

## INFO- BUILD2LC

<http://www.interregeurope.eu/build2lc/>

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

### Editorial

#### Welcome to the first edition of INFO-BUILD2LC



BUILD2LC. Among the strategic objectives of the European Union for 2020, energy saving, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, especially in the field of construction, considering that this sector is responsible for 40% of consumption, are priorities.

The [BUILD2LC project](#), approved by the European Commission in the framework of the [Interreg Europe](#) programme, affects the following key topics: energy efficient construction and rehabilitation of buildings.

The BUILD2LC project began in April 2016 gathering eight partners from seven European countries and runs until the end of 2020. It has a budget of 1,658,987 euros and aims to promote innovative energy rehabilitation of buildings in Europe to reduce consumption energy and consolidate a market of specialized companies linked to this sector.

This bulletin is the first issue of a biannual publication by the BUILD2LC project team to disseminate the news and progresses of the project during its five years duration, as well as to support the sustainable construction and rehabilitation sector not only in those countries and regions participating in the project, but also at European level.

In these pages we will review the activities carried out during the first semester of the project, such as the Kick-off meeting held in Seville in May 2016, the first interregional meeting held in Zagreb in September 2016 and the various encounters that each of the partners have organised with their own regional stakeholders. We also highlight the presentation of the BUILD2LC project at conferences and events outside the project and discuss in detail the energy rehabilitation in buildings policy being carried out by one of the partners, the North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency (REGEA).

We hope that you find this newsletter interesting and it contributes to the commitment towards a sustainable, innovative and efficient construction and energy rehabilitation throughout Europe.

### Seville hosts the BUILD2LC Kick-off Meeting

The city of Seville (Andalusia, Spain) hosted the Kick-off meeting of the BUILD2LC project on 18 and 19 May 2016.

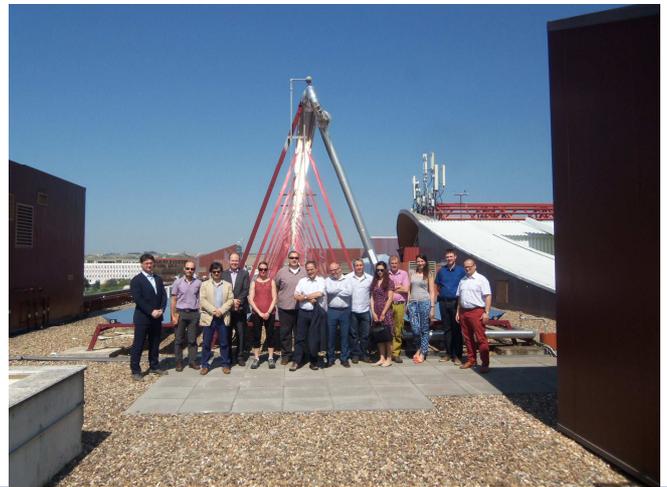
Together with the Andalusian Energy Agency, lead partner of the consortium, representatives from the different project partners attended the meeting: the Public Investment Development Agency of Lithuania, the Severn Wye Energy Agency Ltd (United Kingdom), the Rzeszow Regional Development Agency in Poland, the North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency, Region Jämtland Härjedalen in Sweden, the Local Energy Agency of Gorenjska in Slovenia and the Andalusian Institute of Technology. Attendance were welcomed by the Regional Minister of Employment, Business and Trade of the Andalusian Regional Government, Mr. José Sánchez Maldonado.



During the Kick-off meeting, the different topics to be developed during the project lifetime were defined, such as the professionalisation of the construction sector; innovation; activation of demand and new financial instruments.

BUILD2LC project partners also had the opportunity to visit two examples of sustainable construction and low energy consumption facilities in Andalusia. The first study visit was dedicated to

the Andalusian Regional Parliament, an historical building, formerly a hospital, as an example of HVAC (Heating, Ventilating and Air conditioning) with geothermal energy by underground waters with very high efficiency. The second study visit took place to the Higher Technical School of Engineering, where partners learnt about the energy management of the building through elements such as solar cooling, natural lighting or thermal exchange using river water for the sake of a superb energy efficiency.



