

INFO- BUILD2LC

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Boosting Low Carbon Innovative Building Rehabilitation in European Regions
Interreg Europe - Low Carbon Economy

Editorial **On going!**



BUILD2LC.

After the first semester of the project in which all the tools and working groups which will join us throughout the duration of the BUILD2LC were launched, in this second semester (October 2016 to March 2017) we have already seen the first results of the work carried out by all and each of the partners.

In these six months, two interregional seminars have been held; one of them organised in Lithuania by the Public Investment Development Agency (VIPA) of

Lithuania, which focused on new financing instruments for energy rehabilitation of buildings, and the other seminar, organised by the Rzeszów Regional Development Agency (RRDA) and held in Poland, discussed the issue of professionalisation and skills in the construction sector.

Both seminars have been well received, not only among the project partners but also, and more importantly, among the stakeholder groups of each one of the partner regions. In fact, all partners of the BUILD2LC project attended both seminars with regional stakeholders, experts in the field who, as well as talking about their experiences and views on the topics discussed, have been able to meet and exchange views with other companies and entities from the rest of the countries participating in the project.

At the same time, in this second semester, each partner has also continued working at regional level, meeting with stakeholders involved in the project and detecting the best regional and national practices in the field of sustainable construction and energy rehabilitation of buildings.

This newsletter presents in-depth the results of the work carried out during this second semester in the framework of the BUILD2LC project; the main conclusions of the two interregional seminars held, the progress of the project in each of the regions and the work to be carried out in the next semester. The newsletter also focuses on one of the partners and we will learn more about the role of VIPA, the Public Investment Development Agency of Lithuania.

In this semester

Lithuania hosts an interregional seminar on new instruments of financing for energy rehabilitation of buildings

The town of **Vilnius (Lithuania)** hosted on 10 and 11 January 2017 an interregional seminar on **New instruments for financing and management of European funds for energy rehabilitation of buildings**.

With the presence of all project partners and collaborating entities from their regions, as well as representatives of ministries and several public and private entities from the host country, participants discussed strategies to allocate European funds for the energy rehabilitation of buildings and presented good practices detected in some of their regions on financing innovative projects.



There was also a discussion from the point of view of demand, presenting some examples of innovative financial instruments used by end-users in energy efficiency projects and how to involve citizens in the energy rehabilitation of buildings.

During their stay in Lithuania, partners of the BUILD2LC project also carried out two study visits; one to the Museum of Energy, in Vilnius, and the other to the town of Jonava, to visit a case of rehabilitation of dwellings and institutions focused on energy saving.

The professionalisation of the construction sector has been the focus of the debate in an interregional seminar in Poland

In the framework of the activities carried out in the second semester under the BUILD2LC project, an interregional seminar on "**Professionalisation of the construction sector**" took place in **Rzeszów (Poland)** from 20 to 22 March 2017.

The Conference was attended by 69 people, including representatives from the partner countries of the project (Spain, Lithuania, United Kingdom, Croatia, Sweden, Slovenia and Poland), as well as stakeholder groups from these countries, government representatives, public administration, media, universities, clusters, associations and entrepreneurs working in the field of construction.



The main theme addressed in the seminar was the professionalisation of the construction sector, for which examples of good practices and possible solutions to the threats and weaknesses detected were presented, such as the work in cross-sectorial cooperation groups between the construction industry and renewable energy sources, as well as the possibilities of financing activities affecting the professionalisation of the construction and rehabilitation sector.

Among the presentations made during the seminar, Agate Kotkowska, from EASME (European Commission) spoke about the professionalisation of the construction sector from the European perspective of energy efficiency; Włodzimierz Grochaj, of the Energy Agency of Swietokrzysko-Podkarpacki (Poland) focused his presentation on the cooperation between clusters of construction and Diana Horvat, from the Ministry of Construction of Croatia presented the Croskills project.



In the second part of the seminar, and taking advantage of the presence of stakeholders from different regions, different business meetings were held among entities working in the field of energy saving technologies in order to identify opportunities for cooperation and potential projects.

The participants also had the opportunity to learn about some examples of energy efficiency in buildings, as three study visits were carried out; to the University of Law and Public Administration (to which the energy modernisation of classrooms has been made), the Centre of Technology Transfer of the University of Rzeszow, where participants saw the operation of the Centre and its laboratories and the Centre of Research and Photovoltaic Development of the ML SYSTEM - R & D company.

Work continues at regional level

During this second semester of the BUILD2LC project, each partner has continued to meet with their stakeholder groups at regional level; the contribution of these companies and agencies is essential for the success of the project, since being involved in the development and innovation of the construction sector and working directly in the sector, has a multiplier effect on the results of BUILD2LC.

[Andalusian Energy Agency \(AAE\) \(Spain\)](#)

On 24 November 2016 the Andalusian Energy Agency held its second meeting, corresponding to the second semester of the project, with its regional stakeholders group.



In addition to reporting on the progress of the project and the interregional seminars, in which the participation of the stakeholders is required, the meeting focused on presenting the catalogue of good practices identified and which could be of interest for the entities.

