

Welcome EAAE president Karl-Otto Ellefsen On behalf of the European Association for Architectural Education I welcome you to the 2016 EAAE Conference in Delft. We thank TU Delft, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment for hosting the 2016 Conference. Our yearly events were for many years termed “meetings of heads of schools” and were directed by ENHSA in sunny and Mediterranean, Chania, Greece. In Milano in 2015 we initiated a new series of Conferences focusing on architectural education, research in the field of architecture, and the role of the institutions educating architects. The meetings also include reports from the EAAE Academies, the dissemination from different projects, and the EAAE General Assembly.

This year we are doing a case study. The title “For example Delft” points to a discussion of different institutional profiles. We are visiting an ambitious institution, eager to develop its education to cover new societal roles for the architect and the discipline, an institution where architectural research has matured, and a department with a strong intention to recruit students, teachers and researchers globally. Delft represents one of many institutional and educational profiles that we see formatted in the different European schools of architecture. During the Conference these profiles will be presented, compared and discussed.

Our 2017 conference will also be the celebration of the EAAE’s 40th anniversary and will take place in Bordeaux, France. I promise you – all people that have contributed to the development of our organization will be invited.

Schools of architecture are indeed European institutions, and a system of institutions in Europe. In a situation where the spirit of Europe seems to be challenged, we have to remind ourselves that the architecture of Europe and the architecture of the cities of Europe signify the continent. Architecture will in the years to come be utterly recognized and considered as a unique, cultural and also economic value. Europe needs the discipline and the profession. The schools are transforming and adapting to new challenges. A network of 150 schools, aiming to be 200, represents a vast pool of experiences, knowledge and alternative strategies, to tap into and build networks. This is what the EAAE Conferences are all about.

Oslo 26th of July 2016, Karl Otto Ellefsen, President EAAE