Draft Program

JCSS

Joint Committee
on Structural Safety

Assessment of Exisiting Structures

Workshop of the Joint Commitee on Structural Safety

8.-9. April 2026, at Aalborg University, Denmark

Scope of the Workshop

Introduction

A large share of the built infrastructure in use today consists of existing structures that were designed according to past standards, exposed to evolving actions, and affected by ageing, deterioration, and changes in use. Ensuring an adequate and transparent level of safety for such structures is therefore a central challenge for structural engineering practice and society at large.

The assessment of existing structures differs fundamentally from the design of new ones. It requires explicit consideration of the actual condition of the structure, the information gained through inspections, monitoring, testing, and historical records, and the manner in which this information is incorporated into reliability assessments. The Joint Committee on Structural Safety (JCSS) has long promoted reliability-based principles as a consistent framework for dealing with uncertainties in structural safety. In recent years, these principles have gained renewed relevance in the context of sustainability, resource efficiency, and climate adaptation.

At the same time, major developments are ongoing in standardisation at both European and international levels. Within CEN and ISO, several initiatives aim to clarify concepts, align methodologies, and provide practical guidance for the assessment of existing structures. Parallel activities are also taking place in other international associations, each with their own perspectives and emphasis. This creates both opportunities and challenges with respect to consistency, transparency, and practical applicability.

Workshop Details

The workshop on **Assessment of Existing Structures**, organised by the **JCSS**, aims to revisit the topic in light of these ongoing developments. The workshop will provide a forum to discuss the fundamental principles of reliability assessment for existing structures, the consistent use of gathered information, and the implications for engineering practice and standardisation.

Goal: The goal of the workshop is to foster a shared understanding of reliability-based assessment of existing structures and to identify key challenges, open questions, and future directions for research, practice, and standardisation.

Topics of the Workshop

The workshop will be based on **invited lectures** combined with ample time for discussion. Contributions and discussions will address, in particular:

- Fundamental principles of reliability assessment of existing structures
- Target reliability levels and assessment criteria for existing structures
- Systematic use of inspection, monitoring, testing, and historical information
- Semi-probabilistic and fully probabilistic assessment approaches
- Approaches and activities in other international associations
- Insights from practical applications and case studies

- Current status and outlook of standardisation activities within CEN and ISO
- Open issues, needs for further development, and paths toward harmonisation

Format

The workshop will consist exclusively of invited contributions from experts in structural safety, structural reassessment, and standardisation. Both **in-person and online** participation will be supported.

Registration

We kindly request all participants to register. The registration fee for physical participation is 1190 DKK, covering catering during the workshop and an all-inclusive workshop dinner on April 8. Please register using the following link, where you can indicate your participation preferences (in person, online, or unable to attend) here. Please register by March 13.

Draft Program

(The program is under development and might be subject to changes and further specifications)

Wednesday, 8.4.2026

12.30	Arrival and light lunch
13.00	**Session 0**: Introduction • Welcome Address - Aalborg University • Welcome and Workshop Objectives, *Jochen Köhler, JCSS President* • Programme overview, *Jannie Sønderkær Nielsen, JCSS WP2 co-rapporteur, local host*
13.30	**Session 1.1**: General concepts for Assessment of Existing Structures • Basic Principles for the Assessment of Exisiting Structures, *Peter Tanner* • Title TBD, *Michael Havbro Faber* • Assessment Criteria - Reliability Targets, *Jannie Sønderkær Nielsen* • Alpha-value method for semi-probabilistic assessment, *Jochen Köhler*
15.30	Refreshments
15.45	**Session 1.2**: General concepts for Assessment of Existing Structures • Recent development in fib, *Robby Caspeele* • Recent development in IABSE, *Alan O'Connor* • Assessment of existing offshore structures, *Gerhard Ersdal*
18.00	End of Day 1
19.00	Dinner at Søgaards Bryghus, C.W. Obels Pl. 1A

Thursday, 9.4.2026

08.30	Arrival and Coffee
09.00	**Session 2**: Applications
	• Reassessment of Bridges and Buildings, *Joan Hee Roldsgaard, Rambøll*
	• Proof loading for bridges, *Jacob Wittrup Schmidt, COWI, Aalborg University*
	• Assessment of offshore structures exposed to environmental loading, *Jesper Tychsen, TotalEnergies*
	• Practical insights and experiences from the Netherlands, *Raphaël or Ton*
10:30	Refreshments
10.50	**Session 3**: Standardisation - Status in different countries and organisations
	• Denmark, *John Dalsgard Sørensen*
	• Netherlands, *Raphaël Steenbergen*
	• Sweden, *Oskar Larson*
12.20	Wrap-Up and Conclusion; Summary of Key Takeaways; Next Steps
12.30	End of the Workshop and Lunch

Technical and Organization Committee

- **Jannie Sønderkær Nielsen**, Aalborg University, Denmark
- **John Dalsgard Sørensen**, Aalborg University, Denmark
- **Jochen Köhler**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

Note that the workshop will precede a regular JCSS meeting to be held on 9 April (afternoon) and 10 April (all day), see sperate program.

Venue

The venue for the workshop is AAU Innovate on the main campus of Aalborg University located in Aalborg East.

Address:
AAU Innovate
Aalborg University
Thomas Manns Vej 25
9220 Aalborg Øst
Denmark
Web: Website

The workshop will be held in Auditorium C.004 at the ground floor.

How to get to Aalborg University

Train

Aalborg Station is the main railway hub in North Jutland, with direct connections to Copenhagen and the rest of Denmark.

From here to Aalborg University:
Bus: Take Bus 2 from Aalborg St. to bus-stop AAU Fibigerstræde. Travel time 20 min. Buses run frequently during the day.
Taxi: Travel time 15 min. Approx 200-250 DKK.

Air

Aalborg Airport is small and easy to navigate, with frequent connections via Copenhagen.

From here to Aalborg University:
Public transport: By train or bus to Aalborg Station, and then by bus to AAU.
Taxi: Taxis are available directly outside the terminal. Travel time 20 min. Approx 350 DKK.

Hotels

There is a wide choice of hotels in the center of Aalborg of varying standards:

- First Hotel Aalborg***
- Kompas Hotel Aalborg***(*)
- Hotel Cabinn Aalborg**