Participants showed special interest on the good practices related to the financing of projects and the possibility of developing inter-regional projects through collaboration with other entities of the rest of the partner regions of the BUILD2LC project.

The Andalusian Energy Agency took advantage of the meeting to present the Partnership of European Regions on Sustainable Buildings, whose constitution has been entrusted by the European Commission to the Andalusian Energy Agency.

[Northwest Croatia Regional Energy Agency \(REGEA\)](#)

The Croatia Green Building Council and the Croatian Association of Thermal Insulation of Facades Systems organised on 22nd November 2016 in Zagreb a workshop under the title: renew Croatia: communication and awareness under the umbrella of the project BUILD UPON and RENEW EUROPE campaign.

The Northwest Croatia Regional Energy Agency (REGEA) joined the workshop to introduce good practices in new financial instruments detected in the BUILD2LC project, thus taking advantage of this workshop of a complementary project to increase the impact of BUILD2LC.



The workshop consisted of presentations and working groups of diverse themes, including 4 that are worked on in the BUILD2LC project: new financial instruments, activation of demand and energy poverty, professionalization of the sector of construction and innovation.

With the participation of more than 70 attendees, they worked on how improve inter-sectoral communication in the process of the energy rehabilitation of buildings, reaching the conclusion that promoting examples of good practices is one of the most efficient ways to promote awareness and activate the demand for energy efficiency.

[Rzeszow Regional Development Agency \(RRDA\) \(Poland\)](#)

On 8 November 2016 the Rzeszów Regional Development Agency (RRDA) organised the second meeting with regional stakeholders; a dozen of public and private sector entities.

During the meeting, RRDA presented the good practices discussed at the event organised in Croatia at the end of the first semester of the project and the Polish entities could assess the suitability of implementing some of these projects in the region of Podkarackie, as well as barriers, expectations and experiences that these good practices offer. Participants showed a particular interest in projects of energy efficiency in buildings, considering that it is a field in which there is still a lot to be done in the region.

The Rzeszów Regional Development Agency (RRDA) also presented to its collaborating entities the analysis that, in the framework of the project, has been made of the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities of the Podkarpackie region, so that they could give their opinion and make their contributions.

Also this meeting was used to plan the interregional seminar which would take place in the month of March 2017 in Poland: activities, speakers and presentations, places to visit during the study visits, etc.

Participants at the meeting expressed the importance of joining the activities of the project, both at regional and international levels, and also the desire to work together with partners from other regions in the field of energy rehabilitation of buildings.

[Public Investment Development Agency \(VIPA\) of Lithuania](#)



On 17th November 2016 the Public Investment Development Agency (VIPA) of Lithuania organised the second meeting with partner regional institutions collaborating in the BUILD2LC project to inform them of the progress of the project and to discuss with them the analysis of the situation in the field of construction and energy rehabilitation in Lithuania, as well as good practices identified in the framework of the project, which were presented by Justinas Bučys.

Attendees participated actively in the meeting and presented some ideas about the renovation of apartment buildings and public buildings.

Some of the proposals of the stakeholders dealt with possible changes in the legal field, since the modifications are suggested in legislation to promote the partial renovation of the buildings. Also with the implementation of separate energy efficiency measures and the possibility of partial renovation in apartment buildings or public buildings. As well as increasing the list of possible energy efficiency measures that can be made. The entities participating in the meeting also suggested the possibility of requesting variable subsidies for different municipalities.

At the end of the meeting, the director of VIPA, Gvidas Dargužas expressed his belief in that, in general, *"there are expectations of learning from one another and work together to achieve the common goals of energy and climate change as soon as possible"*.

[Local Energy Agency of Gorenjska \(LEAG\) \(Slovenia\)](#)

On Wednesday 16th November 2016, in Ljubljana (Slovenia), the second meeting of the BUILD2LC project was held.

During the first part of the meeting the attendants discussed the participation of the region in the interregional seminar on new financing instruments, which would be held in Lithuania from 10 to 12 January 2017. The results of the analysis about the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities for the sector of the construction and the energy rehabilitation of buildings in Slovenia, were also presented, and therefore the participating entities had the opportunity to make their views known and to suggest possible improvements.



The first part of the meeting concluded with the presentation of the good practices exposed in the interregional seminar held in September 2016 in Zagreb (Croatia). In the second part of the meeting, the Local of the Energy Agency of Gorenjska (LEAG) made a brief presentation of the MODER project (Horizon 2020) and the activities that in the framework of this project will take place in the city of Kranj, and in which the district Zlato polje has been chosen as a pilot area to test innovative software tools for the analysis of energy needs

Región Jämtland Härjedalen (Sweden)



On 7 December 2016 the meeting with regional collaborators of the BUILD2LC project was held in the city of Östersund (Sweden). The meeting was attended by representatives of the cities of Östersund, Bracke, Krokoms, Härjedalen, enterprises of public housing Harjegardar, Stromsunds hyresbostader, Krokomsbostader AB, Ostersundshem and Arehus AB; the Mittuniversitetet academia and a private real estate company.