### Partners introduce BUILD2LC in their respective regions

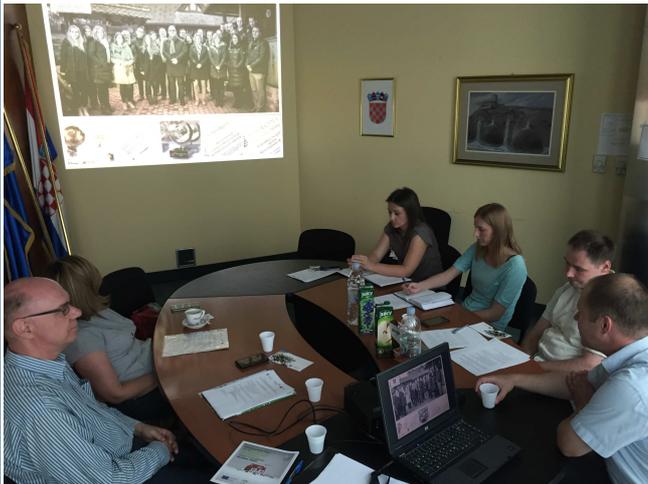
During the first six months of the BUILD2LC project each of the partners has organized a meeting of regional scope in order to promote the project to agents and entities linked to the field of innovative and sustainable construction and rehabilitation in their respective countries or regions, and from which the working groups will be set up by the participating entities, who will offer their expertise in the development of a Catalogue of Good Practices and in the design of a regional Action Plan.

#### [Andalusian Energy Agency \(AEA\)](#)

On 6 July 2016, the Andalusian Energy Agency, lead partner of the project, met in its main offices with representatives from business and trade associations, research entities of the construction sector, consumer associations and public administrations of the region as participating stakeholders in BUILD2LC.

The meeting was chaired by the Managing Director of the Andalusian Energy Agency, Ms. Natalia González Hereza, who conveyed to participants the importance of their participation "in an ambitious project to the extent that, together with targets for the energy rehabilitation of buildings and the reduction of energy consumption, we intend to involve the entire value chain linked to sustainable construction and rehabilitation".

In the case of Andalusia, four working groups will be created, each focused on one of the topics to be addressed in the project: new financial instruments, professionalisation of the



construction sector, innovation and activation of demand and combating energy poverty.

During this first meeting of the group of Andalusian experts, Ms. González Hereza highlighted the role of Andalusia as lead partner of the BUILD2LC project and the fact that "this leadership is the result of the efforts we are making at the international level and, specifically, in the European Union, to exploit synergies and opportunities linked to the priorities of Andalusia on energy and in particular those related to the field of construction."

#### [North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency \(REGEA\)](#)

The 1st Croatian national stakeholder meeting under the BUILD2LC project was held on 15 July 2016 by the North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency in the Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds.

For this meeting, REGEA counted on representatives from the Ministry of regional development and EU Funds, the Ministry of construction and physical planning and Ministry of environment and nature protection, those who presented the project concept and work plan and those who lead a discussion of the needs, expectations and experiences within the context of the 4 work topics of the project.

A fruitful and dynamic discussion has led to interesting conclusions which are a strong foundation for the development of thematic analyses. The meeting has left the overall impression that Croatia's authorities work and cooperate much on the complex issue of energy rehabilitation.

After the meeting with the national key stakeholders at policy level which, in the words of REGEA partners, "has been a fruitful and dynamic with a strong foundation to work on energy rehabilitation", a wider key stakeholder group will be established to support the further process of consultations and the implementation of project activities.

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

The Rzeszow Regional Development Agency organised a breakfast meeting on 11 August 2016 in which the objectives of the project were discussed as well as the possible types of cooperation with local stakeholders for the BUILD2LC project.

