



A STATE OF THE ART OF
INTERIOR'S
PROFESSIONALIZATION
PROCESS IN EUROPE

A BINARY SPIDER MODEL APPROACH

(ECIA/UA - 2023)



University of Antwerp
Faculty of Design Sciences



SPIDER MODELS RESEARCH

GATHERING DATA TO GAIN INSIGHT
INTO OUR PROFESSION ACROSS
VARIOUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF
ANTWERP.

Contact : Dominic Haag-Walthert



Co-funded by
the European Union



The professionalization of interior architecture in Europe

Els De Vos





Els De Vos
Piet Lombaerde
(red.)

VAN ACADEMIE TOT UNIVERSITEIT

350 jaar architectuur
in Antwerpen



VANUIT HET BINNENHUIS DE WERELD VEROVEREN. EEN GESCHIEDENIS VAN DE OPLEIDING INTERIEUR- ARCHITECTUUR (1941-2013)¹

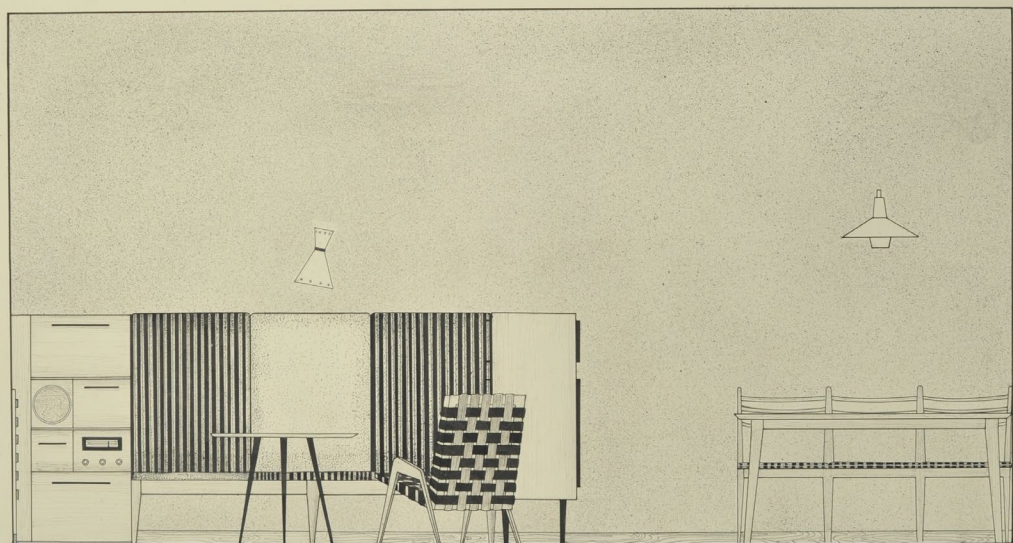
Els De Vos

"U zult merken [...] dat wat hier gedaan wordt, afwijkt van wat men elders in hetzelfde onderwijs naar voor brengt. [...] Wij hebben een geheel andere en, laat mij toe te zeggen, bredere opvatting van wat binnenhuis is. Ik zou willen dat U begrijpt dat binnenhuis onmiddellijk verband houdt met architectuur en dat de benaming ensembler in deze cursus geen betekenis heeft. Wij willen hier in de eerste plaats geen decorateurs kweken, maar mensen die interieurkunst begrijpen als een integrerend deel van de architectuur en die [...] inzicht moet hebben in de diepere, in de hogere waarden van het leven."

Met deze woorden verwelkomde Jul De Roover (1913-2010) op 24 februari 1951 de ouders van de studenten uit de vijf jaar eerder opgerichte volwaardige binnenhuisafdeling van de School voor Bouwkunst en Stedenbouw te Antwerpen. De studentenprojecten omschreef hij als 'blijk gevend aan een zeker enthousiasme en geloof in vernieuwing. Zij stellen soms de oplossingen zeer scherp, hoekig en voor oningewijden mogelijk ongenietbaar. Wij denken dat deze jongeren hoekig moeten zijn in hun overtuiging, het leven zal hen al genoeg tot afronden verplichten.' Aan de ouders gaf hij nog mee: 'Ik verwacht van U vandaag geen bewonderen; maar wel dat U vertrouwen zou hebben in hetgeen wij hier samen uitrichten in de beste verstandhouding. Wij denken nog steeds dat we van



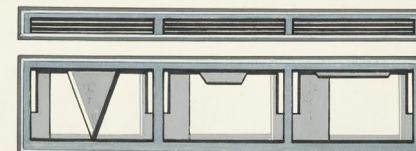
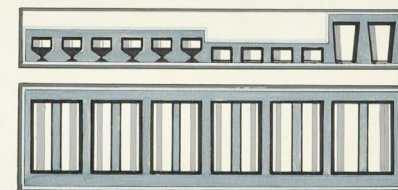
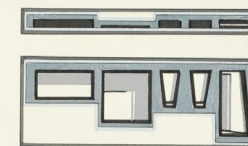
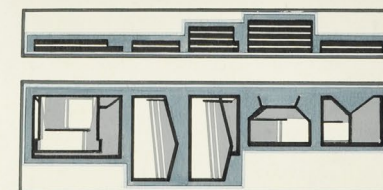
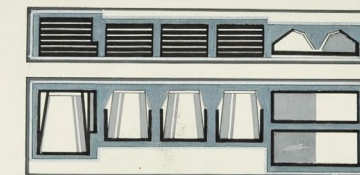
1946: *binnenhuiskunst* [Domestic Interior Art]



ONTWERP WOON-EETKAMER
WONINGGROEP . JACOB SMITSSTRAAT . BORGERHOUD
OPSTAND AB VERMIN WALLY 2 J.BHK. SCHAAL 1/10 27 FEB. '54



Jul De Roover
founder of IA programme,
© private collection



Left: student work of Wally Vermin, 1954
Right: pen drawing of Student A. Baele, s.d.
© Archive Interior Architecture UAntwerpen

1964: *binnenhuisarchitectuur* [Domestic Interior Architecture]

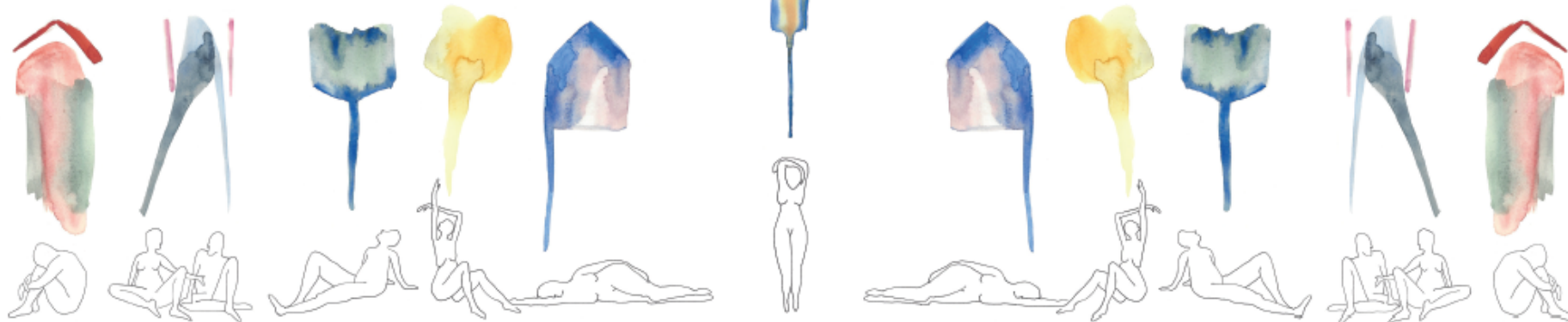
Joining forces with the Antwerp Professional Association of Interior Designers, De Roover launched a legal appeal against the Belgian Association of Architects.



This early fight for recognition, is in line with a current international debate about the disciplinary identity of interior architecture

Advancing Interiors Interiorist voices on identity issues

5
n
identity
issues



Inge Somers



Antwerp 2017
Faculty of Design Sciences
Doctoral dissertation submitted to obtain the degree of doctor in Interior Architecture
to be defended by

Inge Somers

Supervisors:
Prof. Dr. Els De Vos
Prof. Dr. Bart Eeckhout



The emergence of interior architecture in Belgium, 1945-1999

Assessing the impact of education on the identity formation of the design discipline.

