



## Press release

### Success factors for ambitious renovation strategies

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**Brussels, December 2 - A new report by the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) finds that a variety of already successful building renovation approaches could inspire the future development of renovation policies to deliver deep CO<sub>2</sub> savings and cut energy wastage. The study describes five replicable schemes from different European Member States and highlights trigger points for mandatory renovation that can lead to further uptake.**

While governments from around the world are negotiating an agreement on the mitigation of climate change at COP21, the massive potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through building renovation needs replicable schemes. BPIE's report analyses a variety of approaches and solutions available to tackle the renovation challenge in terms of scale, financing, addressing non-technical barriers, level of ambition or achievement of social objectives. In order to present more tangible results, the five best cases which can inspire and motivate policy-makers across Europe, and even globally, were selected.

These exemplary cases cover different approaches such as: zero-energy for zero-upfront-costs (The Netherlands); a revolving loan fund (Estonia); a large-scale national programme (Germany); a scheme tackling fuel poverty (France) and dedicated energy services for the public sector (United Kingdom). This review is coupled with the identification of critical success factors that should be considered when developing such initiatives. These range from maximising buy-in through stakeholder engagement, access to expert support, tailored financing, quality control to flexibility, political commitment and more.

As experience has shown, reliance on purely voluntary measures does not result in the required level of building renovation, despite attractive financial support available to consumers. This should signal a change in strategy by taking advantage of windows of opportunity, as BPIE recommends in the study. For instance, changes in ownership, building use or works done on a building should be a trigger for energy performance improvements. The 3% annual renovation requirement for central government buildings (EED, Article 5) should be extended to all public buildings. Moreover, social housing should be in the top quartile of energy performance ratings in order to provide comfortable and affordable housing, particularly for households at risk of fuel poverty.

According to Oliver Rapf, Executive Director of BPIE, *"Combining state-of-the-art technologies with innovative financing schemes can certainly boost the impact of renovation. This is what the selected schemes prove. Applying different policy levers – including trigger points for mandatory requirements - can significantly increase the success and effectiveness of renovation schemes. Local, national and regional authorities have to focus their efforts on a long-term strategic vision, lacking at the moment. The research carried out by BPIE can give some leads on how to achieve this desirable objective."*



## **PRESS CONTACT**

Marine Faber  
Communications Manager  
Email: [marine.faber@bpie.eu](mailto:marine.faber@bpie.eu)  
Phone: +32 2 789 30 07  
Mobile: +32 492 31 73 03

## **NOTES TO THE EDITOR**

The report is available at [bpie.eu/renovation-in-practice.html](http://bpie.eu/renovation-in-practice.html). (from December 2)

### **About BPIE**

The Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) is a European not-for-profit think-tank with a focus on independent analysis and knowledge dissemination, supporting evidence-based policy-making in the field of energy performance in buildings. It delivers policy analyses, policy advice and implementation support.

For more information visit [www.bpie.eu](http://www.bpie.eu) and [www.buildingsdata.eu](http://www.buildingsdata.eu).

### **About the Energy Efficiency Directive, Article 4**

In 2012, the Energy Efficiency Directive introduced an important new dimension to the legislative landscape for energy saving in buildings. Article 4 requires Member States, for the first time, to develop national strategies for the renovation of their building stocks, filling a major gap in policy concerning existing buildings, which the vast majority of energy use and resulting carbon emissions will be associated with in the foreseeable future.

### **About the Energy Efficiency Directive, Article 5**

As of January 2014, to meet the minimum energy performance requirements, each year Member States have to renovate 3% of the total floor area of heated and/or cooled buildings owned and occupied by its central government.