

## **International Ergonomics Association (IEA): Building and Construction Technical Committee**

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### **The establishment of the IEA**

The founding of the IEA was preceded by discussions made at several meetings and initiatives on the part of various individuals.

The Ergonomics Research Society (ERS) founded in England in 1949 held various events that had a major influence on the founding of the IEA. The European Productivity Agency (EPA) founded in 1953, initiated a project entitled 'Fitting the Task to the Worker', which drew the attention of people who later played key roles in founding the IEA.

A decision to explore the feasibility of an international association was made at an EPA seminar held in Leyden, Holland, in 1957. In 1959, the steering (preparatory) committee of the future IEA, which was held in conjunction with the ERS symposium, decided on the founding of the IEA.

In 1961, the first meeting of the IEA's General Assembly was held in Stockholm, Sweden. This meeting formally completed the preparatory phase of the association and started the regular activities of the IEA.

In 1967, the IEA became the association of federated societies worldwide, ending the period when the IEA was a society of individuals.

In 2011, the IEA became an international not-for-profit organisation in Zürich (Switzerland).

### **Mission and goals**

The mission of the IEA is to elaborate and advance ergonomics science and practice, and to expand its scope of application and contribution to society to improve the quality of life, working closely with its constituent societies and related international organisations.

The main goals of the IEA are to:

- develop more effective communication and collaboration with federated societies;
- advance the science and practice of ergonomics at an international level, and
- enhance the contribution of the ergonomics discipline to global society.

### **Building and Construction Technical Committee (TC)**

This is one of 28 Committees. The objectives of this TC are to:

- stimulate research and best practices in construction ergonomics;
- stimulate the publication of scientific articles in the area of construction ergonomics;
- support a network of experts, who work partly or completely for the construction industry in any of the sub fields of ergonomics, and
- participate and/or organise collaborative events for researchers and practitioners in academia and industry to share recent results of projects, focussing on the:
  - effectiveness of ergonomic measures, and

- effectiveness of implementation strategies e.g. knowledge dissemination, adoption of ergonomic measures, commitment of stakeholders such as architects, principals, and main contractors.

This TC focuses on human factors in the construction industry, which is affected by a high incidence of musculoskeletal disorders, injuries, and fatalities worldwide. Reflecting the international nature of the problem, ergonomists and researchers participate from all over the world. The TC organises a symposium at the triennial IEA Congresses.

#### **Forthcoming event**

The IEA 2021 Congress is scheduled for the 13-18 June, 2021, Vancouver, Canada.

#### **For more information**

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