj **Deklaraciji o ključnim alatima za osiguravanje kvalitete izgrađenog okoliša** jasno ističu provedbu arhitektonsko-urbanističkih natječaja kao najučinkovitijeg alata za održivi razvoj prostora. Republika Hrvatska snažan je podupiratelj inicijative **Novog europskog Bauhausa** kao središnjeg pokreta u

¹ (NN 153/13, 65/17, 114/18, 39/19, 98/19, 67/23)

provedbi ciljeva Europskog zelenog plana, a koji zagovara arhitektonsko-urbanističke natječaje kao jedan od alata u ostvarenju zajedničkih europskih vrijednosti koje spajaju znanost, tehnologiju i inženjerstvo s kulturom i umjetnosti.

Neusklađenost današnjeg zakonodavnog okvira Republike Hrvatske s međunarodno priznatim načelima te europskim deklaracijama i pokretima, predstavlja ugrozu temeljnih ustavnih načela očuvanja i održivog upravljanja hrvatskim prostorom.

Već deset godina ukazujemo Vladi Republike Hrvatske, kako je neophodna izmjena odredbi nefunkcionalnog Zakona o prostornom uređenju kako bi se osigurao kvalitetan dugoročan okvir za očuvanje i razvoj hrvatskog prostora. U tom smislu, Hrvatska komora arhitekata je u listopadu ove godine uputila nadležnom Ministarstvu prostornoga uređenja, graditeljstva i državne imovine dokument: **10 točaka arhitektonske struke za novi sustav prostornog uređenja - polazišta za novi zakon o prostornom uređenju**, u kojem je jedna od deset točaka posvećena upravo arhitektonsko-urbanističkim natjecanjima.

Oslanjajući se na vrijednosti europskog civilizacijskog kruga i pozitivnih praksi država članica EU-a, odredbama prostornih planova potrebno je omogućiti provedbu javnih natječaja u područjima posebnog interesa za jedinice lokalne i regionalne samouprave, a koje predstavljaju ključne točke za razvoj naselja, gradova i općina. Osim toga, zagovaramo uvođenje dodatnih odredbi osiguranja kvalitete izgrađenog prostora u sve zakonodavne okvire Republike Hrvatske. Posebice tražimo uvođenje obveze provedbe javnih projektnih natječaja za odabir najkvalitetnijeg rješenja umjesto odabira kriterijem ekonomski najpovoljnije ponude, za sve javne investicije iznad europskih pragova Direktive 2014/24/EU o javnoj nabavi kroz izmjenu Zakona o javnoj nabavi, kako su to uredile razvijene države članice EU.

Izgrađeni okoliš, kultura građenja jednog naroda, predstavlja civilizacijski doseg određenog vremena. Danas, u Hrvatskoj baštinimo izgrađene prostore iznimnih vrijednosti koji su osnova nacionalnog identiteta, a na kojima počiva temelj velikog dijela gospodarskih aktivnosti.

Primjenom Zakona o prostornom uređenju koji vodi prema degradaciji prostora i kvalitete života hrvatskih građana, Republika Hrvatska se isključuje iz svih aktualnih europskih i globalnih procesa osiguranja preduvjeta za održivu budućnost. Ovu jedinstvenu povijesnu priliku, koju imamo sada u zamahu investicija financiranih iz europskih sredstava, u potpunosti propuštamo. Osuđeni smo na zaostatak za drugim zemljama članicama Europske unije koje prednjače u kvaliteti izgrađenog prostora, arhitekture te suvremenom i inovativnom pristupu gradnji. Osuđeni smo na gubitak naslijeđenih kulturnih i prirodnih vrijednosti nacionalnog prostora kojim se toliko ponosimo.