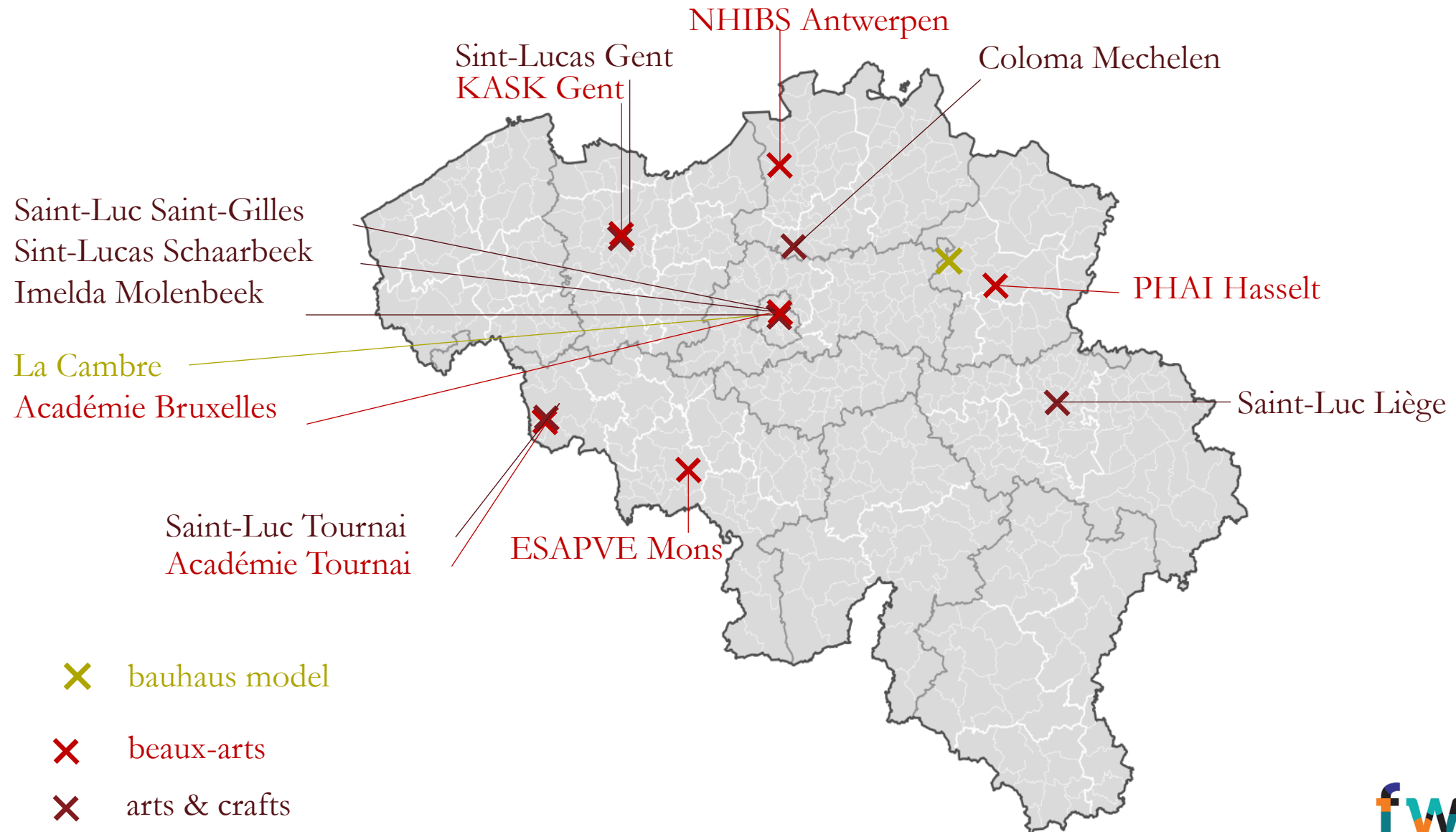
Prof. dr. ir.-arch.
Els De Vos

ir.-arch.
Sam Vanhee

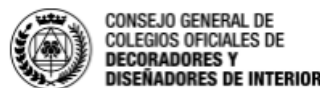
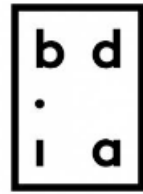
ir.-arch.
Benoît Vandevort

Prof. dr. ir.-arch.
Fredie Floré

Hypothesis: education (history) is an important pillar of the identity of the discipline



RESEARCH for ECIA, a European platform to represent and promote the qualified profession of interior architects/designers



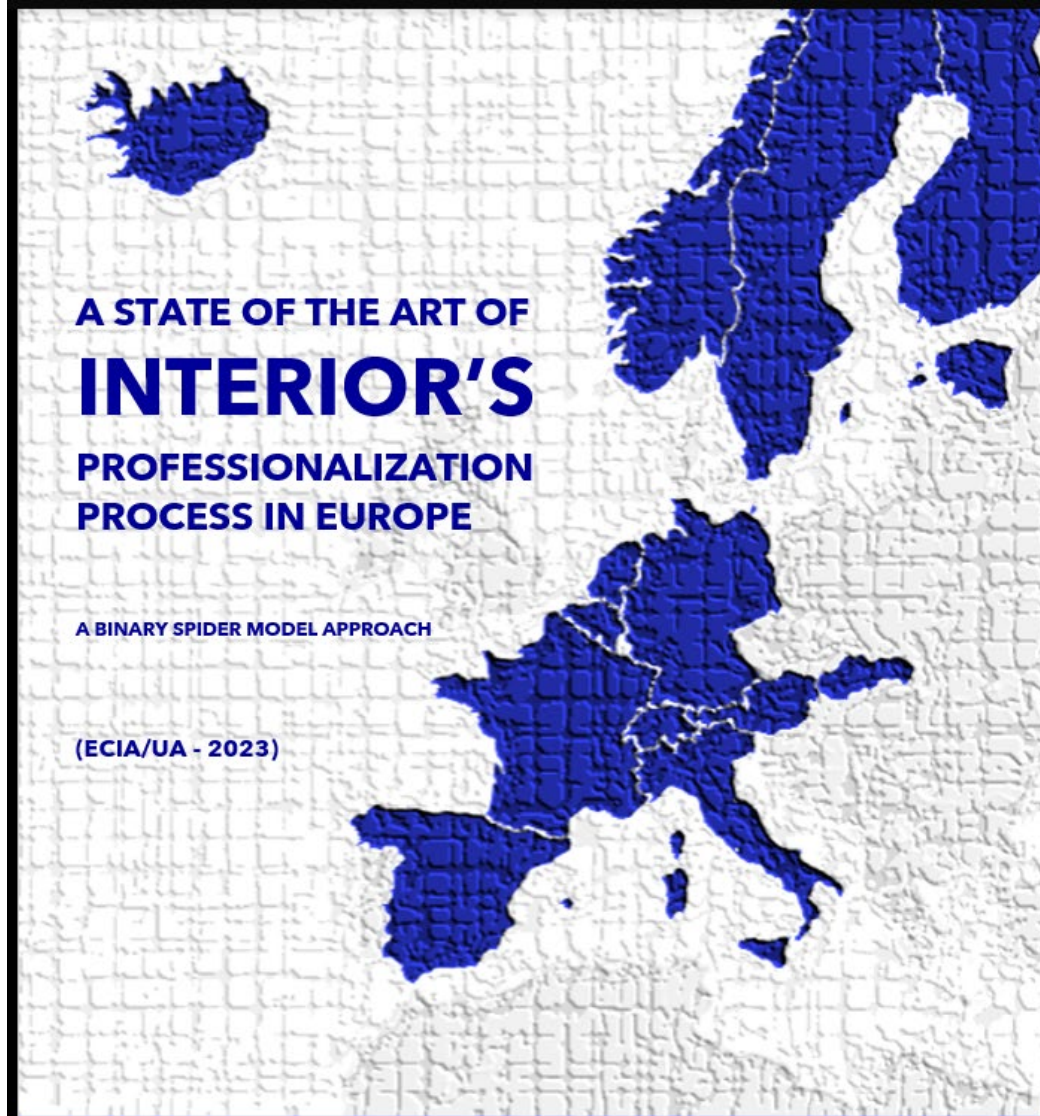
MAPPING

Mapping the professionalization of the Interior Architecture discipline in Europe



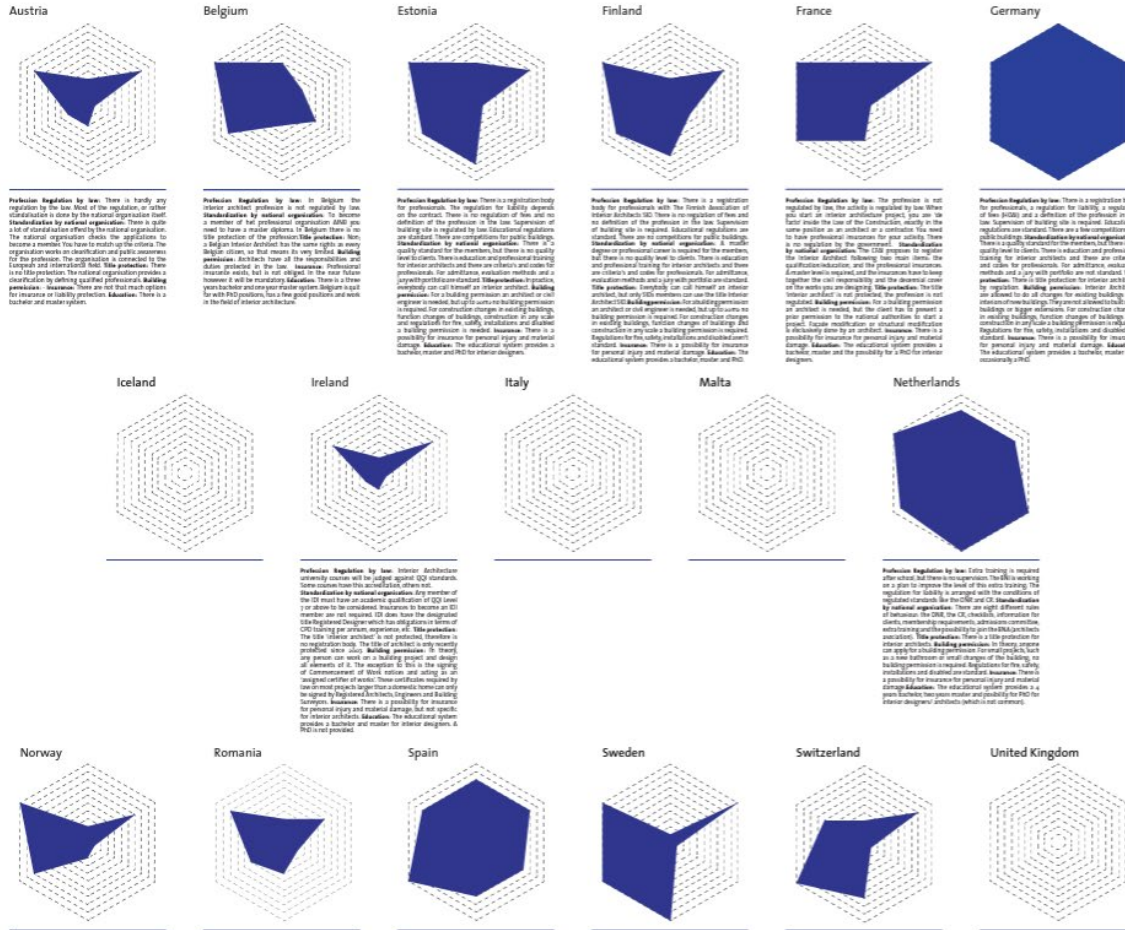
Research: Louis Debersaques
Supervision:

Els De Vos
Inge Somers



University of Antwerp
| Faculty of Design Sciences

RESEARCH of ECIA, a European platform to represent and promote the qualified profession of interior architects/designers



MAPPING THE DIVERSITY IN REGULATION OF THE INTERIOR DISCIPLINE IN EUROPE.



European Council of Interior Architects 25 years anniversary



A study of France, Germany and Norway based upon three regulating frameworks: educational, professional and legislative.

PART 1: RESEARCH REPORT

The European Council of Interior Architects is the representative body for the European professional organizations in Interior Architecture and Design. Founded in 1995, ECIA currently represents 14 members-national organizations, with over 6000 professionals Interior Architects/Designers.

ECIA provides a common platform for the exchange of information on best professional practice. It endorses mutual common standards of education and professional profile for the Associated Interior Architects/Designers in the member organization.

The profession of interior architecture is enhancing the full spectrum of interior architecture, which can be as much an formal design as small-scale architecture. The ECIA has been established to found a European network to intensify the European network for interior architects/ designers and to constantly develop and intensify the profession. This is done by an intensive communication about the profession and sharing ways and a permanent dialogue with the members, partners, and sister organizations, institutions and the European parliament itself.

