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Istelianna Necho Atanassova

Member of the Executive Board of the
Architects' Council of Europe (ACE)
Member of the Governing Council of the
Union of Architects in Bulgaria (UAB)
Sofia, Bulgaria



Istelianna Necho Atanassova is a prominent Bulgarian architect. She has experience in all areas of architecture and has been the head of professional organizations abroad and in Bulgaria. In addition to Bulgaria, she has worked in Germany and Switzerland (as Chief Architect of a design office of 150 people), has implemented projects in these countries, as well as in other countries. She pays special attention to the harmonious and sustainable development of cities and neighborhood spaces, the regeneration of the existing building stock, and she actively works on the topic of affordable housing and a better quality of life for all. Partnership between institutions and international cooperation in the field of architecture are her primary causes.

Istelianna Atanassova possesses extensive international experience and has been elected to the leadership of the most prestigious international professional organizations. These include: Vice President of the International Union of Architects – UIA (2021–2023); President of the World Committee of Women Architects within the UIA (2020 – 2022); Member of the International Competitions Commission of the International Union of Architects (2017–2021); Member of the UIA Council (2017–2021); Expert from the UN–Habitat International Roster – currently valid.

In addition, Istelianna Atanassova is currently:

Member of the Executive Board of ACE (Architects' Council of Europe); Member of the International Board of Experts for the Recovery of Ukraine; Member of the Management Board of the Union of Architects in Bulgaria (second term). She is also a member of the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria.

She has participated as a jury member in a number of International Architectural Competitions. These include: The World Architecture Awards of the International Union of Architects 2021–2023; a series of International Competitions for Sustainable Architecture of the World Federation of Young Architects in France and Slovakia; the International Competition for Young Architects “Leonardo” in Belarus, and others.

Istelianna Atanasova has participated in discussions at prestigious international forums. The most significant ones in recent years include: The World Architectural Forum in Baku 2019; the UN–Habitat World Urban Forum (WUF11 – 2022); the World Architectural Forum on Affordable Housing – Madrid 2022; the international discussion “Partnerships for Change” at the UIA World Congress of Architects in Copenhagen 2023, and other international debates on various current professional topics.



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