After a brief introduction of the project to the new stakeholders that incorporated into this second meeting, the results of the meeting held in Zagreb were presented, with special attention on the good practices exposed there. The Swedish stakeholders were interested in how such projects had been funded and the possibility of financing such projects in their region.

This regional working group had requested the holding of seminars on different topics and on this occasion a technical expert in enclosures of buildings, Eva-Lotta Kurkinen, of the Research Institute of Sweden, delivered a presentation on enclosures, statistics on energy efficiency and insulation materials.

Severn Wye Energy Agency (United Kingdom)

The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held on the 15th March 2017 and its 14 members prioritized the actions that had been proposed during the first stakeholders meeting held.

Severn Wye explained what they learned with the success stories presented in Lithuania and the Group discussed the objectives of the project.

The regional entities of interest for the BUILD2LC project detected a wide range of potential actions and worked initially in group to lead the intersectorial discussion and establish the priorities of the project.



With the information that emerged from this meeting, Severn Wye will work on an Action Plan, which will be discussed at the next stakeholder meeting scheduled in July 2017.

BUILD2LC in international events

EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES 2017



The Andalusian Energy Agency, lead partner of the BUILD2LC project, participated in the European Week of Cities and Regions, held in Brussels in October 2016 and in the framework of which presented the activities and objectives of the project to the rest of the participating regions.

Commitment to sustainable construction and rehabilitation at regional level and the participation in international projects such as

BUILD2LC, has been the reason that the European Commission has chosen Andalusia, in the framework of the Smart Specialisation Strategy, to lead the creation of a Partnership of European regions in Sustainable Buildings.

Focus on:

Public Investment Development Agency (VIPA) of Lithuania. Lithuania is facing the energy efficiency of buildings from a dual perspective

VIPA. The rapidly increasing numbers of renovated buildings in Lithuania, as well as highly energy efficient new buildings, are catching up with the EU indicators.

Lithuania is facing the energy efficiency at buildings challenge in a dual way.

On new buildings, the requirement for all newly constructed buildings to correspond to no lower than energy performance class A came into force in November 2015. Before, most of the country's real estate developers showed preference to lower class buildings due to lower construction costs, though the energy consumption (and the environmental impact) is higher, which goes against the residents' interests. To help to fill the gap, the Public Investment Development Agency (VIPA) provides soft loans to the residents decided to increase the energy efficiency of their homes in such a way that it is expected that the class A and A+ houses will make up to 15 % of the market in 2017. With the energy performance class being one of the main criteria when choosing a home, Lithuanians have



become more concerned about energy efficiency at home and, given that buyers show increasing interest, urban developers are even planning large scale investments in construction of energy efficient buildings.

In addition to the construction of new buildings, the second very important reason for the expansion of highly energy efficient buildings is a successful renovation model, targeted to existing buildings, which was introduced a few years ago. The involvement of municipalities, key factor, by taking over a significant share of responsibilities and other burdens previously carried by the residents, was the turning point of this modernisation project. A simplified multi apartment building modernisation model, a clearer procedure for getting and repaying loans as well as the key collaboration of the municipalities in the renewal process, allows for the setting of ambitious goals for the future. 1500 multi apartment buildings will be modernised only during 2017, compared to less than 500 during the entire previous decade.

There is clearly a raising awareness *snow ball effect* taking place: once a building starts being renovated, its neighbours soon follow suit. It does prove that the renovation benefits become clear and obvious to the residents that *get infected* by the examples of successful renovation. Lithuanians have become more and more concerned about energy efficiency of their homes. Again, VIPA eases the process by providing soft loans to the

residents who renovate their existing homes and will enjoy the fact that the heating bills will be even 80% cheaper.

The last effort to increase energy efficiency in existing buildings in Lithuania was made through the Residential Energy Efficiency Programme which started in 2016, again counting on the active participation of the municipalities to ensure the success. The Programme takes the Multi Apartment Building Modernisation Programme, which is well on its way in Lithuania already, to be elevated to an entirely new level to renovate as well the infrastructure, government buildings and the outer areas, creating therefore environmentally friendly and highly energy efficient whole residential areas. Indeed, the programme contributes to a more sustainable integral city planning, considering the renovation of the existing residential areas but also the harmonic development of the city and the integration of the new territories, in such a way that the human impact on the environment is much lower.

Next events

- Interregional Seminar: New energy culture, civil involvement and energy poverty. Gloucester, United Kingdom. 13 & 14 June 2017.
- Interregional Seminar: Innovation. Östersund, Suecia. 12-14 September 2017

Consortium

Lead partner



Agencia Andaluza de la Energía
CONSEJERÍA DE EMPLEO, EMPRESA Y COMERCIO

Andalusian Energy Agency.

Partners



Public Investment
Development Agency
(VIPA)



Severn Wye Energy Agency Ltd
(SWEA)



Rzeszow Regional
Development Agency
(RRDA)



REGIONALNA ENERGETSKA AGENCIJA
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REGIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

North-West Croatia
Regional Energy
Agency (REGEA)



Region Jämtland Härjedalen
(RJH)



Local Energy Agency of
Gorenjska (LEAG)



Andalusian Institute of
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