One of our tasks is to endorse mutual common standards of education and a professional profile for the associated interior architects/ designers of our member organizations. Furthermore we write the ECIA Code of Conduct, a Professional Ethics sets standards for the Associated Interior Architects/Designers on approach and responsibilities within the profession, towards clients, society and environment.

We intensely worked on these themes and developed our mission: "ECIA is an European platform to represent and promote the qualified profession of interior architects/designers."

The profession has various embeddings in the different member countries. Different by law, type

(2017)

(2021)

COUNTRIES

Mapping state of the art of the diversity of the Interior Architecture discipline in Europe



In the countries included interior architecture has a certain visibility, organisation.

Recently 3 new members:

- the British Institute of Interior Design
- Slovak Association of Interior Designers
- the Association of Interior Designers of Bulgaria (observer member)

1	Belgium	AiNB
2	Italia	AIPI
3	Deutschland	GDIA
4	Netherlands	BNI
5	Austria	BOIA
6	Spain	CGCODDI
7	Estonia	ESL/EAIA
8	Iceland	FHI
9	Malta	MIDA
10	Norway	NIL
11	Sweden	SA
12	Slovakia	SAID
13	Finnland	SIO
14	Switzerland	VSI.ASAI
15	Netherlands	Architi.Rg.NL
16	France	CFAI/ReG

RESEARCH

Research question:

What is the degree of professionalisation between countries?

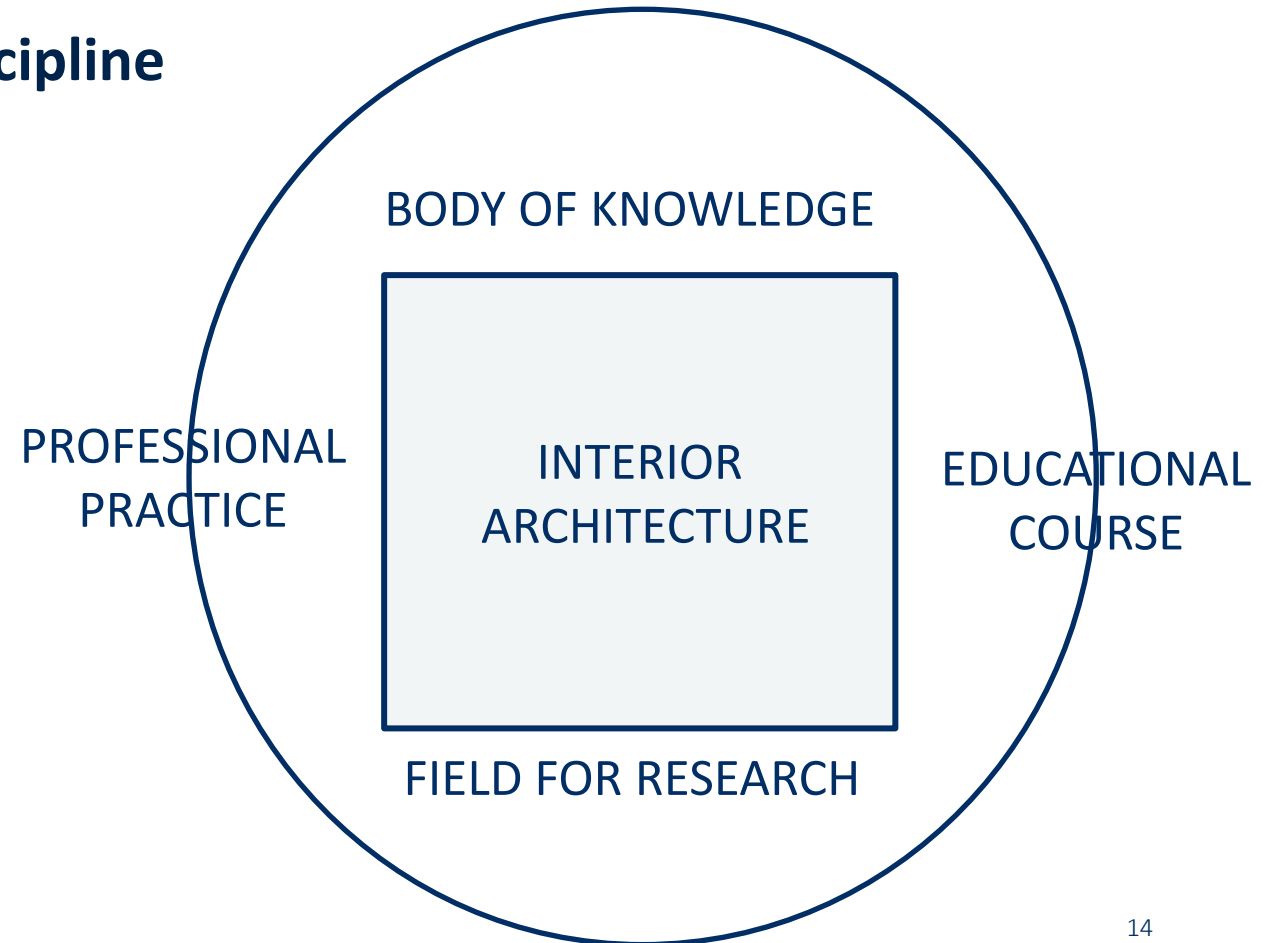
Subquestions: **how is the discipline regulated/organised**
by education
by professional organisations
by the law

Hypothesis: a higher **professionalization** leads to higher acceptance and recognition of interior architecture

CONCEPT of the INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE DISCIPLINE

According to **Ellen S. Klingenberg** (Professor of Interior Architecture in the **Kunsthøgskolen in Oslo**), and elaborated on by **Inge Somers** (University of Antwerp):

the interior discipline as a **4-dimensional discipline**



CONCEPT of PROFESSIONALIZATION

Use of concept of professionalization of Grace Lees-Maffei (University of Hertfordshire)

professionalization can be defined as **the process of developing an activity into a general recognized profession through the setting up of:**

1. Educational institutions
2. Professional organizations
3. Articulation of the codes of conduct (+enforceability, cf. sanctions)
4. Educational rules of assessment
5. Networking and gatekeeping



Are any 'lifelong continued learning'-programs offered in **your country**?

Yes

No

Other

Is the continued learning **mandatory to obtain membership** in professional organizations/chambers?

Yes

No

QUESTIONNAIRE



Education



Practice/organization
and legislation

Attention for
Gender
Diversity

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH EACH COUNTRY



- **Verify & nuance the questionnaire data**
 - To contextualise the data
 - To mediate between education and organisations



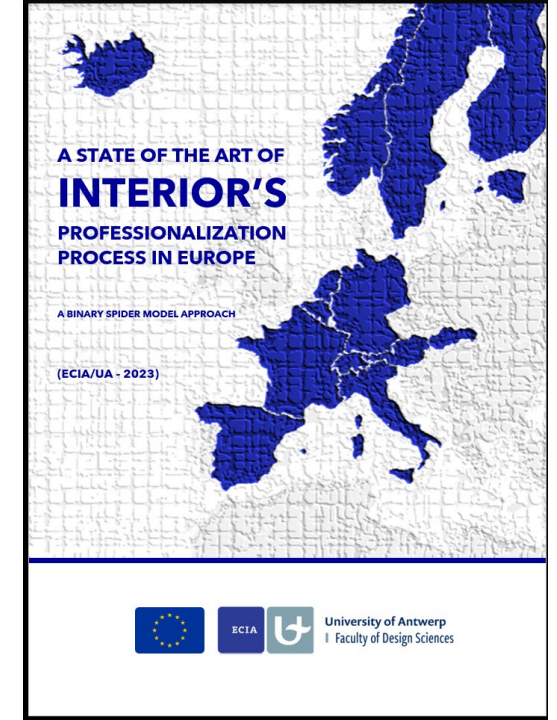
Education



Practice/organization
and legislation

CONTENT

1. **General recognition difficulties / barriers to professionalization**
2. **Spider Model Analyses**
3. **On awareness, stigma: gender, diversity and inclusion**
4. **Concluding remarks**



1. General recognition difficulties / barriers to professionalization

Barriers to professionalization due to:

1. Terminological obscurity
2. Disciplinary “in-betweenness”
3. General recognition issues

1. Terminological obscurity

Interiørarkitektur
Ellen S. Klingenberg (red.)

Norway

◆ Name of Regulated Profession	◆ Country	◆ Region	◆ Recognition Under Directive 2005/36/EC
Architecte d'intérieur	Luxembourg	All Regions	General system of recognition - primary application
Architecte d'intérieur	Switzerland	Genève	General system of recognition - primary application
Belsőépítészeti tervezési szakterület / Építészeti-műszaki tervezési tevékenység	Hungary	All Regions	General system of recognition - primary application
Decorador	Spain	All Regions	General system of recognition - primary application
Décorateur d'intérieur	Luxembourg	All Regions	General system of recognition - primary application
Innanhússhönnudur	Iceland	All Regions	General system of recognition - primary application
Innenarchitekt	Germany	All Regions	General system of recognition - secondary application
Interieurarchitect	Netherlands	All Regions	General system of recognition - primary application
Raumplaner	Liechtenstein	All Regions	General system of recognition - primary application

1. Terminological obscurity

Interior architecture
(structural/spatial)



