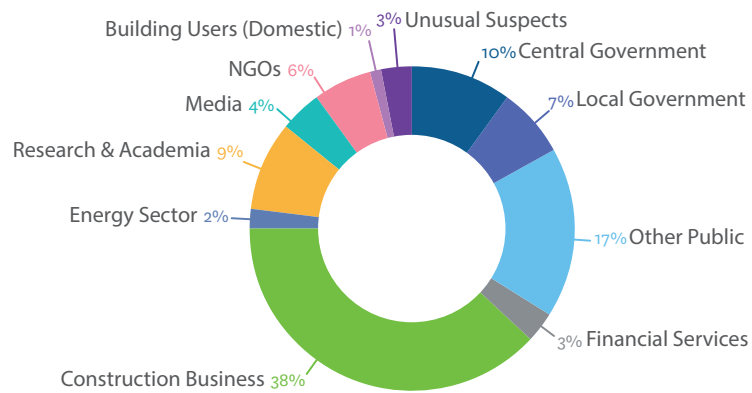


Over the past year, the BUILD UPON project has brought together a uniquely diverse community of nearly 2,000 organisations at over 100 events across Europe, to co-create the national building renovation strategies that are due by the 30 April 2017 EU deadline. These strategies are critical to reducing the impacts of climate change from energy use in buildings, and creating buildings that deliver a high quality of life for everyone.

As part of this, the Slovenia Green Building Council and its partners have brought together a community of 120 organisations at 6 events across Slovenia, and created cross-sector consensus over the following set of key recommendations for Slovenia's renovation strategy.



Breakdown of organisations participating in BUILD UPON in Slovenia

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SLOVENIA'S NATIONAL RENOVATION STRATEGY

1. The Power of Example

Lack of good practice examples is seen as one of the biggest barriers to sustainable construction. The problem is twofold: on the one hand, there is a lack of good practice examples and on the other hand, there are too many examples of poor or energy inefficient practices, especially in the field of energy renovation of buildings. At least 5 to 10 illustrative examples of good practices should be created urgently and disseminated as widely as possible to showcase the potential of good renovation projects.

2. Let's Use the Power of the Media

The public need to be educated on the importance of buildings that are efficient as well as healthy, safe and comfortable for their users. In order to achieve the widest possible audience, we must leverage the power of the mainstream media - especially television and the internet. In the first instance, this can be broadcasting awareness-raising initiatives and other high-profile broadcasts. Secondly, the establishment of databases of best practices, designers etc. will provide the media with a useful resource to draw from.

3. The Power of Knowledge

From ministries, municipalities, private investors, designers, construction companies, utility managers, financing and insurance companies - all the way to the building user - there is lack of knowledge on sustainable construction in Slovenia. It is essential that all the relevant stakeholders have access to knowledge relating to sustainable construction. One way this can be achieved is by developing databases of professionally trained designers and contractors, databases of providers of local and natural building materials and providers of traditional construction methods.

4. The Power of Money

Renovating buildings requires significant financial resources - particularly if renovating to the levels required by EU regulations. Therefore, developing financial solutions needs to become a priority and there needs to be a focus on innovative sources of finances such as green mortgages, green bonds and patronage/sponsorship for buildings of cultural heritage value.

5. The Need for Long-Term Stability and Planning

The public and private investors and the economy at large need long-term stability and planning. The lack of long-term planning - both regulatory and financial - means that stakeholders cannot make long-term decisions and investments necessary to make large-scale renovation happen. Therefore, current short-term thinking must be replaced by regulation, subsidies and other funding sources that provides long-term certainty.

6. Less is More: End Bureaucracy

Currently there are numerous laws, regulations and complicated

bureaucratic procedures hindering innovation in building renovation. The focus must be on innovate and simple measures which promote the most effective stimulus measures. There should however be analysis of the success of these initiatives and whether they are having an impact on the market.

7. Guidance in Legislative and Governmental Levels

Government need to provide guidance on solving sustainability and energy efficiency issues relating to buildings. This guidance should harmonise inconsistencies and specify minimum and mandatory criteria for sustainable construction. Policies on green public procurement (GPP) and the Public Procurement Act must promote, rather than hinder, sustainable construction. Lastly, the criteria to award the lowest price in public procurement must be abolished.

8. Healthy, Safe and Comfortable Buildings for All

It needs to be recognised that the conversation goes beyond energy efficiency - requirements to provide

customers with healthy living conditions, safety and living comfort must also be considered. These requirements must also be considered by financial and legislative tools for both new construction and when renovating existing buildings.

9. Encourage Local, Resource-Efficient and Durable

The renovation process must promote the use of local and traditional building materials. Therefore, there should be incentives for the use of local materials and products in the renovation process. In addition, tools for Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Life Cycle Costing (LCC) must be developed and used to assess the whole building along its lifecycle.

10. The Power of the Mind and Reason

The use of modern and innovative technology and advanced construction procedures such as Building Information Modelling (BIM) will help lead to the most efficient use of financial resources and lead to healthy, safe and comfortable buildings for end-users.

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