

GLOBE Consensus – In-person Ordinary Meeting and Workshop

13-14 January 2025, Lausanne, Switzerland



Between January 13 and 14 the annual Ordinary Meeting and Workshop of the [GLOBE Global Consensus on Sustainability in the Built Environment](#) took place. The workshop was happening under the motto “Guidelines for Sustainable Structural Design”.



Attendants of the event. Image courtesy of Wolfram Schmidt, BAM.

After welcoming and opening by GLOBE President [David Ruggiero](#), the workshop started with a series of inspiring presentations given by [Freja Nygaard Rasmussen](#), [Dario Trabucco](#), [Will Arnold](#), [Cyrille Dunant](#), [Célia Kupfer](#), and [Stuart Smith](#) on topics of LCA, engineering responsibilities, support tools for engineers, structural and materials roles in low carbon, reuse of concrete, and practical implementation, respectively.

These presentations formed an excellent entry into the interactive workshop discussions related to the future of GLOBE and next steps to be achieved. In the workshops, it was found that structural decisions are by far the most critical and central elements to reduce the carbon footprint of buildings, as they determine not only the volume and kind of materials that are required but also the use and longevity of structures. Therefore, a major obstacle to implementing sustainable materials and structures is the typically late entry of materials and structural engineers into the decision-making process. Hence, a major task of GLOBE has to be to influence the early decision makers in a positive ways and support decision making towards sustainable structures right at the beginning of the process. It was agreed that translation and simplification to the core principles as well as education, information and training are required. Due to the global complexity and the need to address sustainability issues within regional scopes to also include socio-economics beyond climate and environmental aspects into the sustainability framework, GLOBE will aim in future to provide better decision-making tools that help to understand the implications of decisions within the planning process of structures and infrastructures.



Some moments of the events. Image courtesy of Wolfram Schmidt, BAM.

The programme ended with a presentation by [Martin Röck](#) on the progress of the [GlobalBuildingData Initiative](#), which is one of running GLOBE flagship projects. The meeting offered an excellent, hybrid and diverse exchange between leading experts and drivers of sustainable innovation from all over the world. GLOBE is an initiative of the [Liaison Committee](#): [RILEM](#), [fib](#), [CIB](#), [ECCS](#), [IABSE](#), and [IASS](#), under the umbrella of the [Joint Committee of the GLOBE Consensus](#).



Associations of the Liaison Committee.



GLOBE Ordinary Meeting and Workshop: *Guidelines for Sustainable Structural Design*

Lausanne, Switzerland

Monday, January 13th, 2025 – Tuesday, January 14th, 2025

Agenda (all times CET)

Monday, January 13th

Venue – [Starling Hotel Conference Center](#) at EPFL Campus

Rte Cantonale 31, 1025 Saint-Sulpice

Zoom link and ID: <https://epfl.zoom.us/j/63172746931> Passcode: 097929

12:00 – 12:45	Arrival and standing lunch
12:45 – 13:00	Welcome and introductions
13:00 – 13:15	Workshop goals and overview of the process
13:15 – 15:00	Inputs and perspectives
	Freja Nygaard Rasmussen (NTNU, Norway) LCA input data – pitfalls and practices
	Dario Trabucco (IUAV, Italy) The responsibility of the structural engineer in the quest for zero carbon buildings
	Cyrille Dunant (University of Cambridge, UK) No best material: shape, function and the quest for easy answers
	Will Arnold (IStructE, UK) Updates and progress at IStructE
	Célia Kupfer (EPFL, Switzerland) Reusing concrete: a new strategy for decarbonising construction
	Stuart Smith (Arup Berlin, Germany) From Potential to Practice: Making Material Efficiency a Reality
15:00 – 15:15	Break
15:15 – 15:45	Panel and group discussion
15:45 – 16:45	Breakout: participant experience; identifying scope, existing guidelines, key focus areas, stakeholder and regional perspectives
16:45 – 17:30	Summary and plenary discussion

Tuesday, January 14th

Venue – [Olympic Museum](#) “Lausanne Room”

Quai d'Ouchy 1, 1006 Lausanne

Zoom link and ID: <https://epfl.zoom.us/j/62052235167> Passcode: 861027

8:30 – 8:45	Welcome
8:45 – 9:00	Recap and reflections on Day 1
9:00 – 10:00	Breakout: key takeaways; hierarchy of considerations and solutions for sustainable structural design
10:00 – 10:30	Summary and plenary discussion
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 11:30	Outlining of guideline document(s); assigning chapter leads and next steps
11:30 – 12:00	All other GLOBE business and closing remarks



Getting around

Lausanne is well-served by rail and public transit:

Website of the Swiss rail service: <https://www.sbb.ch>

Website of the Lausanne transit service: <https://www.t-l.ch>

Further information: <https://www.lausanne-tourisme.ch/en/access-to-lausanne/>

Starling Hotel Conference Center

Rte Cantonale 31, 1025 Saint-Sulpice

Suggested transit from Lausanne Train Station

Bus number 1 (direction *EPFL/Colladon*) to stop *Campus des medias*
Walk (5 min.) via Rte Cantonale

OR

Metro M1 (direction *Croisettes*) to stop *Lausanne, Flon*

Transfer to Metro M2 (direction *Renens, gare*) to stop *EPFL*

Use underpass to cross tracks and walk (11 min.) south through EPFL campus

Suggested transit from Renens Train Station

Bus number 31 (direction *Venoge sud*) to stop *Pâqueret*
Walk (8 min.) via Rte Cantonale

OR

Metro M2 (direction *Lausanne, Flon*) to stop *EPFL*

Use underpass to cross tracks and walk (11 min.) south through EPFL campus

Olympic Museum

Quai d'Ouchy 1, 1006 Lausanne

Note: Entry from the south (lake side) door

Suggested transit from Starling Hotel

Bus number 1 (direction *Blécherette*) to stop *Jardin botanique*

Transfer to bus number 25 (direction *Pully, gare*) to stop *Musée Olympique*

OR

Bus number 1 (direction *Blécherette*) to stop *Cour*

Walk (13 min.) via Av. de Cour and Av. de l'Elysée

Suggested transit from Lausanne Train Station

Bus number 21 (direction *Paudex, Verrière*) to stop *Musée Olympique*

OR

Metro M2 (direction *Ouchy-Olympique*) to stop *Délices*

Walk (10 min.) via Av. de l'Elysée

OR

Metro M2 (direction *Ouchy-Olympique*) to stop *Ouchy-Olympique*

Walk (15 min.) via Quai de Belgique (scenic route ☺)

For any other questions, please feel free to contact David Ruggiero (david.ruggiero@epfl.ch).