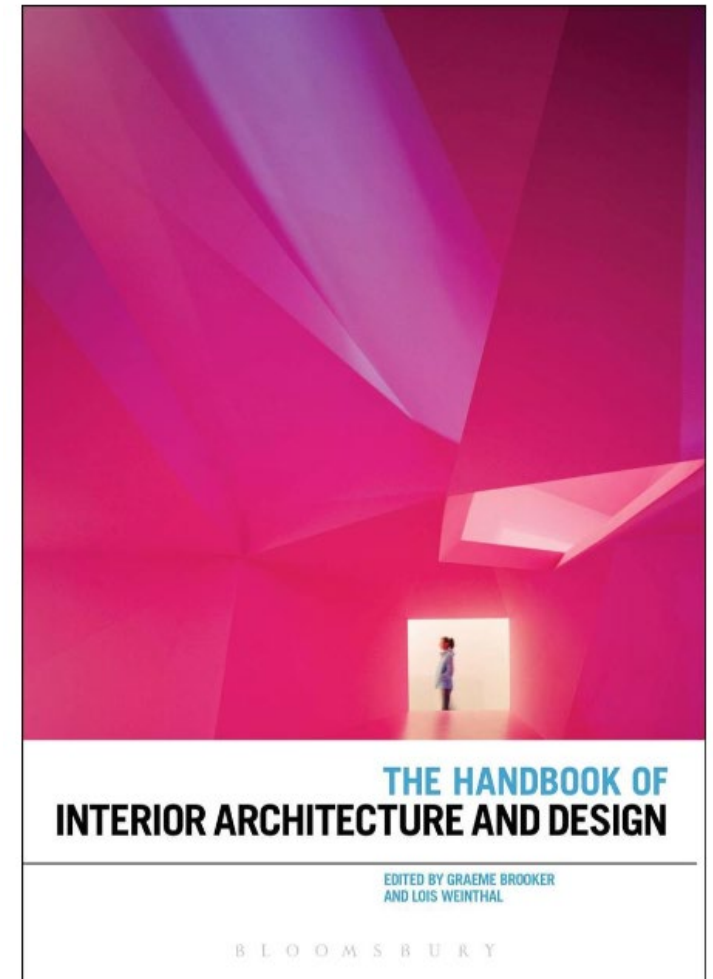
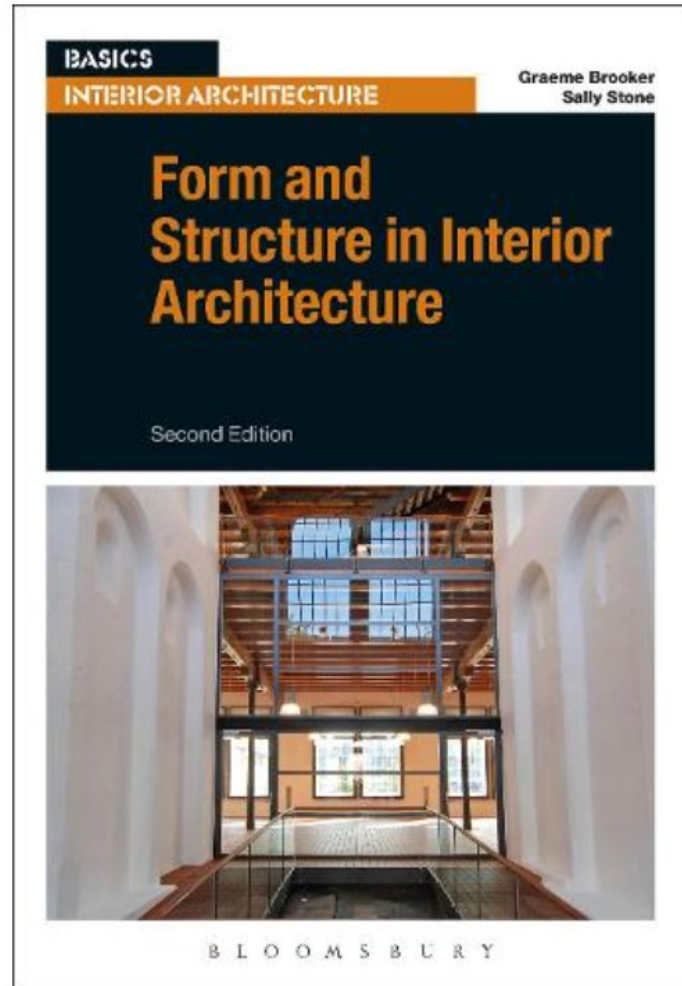
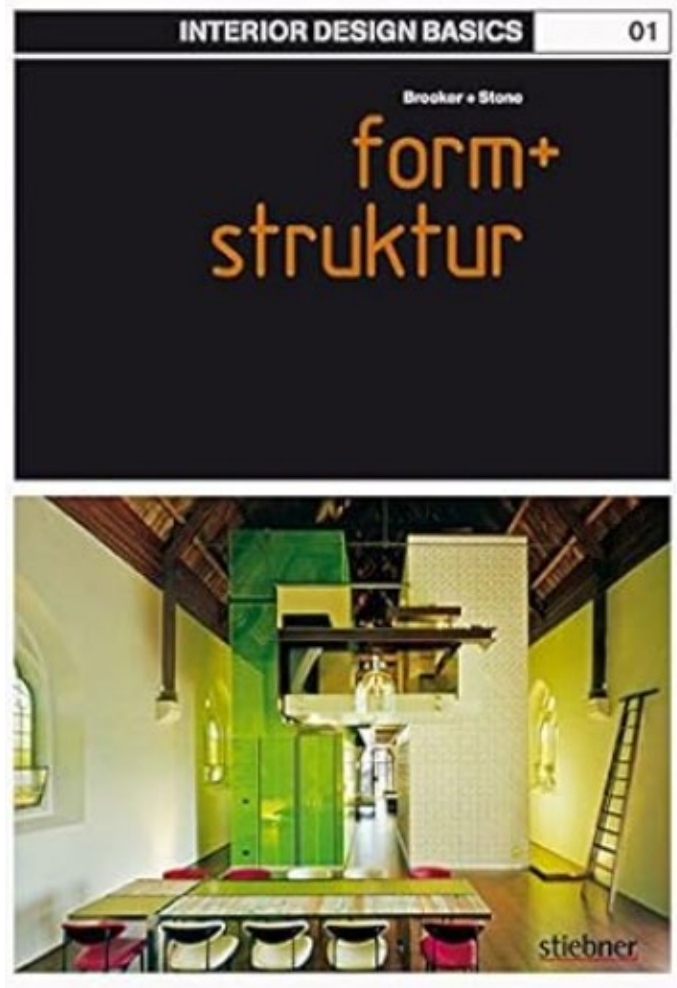
Furniture design
(working with existing materials)

Interior design

Interior decoration
(‘finishing touches’)

1. Terminological obscurity

Visible in titles of books



1. Terminological obscurity

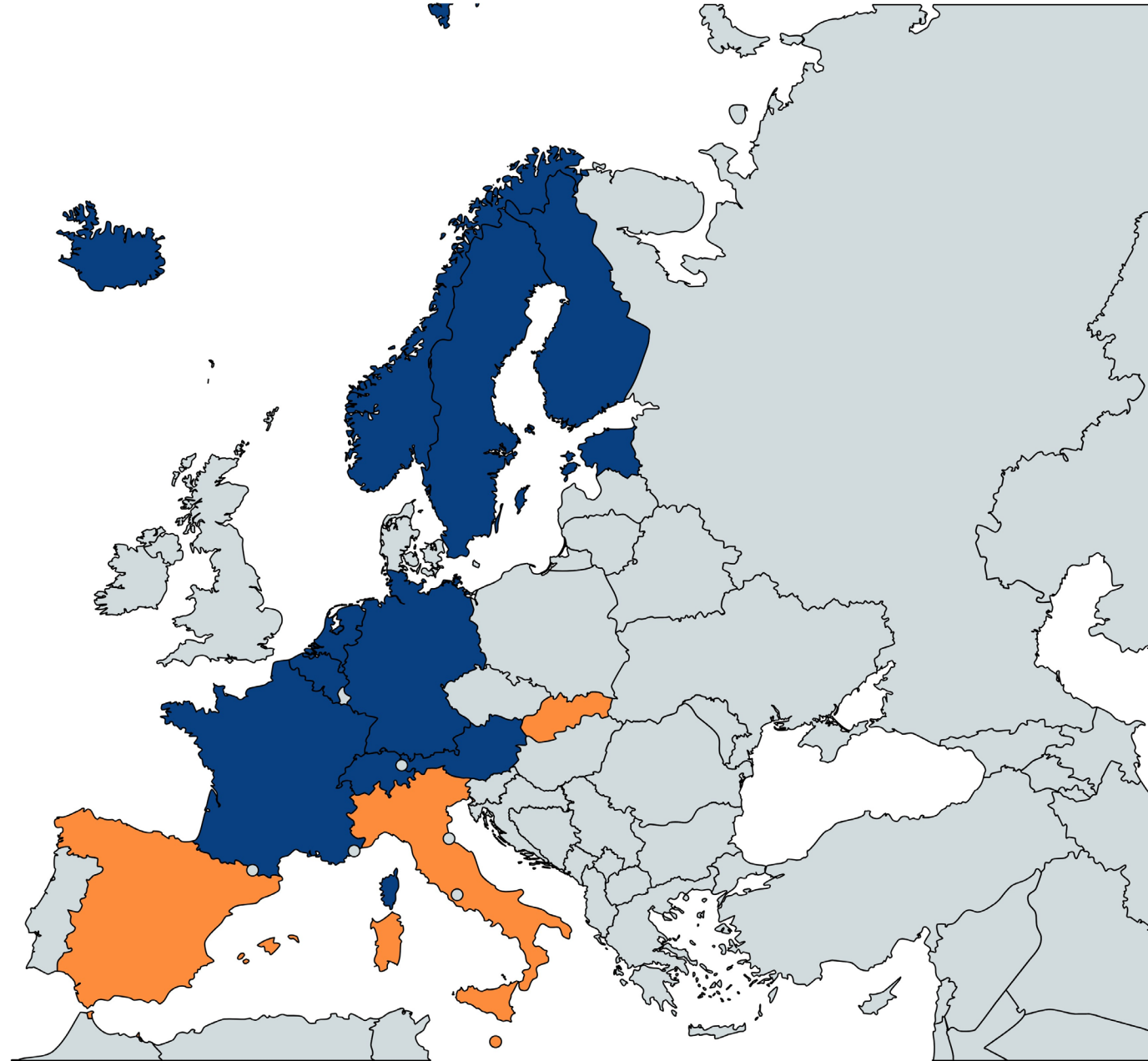
USED TERMINOLOGY

■ "interior architecture"

■ "interior design"

- Interior architecture
- Interior design
- Interior decoration
- ...