Participants were welcomed by the Vice President of the Agency, Piotr Zawada, and the Project Manager of BUILD2LC project, Marek Duda, who explained the main objectives of the project.

The meeting counted on the presence of Mieczyslaw Miazga, member of the Polish national Parliament; Ryszard Jur, Head of department in Marshal Office of the Podkarpackie Region; Grzegorz Topolewicz, Branch manager in Marshal Office of the Podkarpackie Region; Mariusz Król, Vicepresident of the Board - Regional Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Rzeszów; Wojciech Trzaska, President of the Board - Podkarpackie Energy Agency; Zbigniew Detya, Chairman of the Chamber, Podkarpacka District Chamber of Civil Engineers; Joanna Wilk, Professor, Technical University in Rzeszow - Department Thermodynamics and Fluid Mechanics; Robert Smusz, PhD - academic teacher, Technical University in Rzeszow - Department Thermodynamics and Fluid Mechanics; Marcin Lojek, Expert, The Association of Municipalities



Polish Network "Energie Cités" and Andrzej Czarnecki, President of the Board, Association of Municipalities Basin Wisłoka.

All participants expressed an interest in the BUILD2LC project and are willing to take part in future activities.

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

On 30 June 2016, the Public Investment Development Agency, (VIPA), organised a meeting with regional stakeholders to inform them about the participation of VIPA in the BUILD2LC project. For VIPA, Gvidas Dargužas presented the four topics to be worked with: Professionalization of the construction sector; Innovation; Activation of demand and combating energy poverty; New financial instruments.



The following regional stakeholders participated in the meeting: Šarūnė Navickaitė – Dulaitienė, representative of Government of the Republic of Lithuania; Agnė Kazlauskaitė and Raimonda Eidžiūnė representatives of the European Union structural assistance management department Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania; Inesis Kiškis, Eglė Valūnė and Ramūnas Šveikauskas, representatives of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania; Violeta Greičiuvienė, representative of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania; Kęstutis Pauša and Rimantas Sevastijančiukas, representatives of the Energy agency; Marius Smaidžiūnas of the Housing Energy Efficiency Agency and representatives of the private sector, Vaidas Petrokas of Jūsų projektai (eng. Your Projects); Feliksas Miliutis of Glimsted; Dainius Pupkevičius of KPMG; Tadas Norvydas of VĮ Darni energetika (eng. Sustainable energy); and Eglė Pranckūnienė with Aušra Veselovaitė of Stasaitis & partners lawyers.

### [Local energy agency of Gorenjska \(LEAG\)](#)

On 8 September 2016, the first working meeting of regional stakeholders was held in Ljubljana, in the framework of the BUILD2LC project, in which ten experts presented their views and cases of good practice on four topics were chosen to do in-depth analysis. Each topic was presented by a leading expert in the group.

Tilen Smolnikar, Ministry for Infrastructure Directorate for Energy, presented the status and plans for new financial instruments for the purpose of renovation of the building stock in Slovenia. The development of new financial instruments in Europe is going in the direction that is attracting as the greatest investment possible, and the role of the Slovenian government is to provide the adequate financial instruments which will complement European funding.

Doctor Marjana Šijanec Zavrl, ZRMK d.o.o. Building and Civil Engineering Institute, highlighted the problem of high employee fluctuation in the construction sector. She also stressed the importance of developing new technologies and solutions in the design of nearly zero energy buildings and upgrading existing ones.



Doctor Tomislav Tkalec, of the Focus Association for Sustainable Development, presented an example of good practice in the field of energy poverty, specifically, in the assistance in form of free energy consulting that is offered to the public by the consultancy offices ENSVET with the help of Social Work Centers. Counseling is focused on low-income households; and it is estimated that an average household could save up to 150 € per year.

Aleš Podgornik, of the Jozef Stefan Institute, Center for Energy Efficiency, presented one of the latest innovation developments in the Slovenian construction sector with emphasis on monitoring energy consumption in real time. The discussion group focused on calculation methods of energy savings in the case of public-private partnerships.

