

Project: **Access - Steel Multi-lingual site for Eurocode Dissemination**  
 Client: Arcelor, Corus, PeinerTrager, Rukki, Voest-Alpine  
 Date: **2006 - Present** Status: **Live**  
 Link: <http://www.access-steel.com> Contact [e.okrhits@steel-sci.com](mailto:e.okrhits@steel-sci.com)

## Background

Access Steel was developed by a consortium of European technical institutes. It was jointly sponsored by the European Commission's eContent Programme and seven steel producers.

## Objective



Access Steel has been specifically tailored for construction professionals and their clients to offer guidance through project initiation, scheme development and detailed design. It is easily searchable and free to all registered users. It offers harmonised, quality assured information in English, French, German and Spanish, with comprehensive coverage of Single and Multi-storey Buildings and Residential Construction. Special attention is given to the new opportunities for Fire Safety Engineering in the Eurocodes.

The site also includes over 50 interlinked modules on the detailed design of elements, with step-by-step guidance, full supporting information and worked examples, to give a thorough understanding of how the Eurocodes should be used.

## Technical features



Figure 1 Main search Interface

The site is implemented using ASP.NET technology. There are several levels of selecting working language:

- Auto-detection of the browser's settings
- Per session setting
- Setting stored in the user's profile

The main technical content, including full bodies of the documents, is kept in MS SQL Server database.

The content is indexed by Verity (Ultraseek) Indexing engine. The following search modes were implemented:

- Free-text search through the bodies of the documents and metadata with an efficient ranking by relevance
- Indexed search against the set of keywords
- Use of classification categories (taxonomy)

Content uploading tools were provided allowing the National Representatives to submit new content items via Web interface.

## Outcomes

Europe has a rich and valued diversity of architecture and buildings. The Eurocodes will not reduce this diversity, which arises for complex cultural and historical reasons. However, the Eurocodes, designed to remove technical obstacles to the trade, will encourage the transfer of best design and construction practice across national boundaries. This best practice, applied to vernacular architecture, will enable the European Construction industry to provide better value to the built environment, while retaining its diversity and breadth.

Access Steel system provides a solid authoritative basis of multi-lingual Eurocodes related content available for search in 24/7 mode. Its multi-lingual interface 'opens doors' to technical communities throughout Europe.