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THAT ENABLES A HIGH QUALITY  
OF LIFE FOR ALL!



## BUILD UPON FIRST WORKSHOP RENOVATION DAY

### SUMMARY

Renovation strategy in Latvia and its' influence on  
construction sector: availability of finance and protection of  
cultural heritage buildings

1st June, 2016

ALTUM, Riga, Latvia



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## SUMMARY OF THE BUILD UPON 1ST WORKSHOP IN LATVIA - RENOVATION DAY

The first BUILD UPON workshop “Renovation Day” in Latvia was held in Riga on 1st June, 2016 in the framework of the Construction week 2016. The event was organized by the Latvian Sustainable Building Council (LSBC) in partnership with the State Construction Control Office, Financial Development Institution ALTUM and the Ministry of Economics of Latvia.

On the Renovation Day 74 BUILD UPON workshop participants gathered in the heart of Old Riga and more than 100 unique viewers were following the event online to learn about current challenges of renovation, existing problems, best practices and innovation. Stakeholders representing state institutions, local governments, industry, universities, media and NGOs were present at the event. Participating unusual suspect especially interested in renovation and its applicability for people with special needs was an organization of people with disabilities and their friends “Apeirons”.

During the first part of the Renovation Day we heard inspiring thoughts from the Latvian Government represented by the Ministry of Economics and the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development. The State Secretary of the Ministry of Economics Mr. Juris Stinka officially opened the Renovation Day by saying that “the cheapest energy is one that we never consumed”.

LSBC expert Maija Krizmane presented the BUILD UPON project and its work plan for the next 5 workshops. In the context of BUILD UPON project the industry experts were discussing innovative approaches of renovation on and ambition to increase speed and volume of renovation, both based on existing good practices in Latvia and abroad.

In afternoon two panel discussions were focusing on long term renovation financing and on renovating cultural heritage buildings. The key speaker of the first panel focusing on renovation financing was Dr. Steven Fawkes representing the Investors’ Confidence Project followed by experts’ discussion on various innovative financing models for renovation and their applicability for Latvia. Dr. Fawkes was a specially invited guest by the LSBC and the BUILD UPON project.

During the second panel on the renovation of cultural heritage buildings the best practices of participants were shared. It is generally recognized by UNESCO that Riga has the finest collection of art nouveau buildings in Europe. Therefore, this was important to tackle renovation challenges for cultural heritage buildings.

The main conclusions of the Renovation Day:

- **The national Renovation Strategy** must be updated and improved until its submission to the European Commission on April 2017;
- **New standard for renovation is needed** which includes detailed evaluation of the overall technical condition of building, as well as necessity for improvement in bearing structure, fire safety, indoor climate and other elements which are essential for buildings.
- **Investment needs to be planned from the long term perspective** and quality of works must be improved to ensure sustainability of existing buildings for at least next 50 years.

Results of the survey on measuring involvement level of different stakeholders’ groups in renovation processes indicate that the most involved groups are constructors, developers, designers, producers, users of buildings (inhabitants) followed by providers of financial services, local governments and state institutions.

The second survey of stakeholders’ agreement on proposed recommendations has shown agreement of the majority of respondents for the following statements:

1. Active work for increasing awareness of society on benefits from energy efficient renovation and sustainable building must be continued;
2. Professional and higher level education programmes related to energy efficient and sustainable building must be promoted; practical skills of construction experts and workers must be improved;
3. High quality and energy efficient projects and building works, as well as high quality building supervision must be ensured;
4. Possibility of applying new financial initiatives for implementing energy efficient renovation, such as EU programme “Jessica”, green mortgages, etc., as well as best practices of other countries must be further investigated;
5. Based on requirements of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive, new instruments for improving energy efficiency of buildings must be proposed to energy suppliers;
6. Unified real estate tax relief policy for renovated buildings must be applied on a national level to allow municipalities to set achievable energy efficiency target.

Please, have an insight into the Latvian BUILD UPON first workshop “Renovation Day” here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2S95GU\\_Le0&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2S95GU_Le0&feature=youtu.be)

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