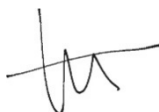
Odgovornost svih nas leži u kreiranju kvalitetnih suvremenih okvira za sljedeće generacije. **Osiguranje provedbe javnih arhitektonsko-urbanističkih natječaja nužan je preduvjet održive budućnosti Republike Hrvatske oslonjene na zajedničke europske vrijednosti.**

Arhitektonska strukovna i znanstvena zajednica Republike Hrvatske, čija nastojanja podupiru i međunarodne organizacije, još jednom ukazuje na nužnu i hitno potrebnu izmjenu zakonodavnog okvira kojim će se Republika Hrvatska približiti standardima suvremenog demokratskog okruženja.

Hrvatska komora arhitekata
Rajka Bunjevac, predsjednica



Udruženje hrvatskih arhitekata
Roman Šilje, predsjednik



Udruga hrvatskih urbanista
Tamara Mihinjač Pleše, predsjednica



Arhitektonski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu
Bojan Baletić, dekan



Institut za povijest umjetnosti
Katarina Horvat-Levaj, ravnateljica



U prilogu:

1. Pismo Vijeća arhitekata Europe / Architects' Council of Europe
2. Pismo European Association for Architectural Education
3. Pismo New European Bauhaus High-level Round Table
4. Pismo Bundeskammer der Ziviltechniker

Na znanje:

1. Ministarstvo prostornoga uređenja, graditeljstva i državne imovine
2. Ministarstvo kulture i medija
3. Ministarstvo gospodarstva i održivog razvoja
4. Udruženje hrvatskih arhitekata
5. Udruženje hrvatskih urbanista
6. Arhitektonski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu
7. Institut za povijest umjetnosti

Government of the Republic of Croatia

To: Mr. Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister

cc: Mr. Branko Bačić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Planning,
Construction and State Assets

Ms. Rajka Bunjevac, Croatian Chamber of Architects, President

Brussels, 17 October 2023

Ref: 96/23/CO

Dear Prime Minister,

The Architects' Council is informed that all spatial and master plans for cities and municipalities in Croatia designate specific locations for which open architectural competitions are required in order to be able to apply for a building permit and subsequently undertake construction.

We understand that this requirement exists for significant urban locations, important types of public buildings and complex heritage sites. Spatial and urban master plans have been adopted after long and complex procedures, prepared by the planning specialists, and have also been pre-checked by the Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets itself before coming in the force.

The Republic of Croatia has a 150-year long tradition of holding public architectural competitions for important interventions in space that have significantly influenced the quality of the built environment. Such a rare tradition has contributed greatly to the planned and balanced development of Croatian cities and regions as well as to the overall architectural quality of buildings over the last century.

However, it appears that the Ministry has now decided to adopt a narrow interpretation of a provision from the Spatial Planning Law, basically restricting public competitions to sites that are owned by cities or municipalities and designated exclusively for public use, while excluding critical national infrastructure and all new buildings and interventions that would be located on privately owned land.

Architectural design competitions (ADCs) are among the most effective ways of achieving excellence in building and community design. They yield optimal concepts and plans for a given building programme, planning or landscape design task. Because they are based solely on the quality of proposed solutions, focused on the specific needs of a carefully defined project, competitions result in high-value solutions of great benefit to end-users, adding to the overall quality of life and design excellence in the built environment.

Following their Conference at The International Union of Architects (UIA) and the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) urged policymakers and government bodies to include architectural design competitions as a recommended procedure in public procurement laws, in order to promote enduring, excellent and responsible solutions for buildings and communities.

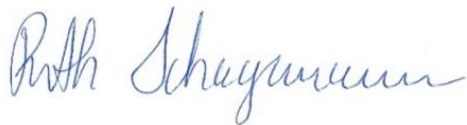
Competitions offer multiple benefits to clients, competitors and society including quality, innovation, flexibility, cost efficiency, public participation, equal opportunity and creativity.

