

EUROCODE 7: 202x

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECOND GENERATION OF STRUCTURAL EUROCODES

In January 2015, the European Commission gave the go ahead through its mandate M/515 for the development of the second generation of Structural Eurocodes. The Commission provided €4.5M in initial funds to support Phase 1 of the programme of work proposed by CEN TC250, the committee responsible for developing and maintaining the Eurocodes. The full programme of work envisaged by TC250 will be delivered over four Phases and receive funding of the order of €10M from the European Commission.

Technical work on Phase 1 got underway in October 2015, when a total of 25 Project Teams (with 6 members each) began revising and extending the ten European standards (ENs 1990-1999) that form the existing Eurocode suite. The aim of this work is to develop new standards and new parts of existing standards, to incorporate new performance requirements and design methods, and to enhance the user-friendliness of the Eurocodes.

PHASE 1 – DEVELOPMENT OF EN 1997-1, GENERAL RULES

TC250/SC7 (the sub-committee responsible for EN 1997 – Geotechnical design) had already prepared its own plans for the revision of Eurocode 7 during the period 2010-15, when its 13 'Evolution Groups' brainstormed new ideas and developments for the code. A key proposal was to split Eurocode 7 into three parts (instead of two), by keeping general rules for geotechnical design in Part 1 and moving specific rules for different geotechnical structures into (a new) Part 3.

Under Phase 1 of the mandate, initial work on Eurocode 7 was shared by two Project Teams (PTs). PT1 was made responsible for splitting the existing code into three parts and for eliminating the need for different Design Approaches for geotechnical design. PT2 was given the task of revising the text of the remaining contents of EN 1997-1. At the same time, clauses dealing with the basis of geotechnical design were being transferred to EN 1990, which is to be retitled 'Basis of structural and geotechnical design' to reflect its change in scope.

The last draft of the new EN 1997-1 has just been delivered (end of October 2017) by PT2, for review by the National Standards Bodies (NSBs) of CEN. The final PT2 draft will be delivered in April 2018, having been revised in accordance with the NSBs' comments. The period from now to the end of January 2018 is therefore crucial if practising engineers' views on the draft are to be taken into account.

PHASE 2 – DEVELOPMENT OF EN 1997-2 AND 1997-3

Phase 2 of the mandated work on Eurocode 7 has just got underway. Three new Project Teams have been appointed to develop EN 1997-2 – Ground investigation (PT3) and EN 1997-3 – Geotechnical structures (PTs 4 and 5). A meeting of SC7's Working Groups 2 and 3 will be held in Berlin in December to discuss and help plan the work of the new PTs.

Report by Dr Andrew Bond (Chairman of SC7), November 2017