



## Highlights



### Discount rates in energy system analysis - discussion paper

BPIE commissioned Fraunhofer ISI to investigate the current use of discount rates in energy efficiency policy modelling, with a specific focus put on the building sector. Discount rates are paramount to assess the costs and long-term benefits of different policy scenarios. The [paper](#) summarises their use in a number of major reports and concludes that :

- Social discount rates should be between 1 and 7% in the EU,
- Individual discount rates should be decided according to the investor,
- And discount rates for private households should be based on the market price for capital.

Based on these studies, the [paper](#) argues that the use of high discount rates to map non-economic barriers and bounded rationality is not suitable. In order to simulate real-world investment decisions, it is rather recommended to apply behavioural models which consider individual decision criteria as well as barriers to energy efficiency explicitly.



### Transforming and stimulating the energy efficiency market in Romania

BPIE's recent workshop in Romania focused on enabling factors that can lead to a market transformation and increase energy efficiency in buildings.

The event gathered almost 50 stakeholders representing industry, NGOs, media and policy makers who had the opportunity to debate about the nZEB market strategy for Romania, the development of a reliable EPC database and business models for Energy Service Companies.

Several European and national research centers presented best practice examples on these topics and their applicability in the Romanian context.

[Their presentations are now available.](#)

## Focus on



### Monitoring current market transition to low energy buildings, new data tool

The [ZEBRA2020 data tool](#) offers a user-friendly presentation of indicators related to the overall building stock. It gives an overview of the current building stock (renovation and construction) and monitors Energy Performance Certificates activities by country (focusing on the project target countries). The tool endeavours to overcome data gaps and provide comprehensive datasets which support stakeholders in their efforts to consolidate the transition to an nZEB market place.

In preparation for the development of an nZEB Tracker (a tool meant to measure the maturity of the nZEB market available in the second half of 2015), a recent [report](#) identifies monitoring criteria. These criteria analysis will identify strengths and weaknesses of each Member State's market, allowing for the definition of an overall framework to derive recommendations on how to accelerate the market transformation towards nZEBs.

### Join ICP EU Technical Forum and Ally Network!

The Investor Confidence Project EU is a non-governmental organization working to increase the flow of investment into building energy renovations by providing tools for investors, developers and programme administrators to help deliver projects that are more transparent and therefore attractive to investors.

Starting in June, the project is looking for participants to its [Technical Forum](#), a voluntary industry professional group that advises ICP Europe staff on development of [Energy Project Protocols](#), including participation to a monthly webinar and commenting on protocols.

Another possibility is to join the [Ally Network](#), a way to identify other market leaders in this space, find project and financing partners and get recognized.

BPIE is a member of ICP EU's Steering Group.

### Energy waste in buildings: Central governments do not lead by example

A multi-stakeholder alliance of 27 European business, civil society, professional, trade union and local government organisations, the Coalition for Energy Savings, released a [new study](#) analysing the plans and inventories which Member States notified to the European Commission in order to comply with Article 5 of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

The article requires that Member States annually renovate 3% of the floor area of central government buildings or put in place alternative measures to reach at least the same energy savings.

11 Member States chose the default approach, while 17 Member States selected the alternative approach which allows them to opt for non-renovation measures, such as behavioural change campaigns. Overall, Member States have provided limited information, and no clear plans on the renovations to be undertaken to achieve the required energy savings.

## News in brief

- **Indoor air quality, thermal comfort and daylight: executive briefing available**

Key findings of the report about IAQ, thermal comfort and daylight requirements in selected MS addressing a range of topics increasingly important for European buildings and their inhabitants are gathered in this [one-pager](#).

BPIE identified gaps in 8 MS regulations to ensure that citizens live in highly efficient, healthy, comfortable and well-lit buildings. Recommendations are derived to improve the status-quo and raise standards. [German and Romanian versions](#) of the report's executive summary are available.

- **Save the date! Conferences in October and November 2015**

The final conferences of two European projects focusing on buildings renovation are planned for October 15 (after the Renovate Europe Day) and November 18 in Brussels. [COHERENO's](#) conference will present the collaboration strategies developed during the 36 months of the project, with a focus on the experience to recruit companies for business collaboration and the development of business models.

The final conference of the [IEE project EPISCOPE](#) will take place on November 18. Topics discussed will include energy performance indicators that support a high quality of energy refurbishments and results from pilot actions conducted in 16 countries to track the implementation of energy saving measures. More details will follow soon, mark your calendars!

- **BUILD UPON: Co-creating Europe's national renovation strategies**

Green Building Councils across Europe launched end of March [BUILD UPON](#), a two-year project to support governments in designing and implementing the national renovation strategies many have so far struggled to deliver in accordance with EU law, [as demonstrated in BPIE's study](#). The project will focus on 13 countries. Green Building Councils will work with governments and major cities to mobilise a year-long stakeholder dialogue process, facilitating replication of retrofit best practice across the region by identified experts. The [launch report](#) is available.

- **"Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Building-Integrated Photovoltaics: Where Sustainability meets Aesthetics"**

BPIE is supporting the European PV Technology Platform which will hold its yearly [high-level conference in London July 8](#). The conference, a discussion among investors, architects, construction and PV industry representatives, as well as policy makers about challenges and opportunities for the full-scale deployment of building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV) in Europe, is co-organised with WIP, EPIA, EUREC and the JRC in association with the SETA Network. Participation to this event is free of charge but registration is required.

## Where to Meet Us

BPIE will speak at the following events in the upcoming months:

- 01-06 June - [ecee Summer Study](#) in Presqu'île de Giens, France. BPIE will co-lead a panel on energy use in buildings, organise a workshop to present ZEBRA2020's first results, and present 4 papers:
  - o June 2, [Energy Performance Certificates as tools to support and track renovation activities](#)
  - o June 3, [Do building renovation strategies live up to the name?](#)
  - o June 5, [Tackling fuel poverty with building renovation as well as Indoor air quality, thermal](#)

comfort and daylight policies on the way to nZEB – status of selected MS and future policy recommendations.

- 8-12 June - [Geoexchange Conference + Passiv Haus](#) - World Renewable Energy Congress 2015 (Romania)
- 17 June – [European Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels](#). BPIE will moderate the conference Building Automation: can current policy frameworks unlock the large-scale energy savings?
- 21 October 2015 – Workshop on buildings renovation organised by the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the German Energy Agency (DENA), Brussels
- 18-20 November 2015 - [RENEXPO South-East Europe](#), 8th International Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Trade Fair of Romania

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