There are many possible competition forms and procedures. However, regardless of the chosen form and procedures, the combination of a *good design brief*, *good procedures* and a *good jury* guarantees a *good result*. We also draw your attention to the Architects' Council of Europe policies dedicated to promoting the practice of architectural design competitions, which are supported by 51 ACE Member Organisations representing more than 620,000 architects from 35 European countries.¹

The action taken by the Croatian Ministry for Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets is likely to significantly reduce the number of open architectural competitions in Croatia, and furthermore, will impact negatively on the architectural quality of the built environment, not to mention public involvement and the transparency of procedures.

We deplore this action, which is at variance with the recent trajectory of the Davos Declaration - Davos Quality Principles or the European Union's "Towards a shared culture of Architecture" report – and we urge the Croatian Ministry to reverse this policy.

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Schagemann
President
Architects' Council of Europe

¹ <https://www.ace-cae.eu/practice-of-the-profession/architectural-design-competitions-adc/policy-positions/>



**European Association for
Architectural Education**
Association Européenne pour
l'Enseignement de l'Architecture

Government of the Republic of Croatia
Mr. Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister

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10000 Zagreb
Croatia
gradjani@vlada.hr

Zurich, October 23rd 2023

Esteemed Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the European Association for Architectural Education whose primary goal is to advance the quality of architectural education and also to promote the quality of architecture in Europe. We have been following recent developments related to architectural design competitions in Croatia and felt compelled to share our concerns on this matter.

Standing for maintaining and advancing the quality of the built environment, which are central to current European policies, we were disheartened to learn about the narrowing interpretation of the Spatial Planning Law that restricts the scope of architectural competitions primarily to publicly-owned sites, excluding privately-owned land and critical national infrastructure.

Architectural design competitions (ADCs) have consistently demonstrated their effectiveness in achieving excellence in building and community design. They are a testament to the power of competition, innovation, and public engagement in the architectural process. These competitions, based on the quality of proposed solutions, have resulted in high-value designs that benefit us all, improving our quality of life and promoting design excellence.

However, the shift in interpretation of the law threatens to reduce the number of architectural competitions in Croatia, potentially diminishing the architectural quality of our built environment, limiting public participation, and affecting the transparency of decision-making processes. A related concern is the potential impact of these changes on architectural education in Croatia. Universities and schools of architecture play a significant role in nurturing architectural talent and providing a platform for young architects to engage with real-world design challenges through competitions. Furthermore, architectural competitions are an essential component of architectural education, providing students with valuable insights into the profession and fostering a culture of innovation and creativity. As a result, these competitions are not only a means of improving our built environment but also an investment in the future of our architectural profession.



**European Association for
Architectural Education**
Association Européenne pour
l'Enseignement de l'Architecture

In addition to the concerns raised by the architectural community and educational institutions, I would like to draw your attention to the Statement of the New European Bauhaus Collective (NEBC) on Public Procurement. The NEBC, a group of pan-European organisations representing architects, spatial planners, landscape architects, interior architects, engineers, designers, artists, educators and researchers of the built environment, and more broadly the cultural and creative sectors, has highlighted the importance of architectural competitions as a recommended procedure in public procurement laws. Their statement, issued in 2021, emphasizes the role of competitions in promoting enduring, excellent, and responsible solutions for buildings and communities.

The NEBC's position aligns with the principles outlined in the Davos Declaration - Davos Quality Principles and the European Union's "Towards a shared culture of Architecture" report, both of which stress the significance of architectural competitions in achieving design excellence, sustainability, and public engagement.

In light of these considerations, we respectfully urge you to reconsider the recent shift in the interpretation of the Spatial Planning Law. We believe that architectural competitions should remain open and inclusive, encompassing a wide range of projects, including those on privately-owned land and critical national infrastructure. ADCs are an investment in the future of our architectural profession and an acknowledgment of the vital role architecture plays in the cultural and economic life of our nations.

I hope that you will take these concerns into account and work towards a solution that upholds the values of architectural excellence. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to seeing positive developments that will preserve and promote architectural competitions in your country.