At the end of meeting, the Director of LEAG, Anton Pogačnik, expressed his belief that the establishment of a Slovenian working group will greatly contribute to the general results of the BUILD2LC project and the increase of energy efficiency in European buildings.

### Region Jämtland Härjedalen

The first stakeholder meeting within the BUILD2LC project in Region Jämtland Härjedalen was held in Östersund, Sweden, on the 23<sup>d</sup> of August. The meeting gathered 17 persons from municipalities, public real estate companies, private real estate companies, the County administrative board, Mid Sweden University and Region Jämtland Härjedalen, that is the project partner.



A good dialogue took place on what the function the stakeholders group should be and what the participants want future meeting to constitute. In general, there are expectations to absorb new knowledge, get inspiration from external expertise, learn from each other and benefit from each other's experiences as well as hopes for cooperation to achieve common energy and climate change goals as also possibly, further future projects.

Ingrid Ahnlund-Rode and Ida Sjölund explained the idea and objectives of the BUILD2LC project and how it is financed. The project's regional activities and scope is mainly aimed at property managers and those who work with energy in real estate companies, municipalities or other public organization in the county. The regional activities within the BUILD2LC project will interact and be included in the work of Climate Council of Jämtland Härjedalen.

A large share of the meeting was devoted to a brainstorming session on the needs of the real estate industry in Jämtland and desires of activities and content for the project's future content. The discussion led to a "wish list" for future activities, which works as great input to State of Art and SWOT analysis.

### **Zagreb (Croatia) hosts the first interregional meeting of the BUILD2LC project**

This first interregional meeting of the BUILD2LC project took place in Zagreb, Croatia on 21-22 September 2016, hosted by the North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency (REGEA).

This meeting focused on the exchange of good practices among partners, as well as several activities related to the four topics of the BUILD2LC project: new financial instruments, activation of demand and energy poverty, professionalisation of the construction sector and innovation.

Partners also had the opportunity to learn for the first time the current state of art of sustainable construction in each region, as well as main barriers, needs and opportunities presented by each particular market, which will facilitate the creation of joint initiatives of bilateral cooperation among different partners and participating regions.

During the meeting in Zagreb, partners of the BUILD2LC project also realised two study visits, one to the Energy Centre Bracak, a building of high heritage value being renovated to offer high energy efficiency and incorporate innovative solutions in the field of energy sustainability, respecting at the same time the architectural heritage; the second study visit was to the ZagEE project, an ambitious project lead by the Zagreb municipality for the energy rehabilitation of public buildings, including standard renovation measures but also the installation of renewable energy sources; with an innovative approach both in the technical solutions chosen and the financing schemes.



The host partner, the North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency, organised the meeting to coincide with another European project called Streetlight EPC, which counts on 19 partners throughout Europe to create advanced initiatives of efficient public lighting, with which BUILD2LC partners could maintain contacts to seek common points and use of synergies, especially in the field of new financial instruments, an aspect in which both projects coincide.

## BUILD2LC in international events



The Andalusian Energy Agency (AEA) participated in the European Sustainable Energy Week held in Brussels, organised by the European Commission to present the BUILD2LC project, whose objective is to promote the innovative energy rehabilitation of buildings in Europe to reduce the energy consumption, coinciding with the topics of the event.

The Andalusian Energy Agency participated in the conference about Smart Specialisation Strategy

(S3) in the field of energy, invited by the Joint Research Centre in Seville of the European Commission.

The lead partner of the BUILD2LC project explained how the project will stimulate successful experiences in the partner regions in the fields of competitiveness, innovation, financing and behaviour change in the construction sector.

The European Sustainable Energy Week is the most important European conference dedicated to sustainable energy policy issues. In the sessions organised by the European Commission, energy stakeholders debate new policy developments, best practices or ideas.

