



From Barbara Sorgato,  
general secretary,  
European Consortium of  
Anchor Producers (ECAP)

# New ECAP president and board

**Lars Mortensen has been elected as the new ECAP president for 2017 – 2020, succeeding previous president, Urs Joos.**

**E**CAP's election was held in Lars' hometown, Elsinore, Denmark – in front of the Kronborg Castle, where Hamlet made his famous soliloquy: "To be or not to be, that is the question."

There was definitely no question over Lars' appointment as ECAP president. Belonging to the third generation in the founding family of the Danish plastic anchors manufacturer, EXPANDET Screws Anchors – today part of the Senco Group – Lars brought his firm into ECAP in 2003. Since then EXPANDET has been a very active member, engaging in the standardisation process; taking part in common research projects; proposing new services and projects and sharing its management experience with other members – all in the true spirit of ECAP.

Following his election Lars said: "ECAP is a community of norm-sharing manufacturers. Norm-sharing means a series of cascade services, developed all around the drafting of European standards. It is not just about informing and monitoring. It means creating interactive platforms of high-tech services and sharing their management and their enormous costs; managing training courses and technical development; directly accessing, as a community, CEN and EOTA working groups at a European level; supporting the ability of technical specialists from ECAP members to participate directly in these meetings; facilitating CE Marking through ad hoc clusters of labs, TABs and Notified Bodies; and offering hotline support for normative questions on more than 55 standards and assessment documents. ECAP is a unique case in Europe, a precious tool for

European manufacturers, whose activity is well known by the European Commission and in the standardisation world, if not so much outside of it. My priority for these three years is to lead a Consortium, which is not used to doing it, to speak about itself."

Lars' work will be supported by the newly elected board (pictured below), a pan-European management group made out of seven members coming from six different European countries: Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. +



# ECAP launches webinar series

**Why is there no EAD published for your ETA? Why do you still refer to an ETAG in your DoP?**

**T**he implementation of the Construction Products Regulation and its practical consequences on the products, challenges manufacturers and their customers. Even the most informed SME knows how hard is it to prove to its customers that its answers are the right ones. Drafting explanatory documents with patchworks of CPR articles is sometimes time-consuming and it is often not enough: 'I have been told something different by someone else' is a far from uncommon response.

That's why members asked ECAP to structure a resource programme of reliable, first-hand information, at a European level, on the regulatory and normative framework of their products.

This year ECAP will launch a series of webinars to respond to the most frequent questions asked by designers and customers who

are interested in the normative and legal framework of concrete, masonry and wood fasteners. Issues will range from the products' legal framework, with some updates on the status quo of the CPR implementation, to the transfer of ETAGs into EADs, and the revision of Eurocodes and CEN standards.

These will be live webinars. Invitations to participants will come from ECAP members and in order to access them, registration will be required. At the end of each presentation there will be a Q&A session, to reply to the participants' questions. For the moment, they will be in English, but the service will probably develop to include other languages. +

[www.ecap-sme.org](http://www.ecap-sme.org)



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## New calculation program for wood

**With fifteen years successful management of its ACP anchor calculation program, ECAP has now launched WCP – a calculation program for wood connectors.**

**C**alculation programs for structural anchors design are now an irreplaceable service, provided by manufacturers to designers, enabling calculation of the characteristics of anchors, taking into account all the project variables, in complex configurations. After fifteen years of successful management of the ACP calculation program, software that is based on Eurocodes for structural anchors used in concrete and masonry, ECAP members launched the calculation program for wood connectors 'WCP'.

WCP was realised through cooperation between ECAP, an engineering, and an IT firm, which developed the program. ECAP guarantees a constant update on the legislative situation, on standards, EADs, and Eurocodes. Here comes the innovative ECAP

touch: There are several cases where Eurocodes ask for certain choices to be discussed. A program from the shelf will make the choice for you. In WCP, the calculation choices are made by members in a constant technical dialogue on a hosted web platform.

It is not only about knowing what's inside the program. Each company takes part and drives the development, deciding what the program must do and in which way. ECAP members gain technical knowledge by participating in the development, and can customise the program according to their needs, using personalised customised interfaces. Through ECAP membership, however, the management costs are shared. +

## ECAP introduces Good Site Practices for installers

**ECAP has launched downloadable Good Site Practice guides for installers, and through its cooperative approach has ensured they are available in a number of European languages.**

**T**he Treaty of Lisbon establishes that security is the competence of Member States. Execution and installation do not form a part of the Construction Products Regulation. The management of such an important issue is left to individual producers and Member States – and that includes the installer's education.

While there are extremely detailed ETAs, rich in information and specifically conceived for the designer, a shared European approach on simpler European documents to support good practice on the jobsite is lacking. Across Europe it goes from one extreme to the other – from countries that have given no consideration at all to the education and guidance of installers, to others that have issued detailed national standards. In some, the installer certification becomes a true barrier to trade. One example is the mandatory 'single-product certification' required by Germany for post-installed rebars – which means installers are obliged to repeat certifications for each single product of each individual manufacturer.

So, each manufacturer adds to its products a user manual, or YouTube videos, or provides company seminars and creates its own 'academy'.

Everything is strictly customised for each product, with huge costs and dispersion of information for final users.

Whilst ECAP is trying to tackle the topic at European CEN level, ECAP members felt the need to produce concise and short documents, to be used on the construction site, which underline not the ETAs' detail, but the macro problems of installing anchors. The members' shared experience shows that installers who have been prepared to face the main problems of installation are ready to accept and acknowledge the specificities of each product.

So, in 2017 the ECAP Good Site Practices for installers was born, divided according to the anchor families. The Good Site Practices mainly contain drawings and concise texts, and are made to be displayed on-site on smartphones or printed on an A4 page. Single Good Site Practices can be downloaded from the Members' websites in their respective languages. All of the translations, carried out by each ECAP member in mutual exchange, are available from the public area of the ECAP website, under the section 'Projects'. The Good Site Practices project will continue in 2018, during which it will be extended to different product families. +

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