Respectfully

Prof. Dr. Oya Atalay Franck

President, EAAE European Association for Architectural Education

Dean, ZHAW School of Architecture Design and Civil Engineering

cc: Mr. Branko Bačić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Planning,
Construction and State Assets

Ms. Rajka Bunjevac, Croatian Chamber of Architects, President

Mr. Roman Šilje, Croatian Architects' Association, President

Government of the Republic of Croatia
Mr. Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister

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October 23rd 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

I am Member of President von der Leyen's High Level Round Table for the New European Bauhaus and Innovation advisor to the European Commission and the G7 Leaders. You may also know me as the first Croatian-born European Woman Innovator of the Year awarded by the European Commission in 2017.

In the New European Bauhaus concept President von der Leyen is proposing the highest level of quality for our living environment. Many contributors have demonstrated excellence in this area, including the Faculty of Architecture in Zagreb, and the Croatian Society of Architects.

We have recently become aware of a development in Croatia that is of great concern: the excellence resulting from architectural competitions is being reduced to apply only to publicly-funded projects. This would allow private projects to act independently, outside of public scrutiny; to disregard the New European Bauhaus principles and reduce the level of quality expected from contemporary architecture.

I urge you to reconsider the Croatian interpretation of the Spatial Planning Law and to embrace the principles advocated by the New European Bauhaus. We sincerely hope we can work together to create an architectural landscape in Croatia that reflects the values of the European Commission goals.

Sincerely,



Michela Magaš
New European Bauhaus High-level Round Table

cc: Mr. Branko Bačić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets

Ms. Rajka Bunjevac, Croatian Chamber of Architects, President



Government of the Republic of Croatia
Mr. Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister
Trg svetog Marka 2
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Vienna, 9 October 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

A main focus of work of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineers is to enhance the quality and sustainability of the built environment in the EU and we regard the open architectural design competition (ADC) as a most effective tool in doing so.

Together with the Croatia Chamber of Architects and numerous other European and international partners we are currently conducting a European project. **Arch-E is about enhancing the use and quality of ADCs in Europe and overcoming the lack of information based on national, cultural and language-specific differences and peculiarities in terminologies, legal regulations, standards, aims and objectives of the ADCs in order to increase mobility and to fully exploit the potential of the internal market in the architectural sector.**

The Republic of Croatia with its 150-year long tradition of holding public architectural competitions for important interventions in space that have significantly influenced the quality of the built environment **is an important role model for other European countries in and outside of the Arch-E project. This longstanding Croatian approach towards ADCs has contributed greatly to the planned and balanced development of Croatian cities and regions as well as to the overall architectural quality of buildings over the last century.**

However, we have learned that the Ministry has now decided to adopt a narrow interpretation of a provision from the Spatial Planning Law, basically restricting public competitions to sites that are owned by cities or municipalities and designated exclusively for public use, while excluding critical national infrastructure and all new buildings and interventions that would be located on privately owned land.

We would therefore like to stress again that we are convinced that **ADCs are among the most effective ways of achieving excellence in building and community design throughout Europe.** They lead to optimized concepts and plans for a given



building programme, planning or landscape design task and allow a broad participation of different stakeholders. Based on the quality of proposed solutions and focused on the specific needs of a carefully defined project they provide high-value solutions of great benefit to end-users and the society as a whole.

The action taken by the Croatian Ministry for Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets is likely to reduce significantly the number of open architectural competitions in Croatia, leading to the danger negative impacts on the architectural quality of the built environment, quality and transparency of procedures and public involvement.

Based on all this and with reference to the Davos Declaration and the Davos Quality Principles or the [European Union's "Towards a shared culture of Architecture" report](#) – **we would like to appeal to the Croatian Ministry to reconsider its new approach towards ADCs and keep its leading role in regard to quality procurement of architectural services.**

Yours sincerely,

Architect DI Daniel Fügenschuh
President

cc: Mr. Branko Bačić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Planning,
Construction and State Assets
Ms. Rajka Bunjevac, Croatian Chamber of Architects, President Predsjednica
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