## Focus on:

### North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency (REGEA): Introduction to the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion 2014-2020

**REGEA.** Of the seven countries represented in the BUILD2LC project, Croatia is the youngest member of the European Union. This means that access to structural funds was granted for the first time in the programming period 2014-2020.

Operational programme competitiveness and cohesion (OPCC) is the policy instrument targeted by the Croatian partner North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency under BUILD2LC. It was officially adopted by the European Commission on 12 December 2014 as a tool delivering Europe's cohesion policy under the Investment for growth and jobs goal. The main aim of the policy instrument is to foster infrastructural investments in the areas of transport, energy, environmental protection and ICT and to support the development of entrepreneurship and research activities. The overall EU financial allocation for OPCC amounts to EUR 6,881 bn – EUR 4,321 bn of ERDF funds and EUR 2,559 bn from the Cohesion fund – and 7,7% of that overall amount is attributed to the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources under priority area 4 Low carbon Economy. The largest part of the allocation for priority area 4 is dedicated to investments in public buildings because on one hand public buildings hold significant potential for energy and cost savings and on the other hand the public sector is expected to take an exemplary role, i.e. provide investments and behavior change that will serve as an example and catalyst for similar investments in other types of buildings.

The Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds, in its capacity of managing authority, is in charge of the overall implementation of this policy instrument, but the Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning is responsible for programming funds, preparing calls for proposals initiating strategic projects, selection of actions to be financed and related activities under the Investment priority 4c - *Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector*, in particular specific objective 4c1 - *Reduction of energy consumption of the public sector buildings* and specific objective 4c2 - *Reduction of energy consumption of the residential buildings (multi*



*apartment buildings and family houses)* targeted within BUILD2LC. Thus, representatives of both ministries are the most important national stakeholders.

The main source for monitoring the achievement of programme-specific result indicators under specific objectives 4c1 and 4c2 is the innovative web based application System for monitoring, measuring and verification of energy savings (SMIV), one of Croatia's best practices in the field of energy related ICT solutions to be presented in the BUILD2LC Good Practice collection.

Already during the programming phase of OPCC the intention has been set to use financial instruments for specific objectives 4c1 and 4c2 targeted under the BUILD2LC project. The Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds is currently fine tuning an EIB study in support of the ex-ante assessment providing an analysis of the market conditions and a proposed strategy for the deployment of financial instruments in the field of energy efficiency.

The switch from grants to financial products will be a significant change in the management of funds under OPCC and the most important role of the BUILD2LC project in the process will be to provide support in terms of exchange of practical knowledge through bilateral and interregional activities, such as the upcoming interregional seminar on new financing instruments in Lithuania.

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## Next events

- Interregional seminar on new financing instruments – Vilnius, Lithuania. January 2017.
- Interregional seminar on competitiveness and clusterization –Rzeszow, Poland. March 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  
NORTH-WEST CROATIA  
SJEVEROZAPADNE HRVATSKE  
REGIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

North-West Croatia  
Regional Energy  
Agency (REGEA)



Region Jämtland Härjedalen  
(RJH)



Local Energy Agency of  
Gorenjska (LEAG)



Andalusian Institute of  
Technology (IAT)

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*The Interreg Europe programme of the European Union is an initiative of territorial cooperation for the period 2014-2020 which aims to encourage cooperation between regions of the European Union. The aim is to help European regions to design and implement regional policies and programmes more effectively, particularly Growth and Jobs programmes of the European Structural Funds and Investment, but also programmes of the European Territorial Cooperation, through the exchange of experiences, knowledge and best practices between stakeholders of all European regions. The programme has four thematic objectives: research and innovation, SME competitiveness, low-carbon economy, the environment and resource efficiency. The Interreg Europe programme covers the entire territory of the European Union, Norway and Switzerland.*

BUILD2LC is part of the Interreg Europe programme ([www.interregeurope.eu](http://www.interregeurope.eu)), with a total budget of 1,658,987 euros, and co-financed with European Regional Development Fund up to 83.46%.