- in education (program names)
- Furniture design (specialisation)



1. Terminological obscurity

Sometimes the two terms are used:

In **Italy** at the Polimi of Milan both exist:

- *Interior and spatial design* at the School of Design
- *Interior architecture* as a kind of specialisation at School of Architecture and Urban Studies (DASTU)

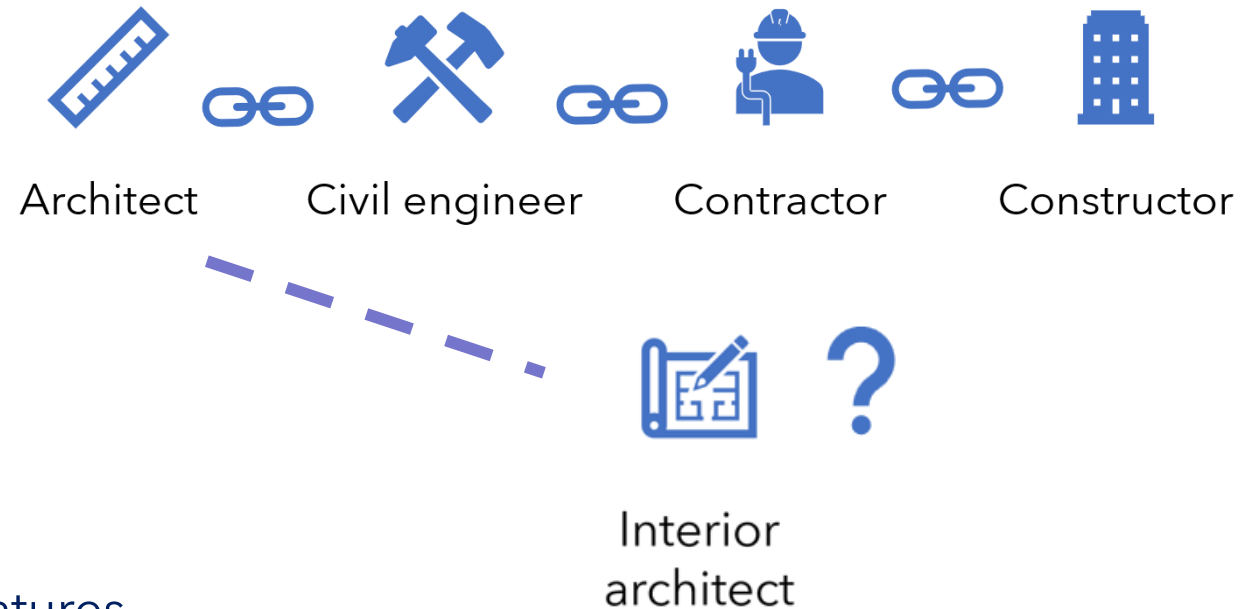
Comparable to **Flanders**, but also different:

- Interieurarchitectuur > academic master at a university
- interieurvormgeving > professional bachelor at a university college

2. Disciplinary in-betweenness

- **Building team chain**

- Expert vs helper vs adviser



- **Conflicting building regulations**

- Certification building permission signatures
 - Diversity in federal states; cantons; provinces
 - Diversity in regional environment
(distant/desolate = more permissions ~ Finland, Austria)

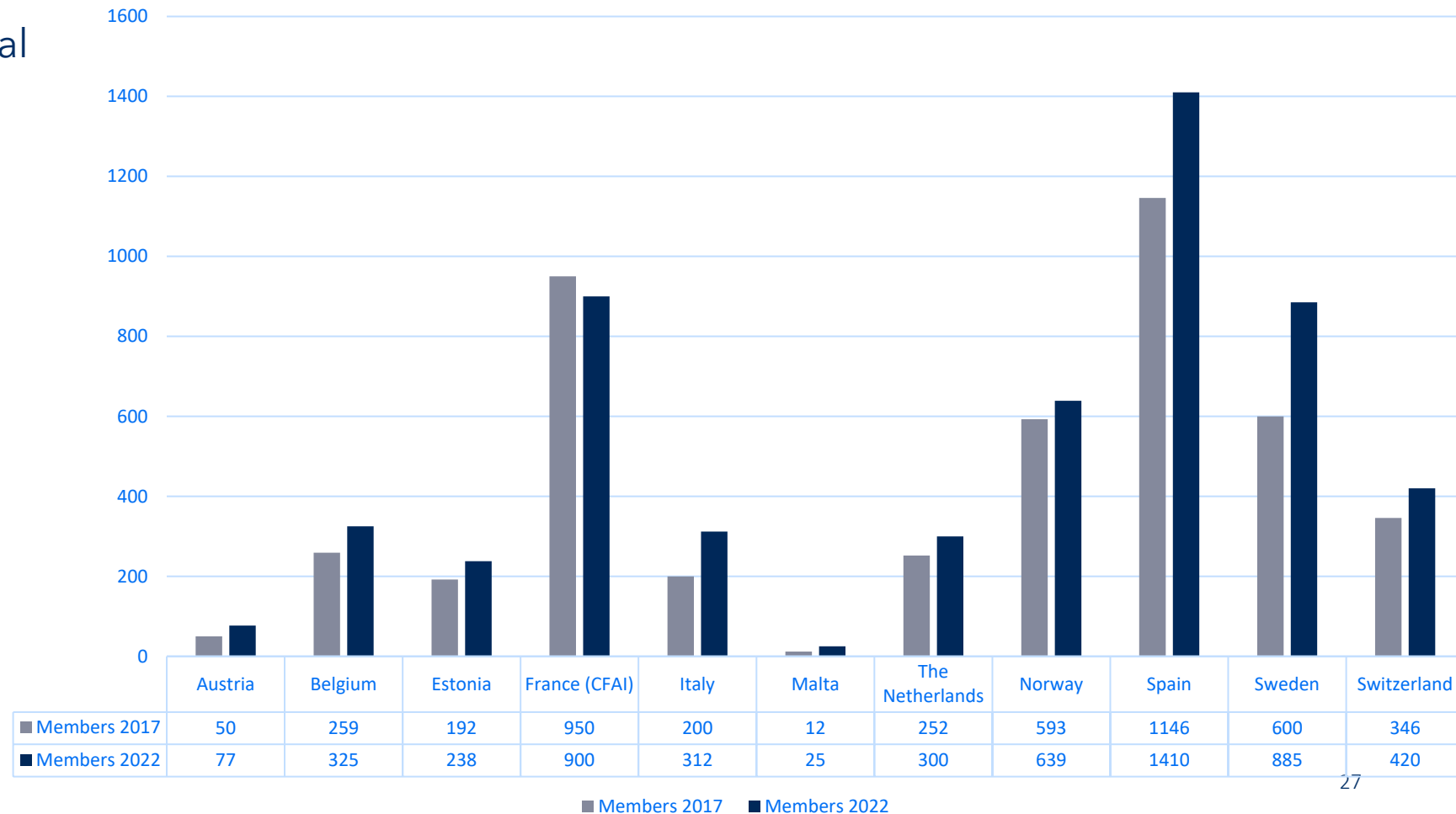


3. Professionalization through general recognition

Recognition

- **Intradisciplinary recognition**
- (be able to define and promote oneself properly)
- national size + geographical peculiarity

"Spider models" 2017 vs. 2022



3. Professionalization through general recognition

Recognition

- **Intradisciplinary recognition** (be able to define and promote oneself properly)
- national size + geographical peculiarity
 - Large countries > more members
 - Small countries > harder to exist. Although Slovakia & Malta, small but well organized organisations
 - Italy: rich tradition in design, so more visible and does the effort to be so
- **Interdisciplinary recognition**
 - Germany and Slovakia specifically aim for an own chamber of Design, instead of being part of a Chamber of Architecture

If we look at, for example, competitions, which they're enrolling very much, they always ask for, for example, structural engineer, landscape architecture, but they seldomly asked for an interior architect. (...) So within architecture, interior architecture isn't perceived as additional quality within the team, but predominantly seen as some something that they can do themselves.

(Wim Van der Vurst, Belgium)

3. Professionalization through general recognition

Public recognition

“Stereotypes are stiff and stick very well.” – on the depiction of interior architects in television programs

Lars RÄIHÄ (Finland)

*“After women's fashion, interior [architecture/design] is, I think, the most described and shown subject on television, so we are also on everyone's tongue and **you have to take advantage of that. You shouldn't see that as a threat.**”*

Kees SPANJERS (The Netherlands)

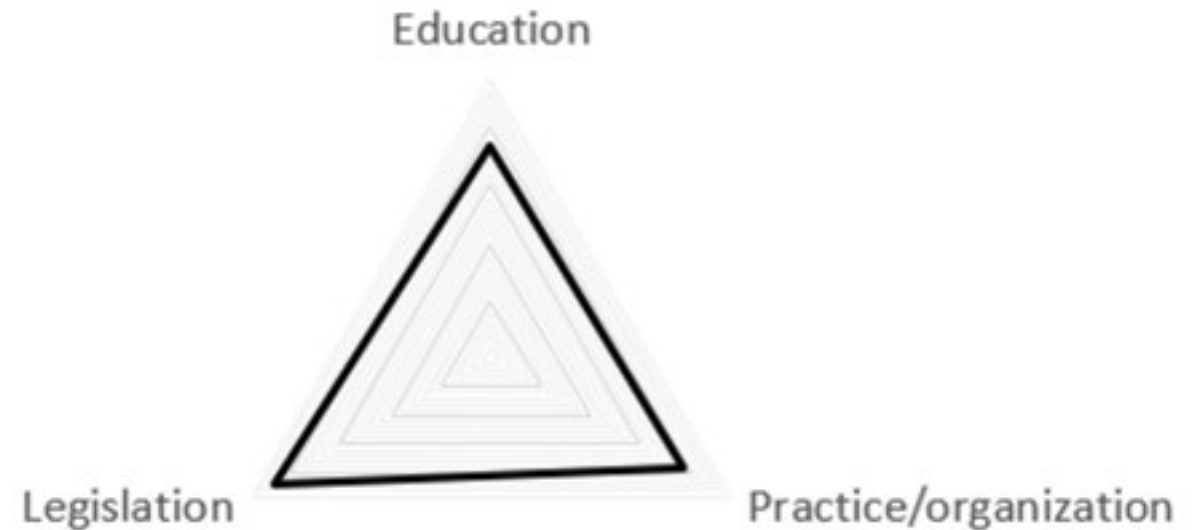
Translated from Dutch.

