There is a need to promote effective use of EPC data. A well-functioning EPC system, accompanied by an EPC database, provides a ready-to-use source of information on the building stock. There is an increasing number of best practices across Europe that demonstrate the added value of EPC data for policy making (e.g. to inform relevant renovation strategies) and monitoring, as well as market and research analysis. For example, Bulgaria used the EPC information to inform their Energy Performance of Buildings in the Public Estate (EPISCOPE) project. Other countries have also developed platforms to facilitate the use of EPC data, such as Energy Map (www.enermap.eu/epc) in Germany and the Energy Label Atlas (www.episcope.eu) in Bulgaria.

EPC schemes are not yet fully implemented in all MS, nor are they sufficiently enforced. Therefore, EPC quality, credibility and usefulness vary largely among MS, and there is still a need to further support and set guidelines for the implementation of EPC schemes at the national level. The potential to change the status quo lies in effective implementation of the requirements of the recast EPBD (2010/31/EU), such as establishing a well-functioning system for independent EPC control, and also enforcement of penalties for non-compliance.

• There is a need to introduce further measures for quality assurance, especially during the early stage of the certification process.
• There is an increasing number of countries that use tools for plausibility checks of EPC data in the calculation software and/or the EPC registers. Errors in input data are among the most typical factors that influence the quality of the results. In some countries, such as Germany and the Netherlands, this is conducted through a third party organisation, mainly for research and commercial purposes. In some countries (e.g. Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Malta and Cyprus) there is no public access to the EPC database.

RECOMMENDATIONS

BPIE studies on Energy Performance Certificates are available on our website.

BPIE.EU
BUILDINGSDATA.EU

BPIE SURVEY 2013
PILOT PROJECT: NETHERLANDS
CURRENT STATUS OF THE CENTRALISED EPC REGISTERS ACROSS EUROPE

While it is not compulsory to set up a central/regional EPC register, almost all MSs have advanced in setting up a system to collect EPC data. These measures were mostly taken in the context of monitoring and quality control of energy certification processes (required by the EPBD). In 2014, 24 countries have an operational central/regional EPC registers (plus Norway, Poland, Croatia and the Czech Republic lining up to launch their own registries). In some countries (e.g. the United Kingdom and Belgium – Flanders), there are separate databases for residential and non-residential buildings. For Italy and Spain the databases are only available in selected regions.

The level of publicly available information in EPC database varies between Member States. In some cases open access to selected EPC information is provided directly from the database (in Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, parts of the United Kingdom-England and Wales and Norway); whereas in other, only aggregated results are made publicly available (Belgium- Flanders, Greece,Croatia,Hungary,Romana). In several countries the access to EPC information is provided upon request of a third party organisation, mainly for research and (sometimes) commercial purposes. In some countries (e.g. Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Malta and Cyprus) there is no public access to the EPC database.