

Presidential address of REHVA president Cătălin Lungu (2022-2025)

The world is going through an everlasting transformation, especially during these times, due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. REHVA, whose notoriety has been tremendously growing in the last years, now has to adapt faster to decarbonization and digital transformation, to objectives like a safer and healthier indoor (but also outdoor) environment. So that, in this dynamic and globalized world, REHVA must continue to grow.

We say that REHVA represents 26 European countries, which is very accurate, and we also say that we represent more than 120 000 HVAC specialists, which is quite far from reality. What should we do with those engineers who aren't English speakers, who don't understand English very well? They are numerous and sending them news about our activities and initiatives (like the REHVA journal, guidebooks, e-newsletters, social media messages, etc.) is still an unsolved matter in a significant proportion. We need to be able to reach all those non-English speakers, engineers, and architects (and even go over that 120 000 limit), we need to motivate our REHVA Member Associations to be more active and more conscious about their vital role in spreading our European technical advanced knowledge. Also, a large part of the MAs shall be persuaded about our high potential and strong will to support local activities, developing mutually profitable projects, i.e., courses, EU projects, research for supporters, different professional certification schemes, etc.

Nowadays, we are struggling with a workforce crisis in many fields, including ours. The lack of engineers and, moreover, the lack of well-trained engineers for design, execution, commissioning, and operation can become an interesting opportunity for REHVA, considering the massive need for continuous education for HVAC engineers, energy assessors, and even for other HVAC and non-HVAC market operators. This is the right moment to innovate and wisely promote courses

for those members who don't have any educational programmes or updated ones, and we need to do it together with our most experienced members. We saw this important market need for education during the COVID pandemic, when REHVA played a major role worldwide, recognized by WHO and by some other international organizations.

At the European level, today, REHVA is one of the most reputed actors in our activity fields. Based on our office staff's intensive and effective work, well-managed by our Executive Director, we will be involved further in new Horizon Europe and LIFE projects. Our operating financial budget will be consolidated.

Regarding the worldwide strategy, REHVA should cooperate more closely with all our MoU partners around the globe and propose the most rewarding actions from which all can benefit mutually. In this respect, the REHVA directors have to pay more attention to our supporters' and members' needs, working closely with their representatives, reporting more often and providing solutions rather than defining issues.

Through this short message I am addressing to all of you who know me best, who have barely heard of me, or even at all, to older and younger engineers and architects, to students and academics, to future REHVA members, partners and supporters, emphasizing my intentions for the next presidential term, 2022-2025, with the following sets of keywords: time investment and devotion, pragmatism and respect, growth and leadership, research and education, loyalty and partnership, innovation and mentorship, fun and joy.

Finally, I am expressing my gratitude to all our prior presidents, vice-presidents, office employees and all those who contributed or still contribute to a so united and strong REHVA community, ensuring all that I am proud enough to be the REHVA's first voice, and also humble enough to serve our entire REHVA family. ■

*Proud enough to
be the REHVA's
first voice, humble
enough to serve our
entire REHVA family*



CĂTĂLIN LUNGU, REHVA PRESIDENT 2022-2025

Education

- PhD in Civil Engineering (2004) at the Technical University of Civil Engineering from Bucharest (UTCB) with specialized training at the Paris XII Val de Marne University, France;
- Master in Civil Engineering at UTCB (1996) and the Paris XII Val de Marne University, France (1998);
- Bachelor Degrees in building services engineering (1995) at UTCB and economics (2000) at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies.

Career development

Mr. Lungu is Associate Professor at the Technical University of Civil Engineering (www.utcb.ro) and was for seven years a visiting professor at the “Ecole Nationale Supérieure de l’Energie, l’Eau et l’Environnement ENSE3” (Grenoble, France). He is specialized in dynamic simulation of HVAC and RES systems, including EPB assessment and NZEB design.

He represents AIIR (the Romanian Association of Building Services Engineers, www.aiiro.ro) as first Vice President (since 2020), and REHVA as President since May 22nd, 2022 (former Vice President and treasurer, 2017-2022). He is also OAER president (the Romanian Chamber of Energy Auditors, www.oaer.ro) since April 2022 (former CEO between 2011 and 2022) and the main national organizer of the training and continuous learning courses for the Romanian energy assessors.

Dr. Lungu was the organizing committee chair of the HVAC World Congress CLIMA 2019 (2016-2019).

He has been a project manager of five research projects and member in other four, including the project for recasting the national methodology for the calculation of the energy performance of buildings, according to the new set of EPB standards. He is also member of six standardization technical committees (five national and one ISO).

As main author or co-author, Dr. Lungu has published six books (one was awarded in 2021 by the Romanian Academy) and more than 30 scientific or technical articles.