

## **A brief history**

### *Competition culture in the Netherlands*

Until 1997 there were no widely supported regulations for competitions for architects and project developers in The Netherlands. The Chief Government Architect initiated cooperation with all relevant parties to reach structural improvement. This resulted in a covenant which aimed to create a competition culture in the Netherlands to stimulate design competitions as an instrument for spatial projects of cultural interest. It was assumed that both clients and participants have an interest in equal opportunities and clarify the procedure, evaluation criteria and the ratio to deliver performance and reward. Foundation Architectuur Lokaal was invited to set up a helpdesk for Procurement & Design Competitions (Steunpunt Architectuuroopdrachten & Ontwerpwedstrijden). The NGO Architectuur Lokaal is the independent, non for profit national centre of expertise devoted to building culture in The Netherlands by improving patronage in architecture. Architectuur Lokaal maintains contact, in Europe and elsewhere, with organisations and persons active in the area of building culture. Sharing expertise is the key aim. Architectuur Lokaal is designated as a cultural organisation for the public good.

### *Helpdesk*

The Dutch helpdesk (Steunpunt) advises public and private clients about (European) procurement procedures and competitions (architect services and integrated contracts). The 'Steunpunt system' is an integral formula, developed by Architectuur Lokaal. The formula consists of a number of separate elements or key attributes (products and services) that have been developed in cohesion since 1997. It is a coherent system of tangible products and intangible services. Products are the database (which creates content), the website (which unlocks content), the statistics module SESAM (which generates statistics) and a number of digital procurement guidances (KOMPAS). Services are manual control of announced procedures, track procedures up to and including awards, helpdesk (info & support clients and contractors), letters of recommendation, best practices, light mediation, news alerts, building archive, publicity, EU Procurement days etc. Since 2005 the e-procurement system is online. The digital portal is free to all users.

### *Cross border collaboration Netherlands - United Kingdom*

The need to better and transparent public procurement for architecture and to professionalize the role of public clients is an item in all EU countries. In 2013 RIBA (UK) and Architectuur Lokaal (NL) started a cross border collaboration to reach process innovation in architecture procurement reform, based on the Steunpunt system as 'golden standard'. The independency of the British partnering is guaranteed in the establishment of Project Compass CIC. In general, the partnering organization wants to share and develop knowledge by a cross border platform, stimulate cross border innovation and trade, promote building culture in relation to economy and offer continuity. Sub objectives at a national and EU level are to promote market transparency, encourage professional procurement (clients and contractors), promote simplification in the practice of tendering, offer better access for designers to the international market, offer opportunities for young talent and standardisation and voluntary certification.

### *TheFulcrum.eu launched*

25 February 2015, Architectuur Lokaal and Project Compass launch the common portal TheFulcrum.eu.