2. SPIDER MODEL ANALYSES

1. Education
2. Practice / professional organisations
3. Legislation

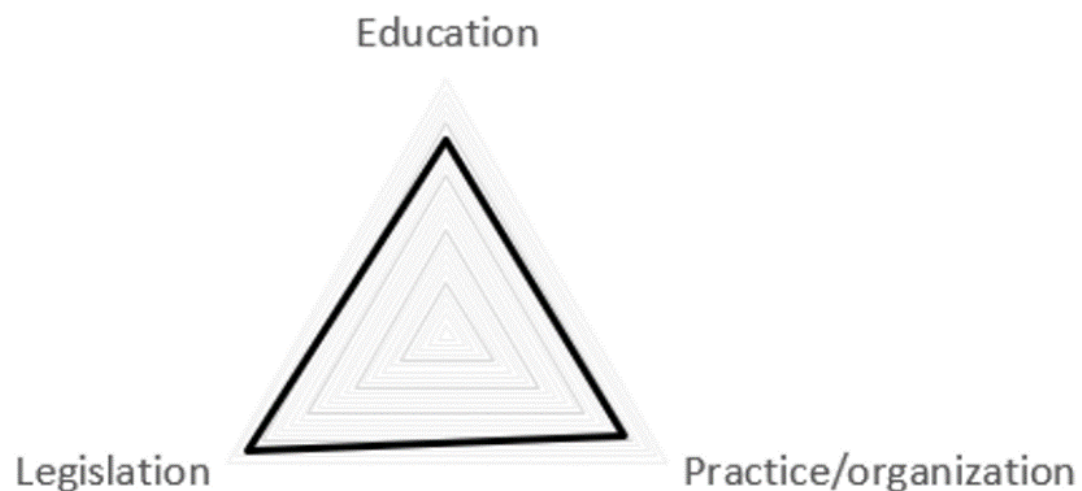
Binary point system

- 1 = present
- 0,5 = present to a certain extent (e.g. PhD in Architecture, specialization IA)
- 0 = absent



The binary system

- From binary to spider model graphs (%)



1	1	1	Variation in educational programs / existence of autonomous interior programs
1	1	1	Variation in educational programs / educational levels / less than 3 years (interior design)
1	1	1	Variation in educational programs / educational levels / 3-year bachelor
1	0	0	Variation in educational programs / educational levels / 4-year bachelor
1	0	0	Variation in educational programs / educational levels / 1-year master
1	1	1	Variation in educational programs / educational levels / 2-year master
6	4	4	Total Variation in educational programs
0	1	0	Institutional context / university
1	1	0	Institutional context / university of applied science
0	0	1	Institutional context / technical colleges
1	1	1	Institutional context / academy of art
2	3	2	Total Institutional context
1	1	0	Research / PhD
1	1	1	Research / other
2	0	1	Definition of competences / specification of competences (BOK)
1	0	1	Total Definition of competences
1	1	1	Control on education / accreditation of education
1	1	1	Total Control on education
1	0	1	Internship/ mandatory
1	0	1	Total Internship
13	10	10	Total Educational regulatory framework

Datamapping: variables



Education:

- Variety of educational routes
- Autonomous interior program availability
- Educational levels (bachelor, master, ...)
- PhD possibilities
- Structure and accreditation
- Lifelong learning possibilities
- Internship options



Professional organization/practice:

- Mandatory membership requirements for professional practice
- Organization membership criteria
- Codes, services and control of compliance as offered/enforced by the organization
- Professional career possibilities for foreigners
- Organization convention rate
- Union work cooperations: presence/absence of intense communication with sister organizations



Legislation:

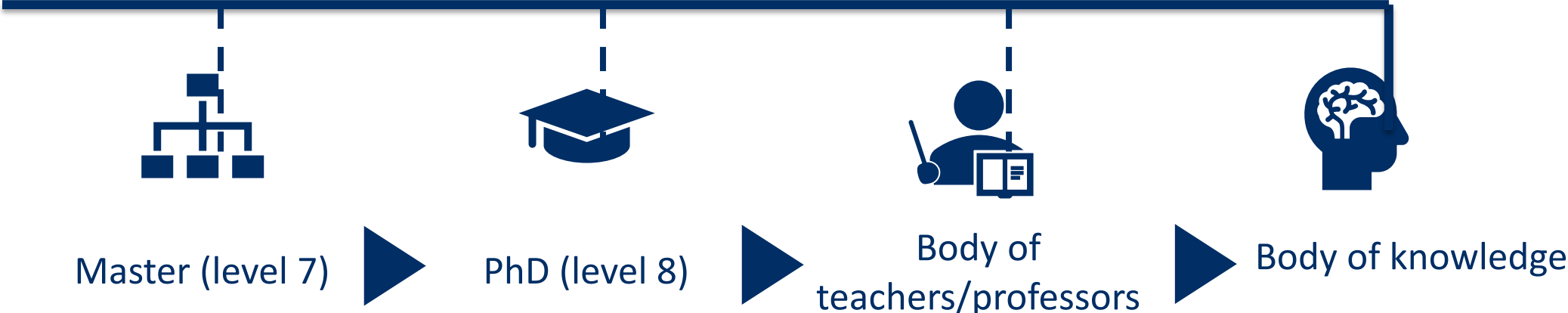
- Legal title protection
- Legal practice regulation
- Legal profession definition
- The need for architects/civil engineer concerning building permits
- Legal restrictions concerning structural or technical intervention
- Competitions/tenders
- Copyright regulations
- Business registration regulations
- Liability insurance regulations

Education axis

AXIS EDUCATION	Educational routes / Institutional context / University	Educational routes/ Institutional context/ Technical University or Polytechnico	Educational routes/ Institutional context / Technical College	Educational routes/ Institutional context / University of Applied Sciences	Educational routes / Institutional context / Academy of Fine Arts	Educational routes / Institutional context / Academy of Applied Arts	Educational routes/ Institutional context / University College	Educational routes / Institutional context / Vocational secondary education	Educational routes / Institutional context / Other (e.g. Design Institute)	Checkpoint 1: variety institution	Educational routes / autonomous interior program available (specific diploma)	Checkpoint 2: program autonomy	Educational routes/ educational levels/ 3-year bachelor	Educational routes/ educational levels/ 4-year bachelor	Educational routes/ educational levels/ 1-year master	Educational routes/ educational levels/ 2-year master	Checkpoint 3: educational levels 1	PHD	Checkpoint 4: educational levels 2	Total: educational routes	Control of educational standards / Accreditation of educational programs	Control of educational standards / Structure of educational programs	Total: control of educational standards	Lifelong learning possibilities	Total: lifelong learning	Internship options	Total: internship	TOTAL EDUCATION (n=19)	TOTAL EDUCATION (100%)
Austria	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	6	1	1	2	0	0	0,5	0,5	8,5	45	
Belgium	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	1	8	1	1	2	0	0	0,5	0,5	10,5	55	
Estonia	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	3	0,5	0,5	5,5	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	8,5	45
Finland	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0,5	0,5	5,5	1	1	2	0	0	0,5	0,5	8	42
France	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	6	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	9	47
Germany	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	0,5	0,5	9,5	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	13,5	71
Iceland	0	0,5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,5	0	0,5	0	0	0,5	1	0	0	1,5	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	3,5	18	
Italy	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0,5	0,5	6,5	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	10,5	55
Malta	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	21	
Netherlands	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	9	47
Norway	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0,5	0,5	5,5	1	1	2	0	0	0,5	0,5	8	42
Slovakia	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	0,5	0,5	5,5	1	1	2	0,5	0,5	1	1	9	47
Spain	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	0	3	0,5	0,5	8,5	0,5	1	1,5	0	0	1	1	11	58
Sweden	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0,5	0,5	5,5	1	1	2	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	8,5	45
Switzerland	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0,5	0	1	2,5	0	0	5,5	1	1	2	0,5	0,5	1	1	9,5	50

Development interior body of knowledge

DEVELOPMENT & STANDARDIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE



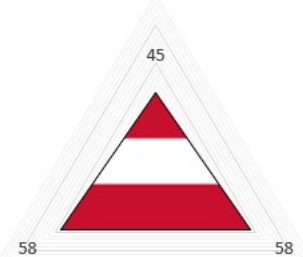
Practice/organization axis

AXIS PRACTICE/ORGANIZATION		Establishment of professional organization / existence of professional organization	Establishment of professional organization / more disciplines (does not count)	Establishment of professional organization / membership required to practice (legal title protection-automatic 1)	Total establishment of professional organization	Controlled membership: educational level / educational level	Controlled membership: professional level (work experience needed)	Controlled membership: entry exam	Controlled membership: jury check	Controlled membership: portfolio check	Controlled membership: educational level / educational level membership / master needed (in case of title protection automatically yes)	Total action 6: controlled membership	Codes, services and control of compliance / code of conduct/ethics	Codes, services and control of compliance / code of conduct / in English	Checkpoint 1: code of conduct/ethics	Codes, services and control of compliance / services / legal advice	Codes, services and control of compliance / services / technical training (e.g. workshops)	Codes, services and control of compliance / services/ "cultural training" (e.g. inspirational exhibitions, lectures, ...)	Codes, services and control of compliance / services / magazine subscriptions	Codes, services and control of compliance / services / educational guidelines (in addition to ECIA-charter)	Codes, services and control of compliance / services / networking (in addition to ECIA conventions)	Checkpoint 2: services by organisation	Codes, services and control of compliance / foreigners admission (with education criteria) / EU	Codes, services and control of compliance / foreigners admission (with education criteria) / non-EU	Checkpoint 3: foreigners admission	Codes, services and control of compliance / formal conventions (1-3)/y=0.5, 3/y=-1	Checkpoint 4: organization conventions	Total: codes, services and control of compliance	Union work/lobbying: collaboration/communication other professions and associations (umbrella- automatically 1)	Total: union work (micro-level networking)	TOTAL PRACTICE/ORGANIZATION (n=20)	TOTAL PRACTICE (100%)
Austria	ECIA affiliated (1)	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11.5	58
Belgium	ECIA affiliated (1)	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11.5	58	
Estonia	ECIA affiliated (1)	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13.5	68		
Finland	ECIA affiliated (1)	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0.5	1	4.5	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	17	85		
France	ECIA affiliated (1)	0	1	0	1	0	1	0.5	1	1	0	3.5	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	75		
Germany	ECIA affiliated (1)	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	4	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16.5	83		
Iceland	ECIA affiliated (1)	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	4	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	68		
Italy	ECIA affiliated (1)	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	4	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16	80		
Malta	ECIA affiliated (1)	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	3	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	60		
Netherlands	ECIA affiliated (1)	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16.5	83		
Norway	ECIA affiliated (1)	0	1	0	1	0	1	0.5	1	0.5	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	13.5	68		
Slovakia	ECIA affiliated (1)	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	10.5	53		
Spain	ECIA affiliated (1)	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14.5	73		
Sweden	ECIA affiliated (1)	0	1	0.5	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	4	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15.5	78		
Switzerland	ECIA affiliated (1)	0	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	0	4.5	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16	80		

