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Philippe Bouillard holds an MSc in Civil Engineering (Université Libre de Bruxelles ULB, Belgium, 1990), a PhD in Engineering (ULB, 1997) and a Habilitation diploma (Paris VI, France, 2004). He began his career as a work manager for French major construction contractors, before starting an academic career by a teaching and research assistant position at the Ecole Polytechnique de Bruxelles (ULB) where he was promoted assistant professor (1999), associate professor (2000) and full professor in 2005.

Philippe Bouillard has occupied many senior management positions at ULB from Head of Department of Civil, Architectural and Urban Engineering (still ongoing) to Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs. During a sabbatical leave, he was Vice-Dean for the School of Engineering at Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan (2014-2015). He is a recognised expert in Higher Education with an emphasis on Quality Assurance and Bologna process. He regularly acts as external reviewer for many national agencies and for EACEA (Erasmus Mundus Joint Degrees and other instruments). He is Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK) since 2017.

His main research activity was computational structural mechanics but in 2012 he redirected his research interest towards sustainable urbanism with a focus on infrastructure and mobility. He co-edited 3 books, is co-author of more than 70 refereed journal papers and 100 conference proceedings. He supervised several PhD theses (21) and research projects. He is chair of the editorial board of the ICE Journal Civil Engineering. He received the Belgian National Science Foundation (FNRS) De Waele Award in 2000 and the Wernaers Award in 2012 for his effort to scientific dissemination towards a large public. He is Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institute for Civil Engineers since 2016.

Regarding teaching, Philippe Bouillard is coordinating the modules related to solid and structural mechanics, research methods in civil engineering, design project competition, and infrastructure and mobility. He has been deeply involved in the active learning student-centred reforms and he received the ULB Socrates Best Teacher Award (2008).