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Municipality of Cesena | Italy | www.comune.cesena.fc.it



EnEffect Group | Bulgaria | www.eneffect.bg



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Building Research Establishment Wales | United Kingdom | www.bre.co.uk



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proKlima GbR | Germany | www.proklima-hannover.de



End Use Efficiency Research Group, Politecnico di Milano | Italy | www.eerg.it



Burgas Municipality | Bulgaria | www.burgas.bg

Cover photo: Nieuw Zuid development in Antwerpen | Belgium © Studio Associato Secchi-Viganò

Opportunities and benefits

The PassREg project is of great relevance to policy makers and those responsible for the delivery and implementation of regional, national and EU energy performance standards and incentive schemes across the building sector. In so doing, it is important to identify a 'cost optimal' solution that takes into account the whole life cycle cost of the building, then provide guidance to ensure the industry is capable of achieving the desired outcome.

PassREg calls on the experiences of regions that have effectively implemented ambitious targets utilising low energy design supplemented by renewable energy systems to identify the factors that allowed their success. The learning from these areas will help to inform proven methods for delivering low energy buildings in line with EU targets that can be rolled out in the rest of Europe.

Success guides and solutions are being published throughout the course of the project. PassREg offers opportunities to visit demonstration buildings and discuss regional experiences with those involved via international study tours and workshops. This inclusion of real projects helps provide confidence to those with similar aspirations while showing a path for implementation under local conditions and circumstances.

The PassREg Beacon Project BatEx 137 - Rue Simon in Brussels is a mixed use, partial new build and partial retrofit Passive House supplied by renewable energies. Since 2010, Passive House has been mandatory for newly built public buildings in Brussels and will be made mandatory for all new builds as of 2015.



Built examples

The Brussels Capital Region, with its forward thinking legislation, is positioned to reach EU goals five years ahead of time. The Cities of Hanover and Frankfurt, too, have come a long way in supporting PassREg concepts.

The Riedberg school in Frankfurt, Germany, completed in 2004, was among the first Passive House schools built after the Frankfurt City Council's 2002 mandate that all future schools be built to the Passive House Standard.



Made up of some 300 Passive House homes, Hanover's zero:e park is Germany's largest Passive House neighbourhood and Europe's largest zero-emissions district. Combining the use of renewable energies with the energy efficiency of Passive House, the zero:e park is a shining example of the type of developments encouraged by the incentive and funding schemes of the Hanover model – a result of the combined efforts of the administration, energy supplier and various research, funding and marketing organisations.



PassREg

Building for the energy revolution

Passive House Regions with Renewable Energies



An informational pamphlet for:
policy makers and local authorities

Passive House regions

Meeting our energy needs sustainably into the future requires nothing short of an energy revolution. In terms of our built environment, perhaps the greatest opportunity lies in the promotion of an “energy efficiency first” approach to building, supplemented by renewable energies. Several front runner regions across the EU already successfully support this approach on the basis of the Passive House Standard. Many more aspire to get on board.

By investigating what makes front runner regions so successful as well as by making their successes more accessible, the PassREg project helps aspiring regions become front runners themselves. In the examination of both regional mechanisms and individual construction case studies, a wealth of knowledge will be gleaned to support actors in optimising existing models promoting energy conscious construction and inspiring new ones.

Participating regions

- Austria** The Region of Tyrol
- Belgium** The Brussels Capital Region The City of Antwerp
- Bulgaria** The City of Burgas along with the Cities of Gabrovo, Sofia and Varna
- Croatia** The City of Zagreb
- France** The Region of Aquitaine
- Germany** The Cities of Frankfurt am Main, Hanover and Heidelberg
- Italy** The City of Cesena and the City of Aglientu, The Regions of Catania, Foggia, Marche, and Pesaro and Urbino The Government of Sicily
- Latvia** The Regions of Rezekne and Vidzeme with the City of Ergli
- Netherlands** The Regions of Arnhem-Nijmegen and Gelderland The Cities of Arnhem and Nijmegen
- United Kingdom** The Region of Wales

Toward EU energy goals

The EU has set ambitious goals for energy performance in buildings. To meet these goals by the 2020 deadline, many are looking to the Passive House Standard for energy performance in buildings.

Passive House is the basis

An internationally recognised building energy standard, Passive House combines maximal comfort with minimal energy use and life cycle costs. Through a focus on careful planning paired with quality building components, Passive House buildings use an average of 90% less energy than typical building stock – in terms of heating, they require less than 1.5 cubic metres of gas or 1.5 litres of oil per square meter annually. Vast energy savings have also been demonstrated in warm climates where conventional buildings typically require active cooling.

Making renewables feasible

The high levels of energy efficiency reached by Passive House buildings mean that the tiny energy demand that remains can be covered, economically, by a wide variety of renewable energy sources. Such efficient buildings can also do more with the renewables placed on small surface areas – a critical aspect in urban areas where buildings often have restricted roof and facade areas.

Many Passive House buildings make use of renewable energies, e.g. through photovoltaic systems, to cover their remaining energy demand.



Quality assurance

Buildings, whether new build or retrofit, must perform as expected if we are to ensure sustainable energy supply into the future and improve our standard of living in so doing. Proper performance, in turn, can only be ensured if quality in design, construction and the materials chosen is taken seriously.

PassREg builds upon existing Passive House design tools as well as quality assurance procedures and certification criteria for both buildings and components. Through PassREg, these criteria are being optimised for application throughout the EU, guided in part by the monitoring results of select case studies. In addition, PassREg strengthens the appropriate quality assurance infrastructure in partner countries while driving increased availability of qualified materials and products on regional markets.



The energy balance and Passive House design tool known as the PHPP or Passive House Planning Package is perhaps the most accurate energy balance program on the market. It stands as the first step in quality planning for low energy buildings.



The Passive House Institute certifies building components in order to provide quality assurance for high performance, Passive House suitable products and make such products visible on the market. This is an example of the seal awarded to transparent components meeting Passive House criteria.



Buildings meeting Passive House energy efficiency criteria can be certified according to international Passive House criteria. For energy retrofits in which the Passive House requirements cannot be met, EnerPHit certification may be awarded. These certifications stand for quality in high performance construction.

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Training and qualification

Qualified architects, engineers and craftspeople are essential in the successful construction of high performance buildings. Such professionals form the basis of the successes seen in front runner regions having successfully implemented Passive House solutions supplemented with renewables on large scales. Indeed, one of the greatest challenges faced in this regard lies not in technical details but in the training of qualified professionals.

Through PassREg, aspiring regions are being supported in the development of long term training strategies based on the successes of front runners. Courses making use of and building on readily available material for designers and tradespeople are being translated and adapted as needed to fit regional requirements. These offerings, supplemented by a range of informational sessions and forums, will serve as the basis for the general uptake of Passive House training by educational systems as well as by the building sector throughout the EU.

Architects and craftspeople in a Brussels Passive House course are working with a 3D model to get familiar with typical features of Passive House buildings such as suitable connections between a solid wall, concrete floor slab and foundation wall. These participants are learning how to apply PU panels to the exterior wall and how to achieve a continuous, uninterrupted insulation layer between the floor (inside) and the wall (outside).