Legislation axis

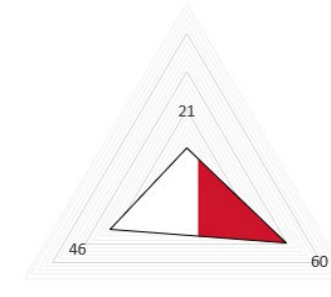
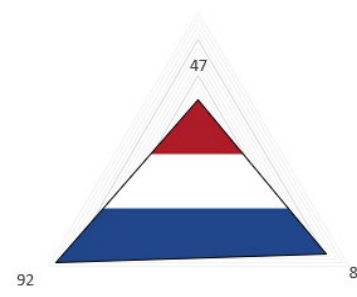
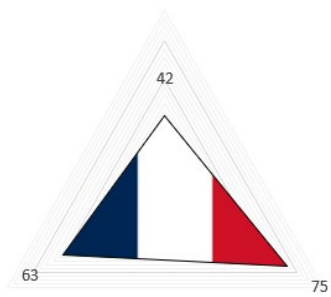
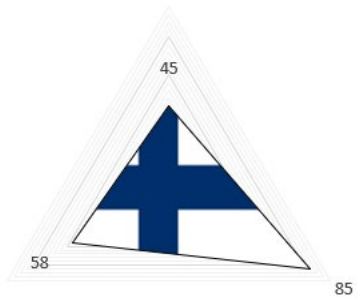
AXIS LEGISLATION	Establishing protection / title / interior architect	Establishing protection / title / architect (does not count to total)	Establishing protection / practice / interior architect	Establishing protection / practice / architect (does not count to total)	Establishing protection / practice / title by organization	Total: legal regulation (title and practice)	Control of the practice / legal restriction regarding practice (building permission) / signature architect/civil engineer or other NOT needed	Control of the practice / legal restriction regarding practice (building permission) / permission drawing structural interventions	Control of the practice / legal restriction regarding practice (building permission) / permission drawing technical interventions	Checkpoint 1: building permits/general regulation	Control of the practice / concerning competitions / specific interior architecture	Control of the practice / concerning competitions / general design (interior architects invited)	Checkpoint 2: competitions	Copyright regulations	Checkpoint 3: copyright	Control of the practice / license to establish a business (ministry/taxes/business registry)	Checkpoint 4: licensing	Control of the practice / mandatory liability insurance to practice	Control of the practice / mandatory liability insurance to join organization	Checkpoint 5: liability insurance	Total: control of the practice	Total: legislation (n=12)	Total: legislation (100%)
	Austria	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	6	7
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	6	6	50
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	6	6	50
Finland	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	58
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0,5	1	1,5	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	7,5	7,5	63
Germany	1	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0,5	0	0,5	7,5	10,5	88
Iceland	1	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	7	10	83
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	6	7	58
Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	0,5	0,5	1	1	0	0	0	5,5	5,5	46
Netherlands	1	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	8	11	92
Norway	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	6	7	58
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0,5	0	0,5	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	4,5	5,5	46
Spain	0,5	0	0	0	0	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	1,5	1	1	2	0,5	0,5	1	1	0	0,5	0,5	5,5	6	50
Sweden	0	0	0	1	1	1	0,5	1	0	1,5	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0,5	0	0,5	5	6	50
Switzerland	0	0	0,5	1	1	1,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	1,5	0,5	0	0,5	1	1	1	1	0,5	0	0,5	4,5	6	50

education



legislation

practice



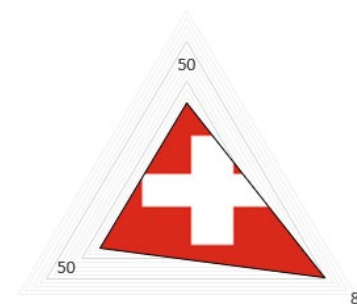
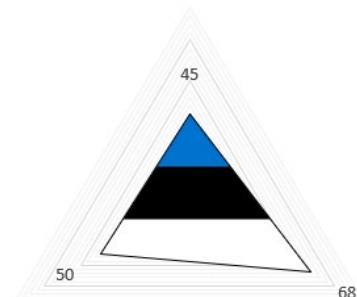
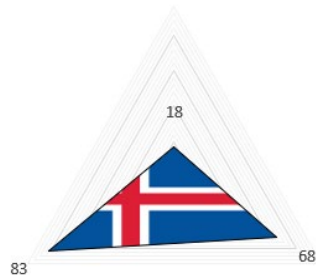
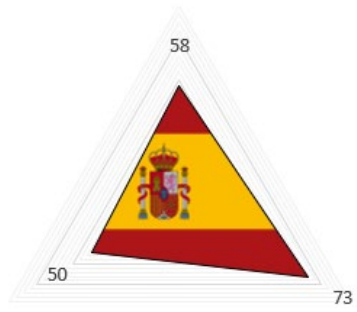
Austria

Finland

France

The Netherlands

Malta



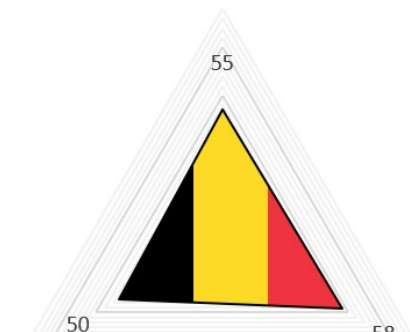
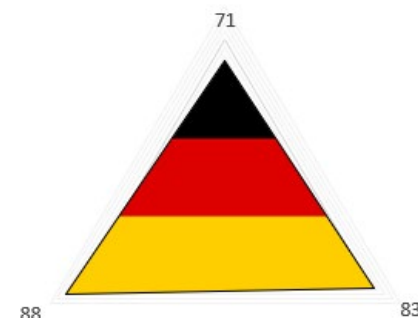
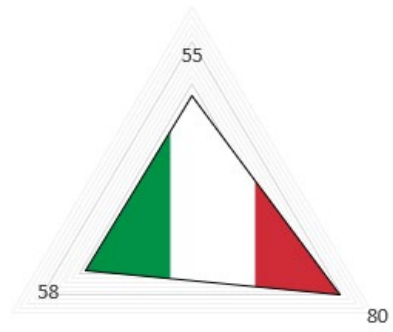
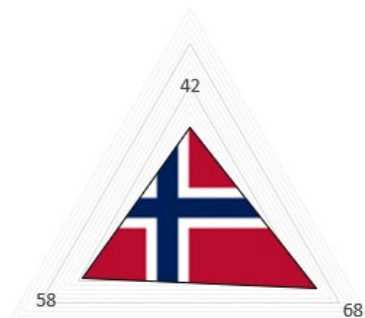
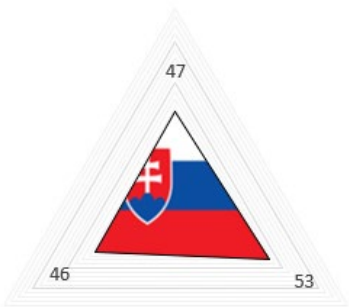
Sweden

Spain

Iceland

Estonia

Switzerland



Slovakia

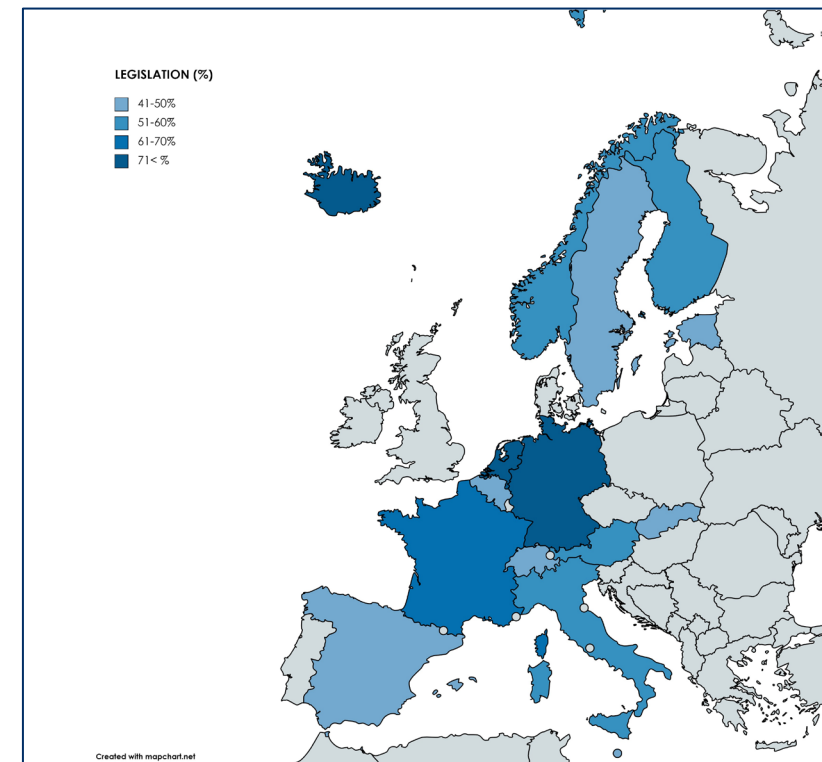
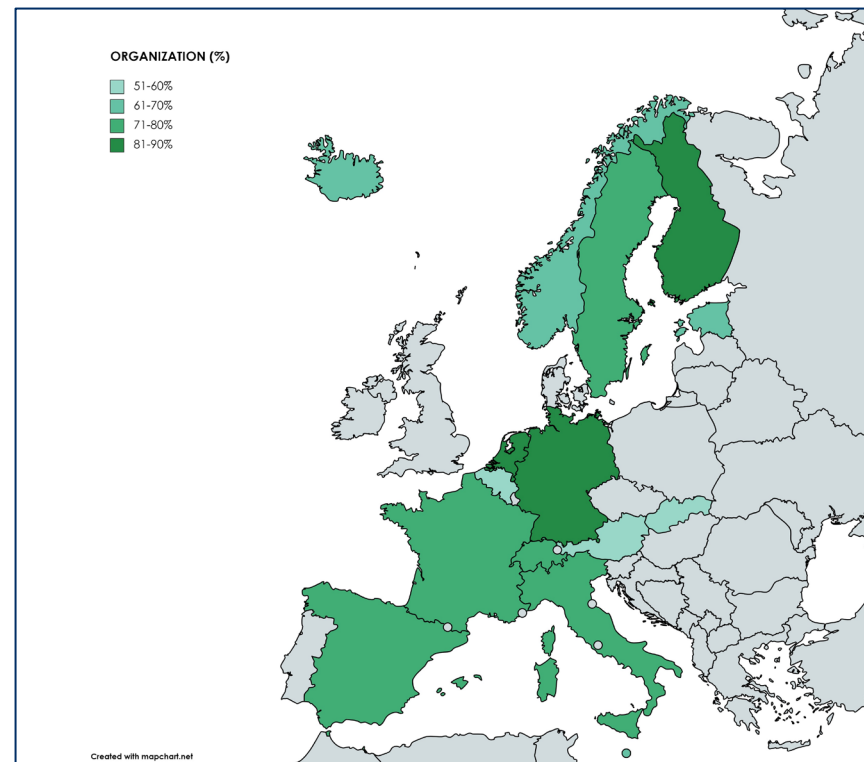
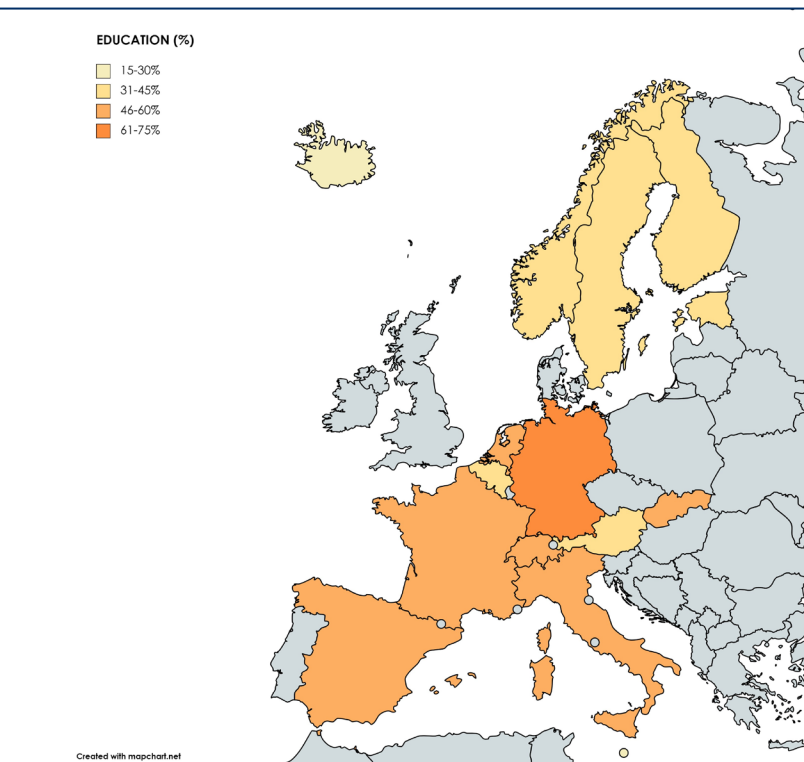
Norway

Italy

Germany

Belgium 37

4. Mapping professionalisation



3. On awareness, stigma: gender, diversity and inclusion

1. Undeniable femininity

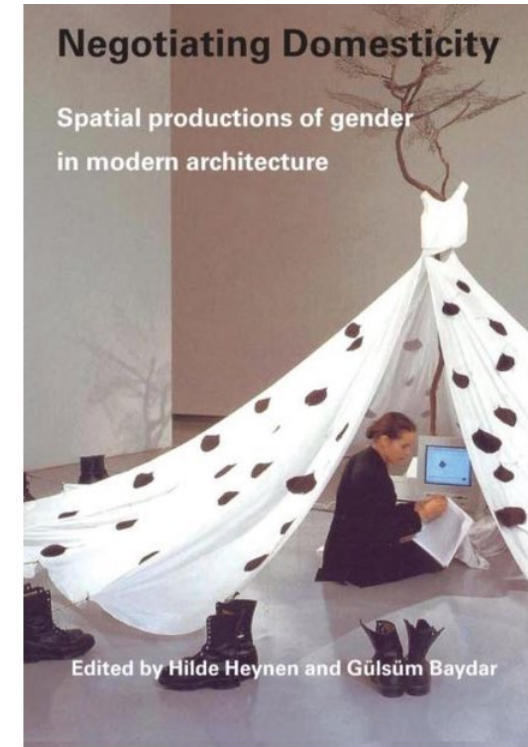
Female presence (90% female students in Europe), male dominance + motherhood and legislation



3. On awareness, stigma: gender, diversity and inclusion

Gender inequality is clearly present in the Interior Architecture profession.

- the interior architecture discipline is often perceived as **female gendered** in comparison to architecture which is considered as male gendered.
- the profession was historically constructed as **hierarchically less important than architecture**. (Belis et.al)
- the discipline was **historically seen as a professionalization of housekeeping**, decoration and the arrangement of the home, which in fact was done by every housewife.



3. On awareness, stigma: gender, diversity and inclusion

2. Refutable amateurism

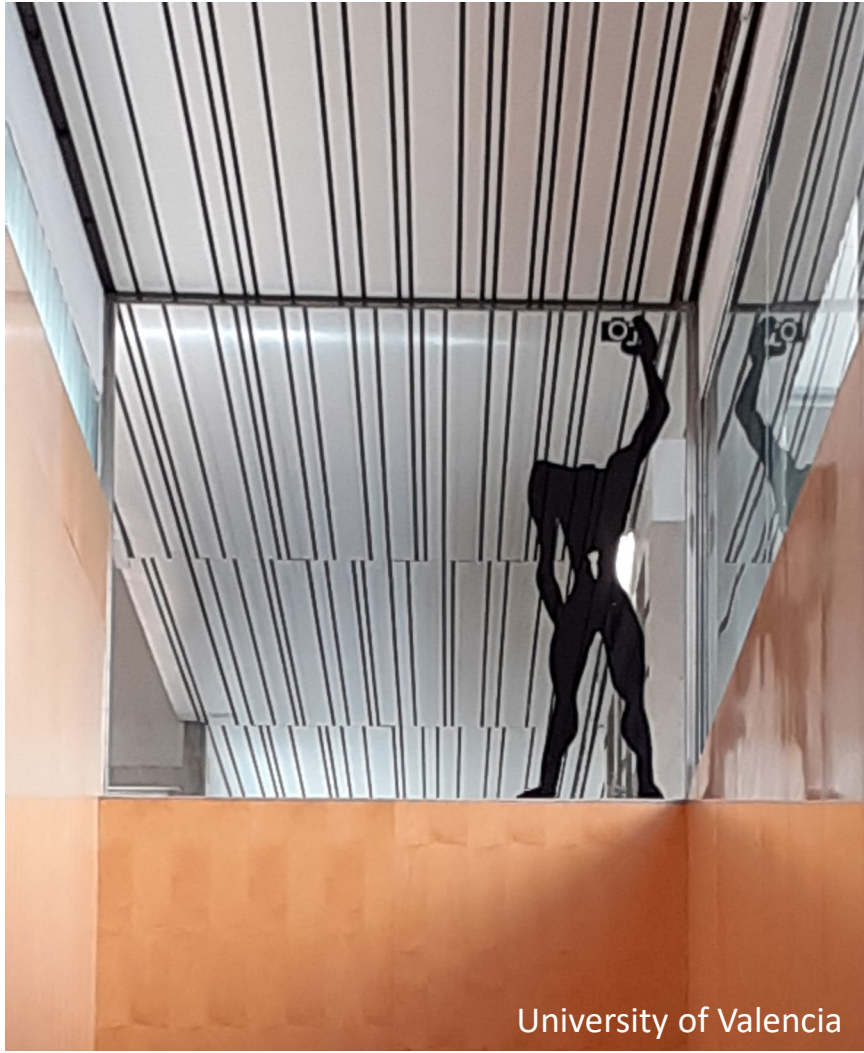


“Stereotypes are stiff and stick very well.” – on the depiction of interior architects in television programs

Lars RÄIHÄ (Finland)

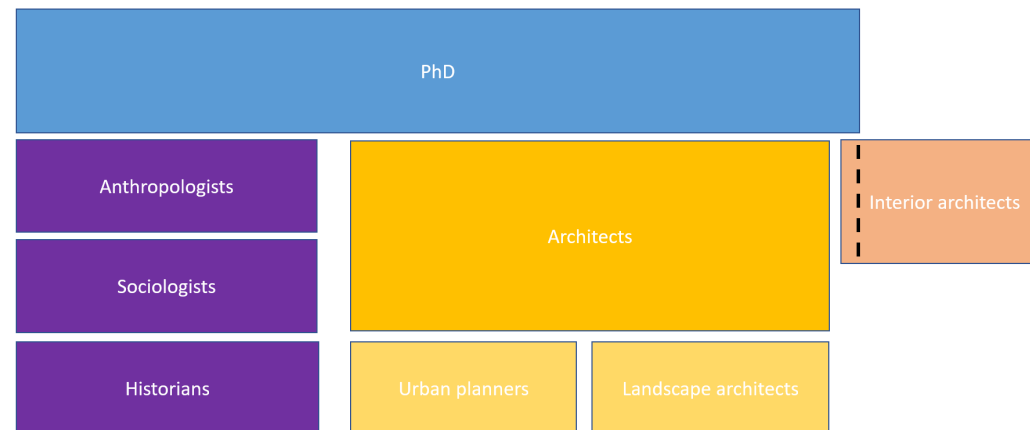
3. On awareness, stigma: gender, diversity and inclusion

Less gender barriers for women in Northern and Eastern European countries > more conclusion necessary



4. Concluding remarks

- > Degree of professionalisation varies from country to country and needs more (national) context to be completely interpreted.
- > Still a lot of work to further professionalise
- > For example explicit place of interior architecture and its PhDs.



4. Concluding remarks

Mainly examples of good practices for inspiration

Education	Academic research and student internship possibilities (both practical and theoretical)	Polimi
	Lifelong learning possibilities (mandatory)	The Netherlands + Germany
	PhD set-up (national)	Belgium
	Near future PhD set-up plans (2024/2025)	France (Camondo) + Norway (Kristiania) + Austria (NDU) + Sweden (Konstfack)
	Secondary/vocational education possibilities	Austria (HTLs)
Organization	Research (instigated/instantiated by national organization)	Switzerland (VSI ASAI): founding AIS archive
	Set-up national organization for smaller/candidate countries	Malta (MIDA)
	Brainstorming about the creation of a chamber of design as a counterbalance to the chamber of interior architects	Slovakia (SAID)
	Successful interdisciplinary work (non-umbrella)	Norway (NIL)
	Successful interdisciplinary work (umbrella)	Finland (SIO - Ornamo)
	Mandatory registration (title protection)	The Netherlands (BA) + Germany (Chamber of Architects & BAK)
Mandatory registration (no title protection)	Spain (CGDI)	
Legislation	Legal title protection	The Netherlands + Germany + Iceland
	Recent legal definition/recognition (governmental)	Italy (AIPi)
	How to deal with the abundance of regulation	Germany (BAK)
	Specific IA competitions	Slovakia (SAID)
"Layered" building permits	Finland (SIO) + Austria (BÖIA) + Estonia (ESL)	
General	Awareness and influence of stigmatization	Sweden (SA) + Finland (SIO)
	Importance English communication	Estonia (SISU Line)

4. Concluding remarks

▪ Recommendations

- Visibility issue
 - Label of quality for interior architecture in particular
 - Appropriate English communication
 - Clear terminology
- Constructive debate by revisiting HSW (health, safety and welfare)
- Curricular reforms
 - Theory
 - Internship
 - Cultural diversity

Thank you



ECIA

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