

IMAGINE A BUILT ENVIRONMENT
THAT ENABLES A HIGH QUALITY
OF LIFE FOR ALL



CO-CREATING AN AMBITIOUS NATIONAL RENOVATION STRATEGY FOR IRELAND

Workshop

6

Wood Quay Venue - Dublin
Wednesday, 18th January 2017

www.buildupon.eu/ireland
#BuildUpon



Funded by the Horizon
2020 Programme of
the European Union



Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaíthe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaol
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

ABOUT THE IRISH GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

The Irish Green Building Council ([IGBC](#)), is the leading authority on sustainable building in Ireland. With a network of over 90 member organisations, the IGBC is working to transform the Irish construction and property sector into a global leader in quality and sustainability.

As well as leading the [Build Upon](#) project in Ireland, the IGBC has developed the [Home Performance Index \(HPI\)](#) Ireland's first national certification system for quality and sustainable residential development, and provides BREEAM, LEED and other green building education programmes.

For further information, please visit: www.igbc.ie

A special thanks to our Build Upon Advisory Board

Acknowledgements

The IGBC team would like to thank all the participants who attended and contributed to the workshop. These are listed page [17](#). In particular, we would like to thank our workshop facilitator, Chris Chapman, and our visual facilitator, Eimear McNally.



Pat Barry
Irish Green Building Council



Mark Bennett
Smart Cities & Sustainability



Ruth Buggie
SEAI



Aidan Burke
Hertz Corporation



Professor Tony Day
International Energy Research Centre



Michael Donohoe
Colliers International



Marion Jammet
Irish Green Building Council



Paul Kenny
Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA)



Joseph Little
DIT



David McAuley
Dandelion Innovation



John-Mark McCafferty
Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP)



Brian Montayne
ESB Innovation



Kevin O'Rourke
Marchena Management Services Ltd



Fiona Tutty
Zesco



Fintan Smyth
Saint-Gobain



Bianca Wong
Kingspan Insulated Panels

ABOUT THE VENUE: WOOD QUAY VENUE - DUBLIN



Wood Quay Venue is a spectacular state-of-the-art conference, meeting, and exhibition and performance facility featuring a stretch of the original Hiberno Norse (Viking) City Wall dating from 1100AD.

It is located in the heart of the city in Dublin City Council Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8.

SUMMARY



Co-Creating Europe's National Renovation Strategies

WE BELIEVE THAT OUR BUILDINGS CAN BE BETTER THAN THEY ARE TODAY

BUILD UPON is the world's largest collaborative project on building renovation – bringing together over 1,000 organisations, across 13 countries, at over 80 events in 2016-17.

It aims to create a renovation revolution across Europe by helping countries to deliver strategies for renovating their existing buildings, by the 30 April 2017 EU deadline.

These strategies are critical to cutting Europe's energy use, reducing the impacts of climate change, and creating buildings that deliver a high quality of life for everyone.



BUILD UPON IN IRELAND

The Irish Green Building Council, in conjunction with the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (DCCA) is working to build a community of experts and stakeholders to develop the V2.0 national renovation strategy Ireland must deliver by April 2017 under the Energy Efficiency Directive.

The details of this strategy are critical to deliver a [“fully decarbonised built environment that delivers a better quality of life for all”](#) – How will we finance the long term investment strategy required for our building stock over the next 35 years? How will we reach our climate targets? All these questions will be answered by Ireland's National Renovation Strategy.

AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP

The aim of the workshop was to finalise our set of recommendations and to explore the framework and mechanisms that are required to successfully implement Ireland's National Renovation Strategy V.2.

In particular, group discussions focused on the latest version of the document and how it could be improved, risks and challenges threatening the strategy and how these could be mitigated.

[A copy of the workshop agenda is available here.](#)

KEY OUTCOMES

A survey conducted at the end of the workshop showed a high level of support for the proposed recommendations. On a scale from 1 (whole-hearted endorsement) to 5 (serious disagreement), workshop participants rated their level of agreement with the latest set of recommendations on average at 1.68.

Yet, several suggestions were made to improve the document:

- Further develop the financial part of the document to show the scale of ambition
- Reinforce the importance of key construction organisations, banks and cross parties political buy-in
- Include a comprehensive communication plan as part of the strategy
- Add a specific section on traditional buildings
- Ensure the “skills and training” section covers the whole supply chain and not only construction workers and construction professionals
- Play on Ireland's strength, put a greater emphasis on leveraging communities
- Make the distinction between building performance monitoring and progress tracking clearer
- Improve clarity: Include a glossary and more visuals, and reduce the use of jargon
- Add a detailed implementation plan

Several suggestions were made in relation to the mechanisms required to successfully implement the strategy. In general, workshop participants felt that central coordination was required. One suggestion was to set up a national implementation stakeholder platform made up of several key stakeholders. The platform would be in charge of updating relevant stakeholders, advising government, as well as monitoring progress. In order to better track progress some participants suggested to launch an online dashboard showing progress for each building sector.

OUR CHALLENGE

The EU requires each country to establish a 'national renovation strategy': a long-term strategy for renovating the nation's homes and commercial buildings to high standards of energy efficiency.

This had to be done for the first time by 30 April 2014, with strengthened strategies to be delivered every three years thereafter, with the next by 30 April 2017. So, how are we doing?

Today, many of the individuals and organisations who have a stake in this challenge are not actively engaged in the national renovation strategy debate. The absence of large scale structured collaboration between renovation stakeholders and initiatives means countries are not currently delivering the renovation revolution Europe needs.

Project Overview

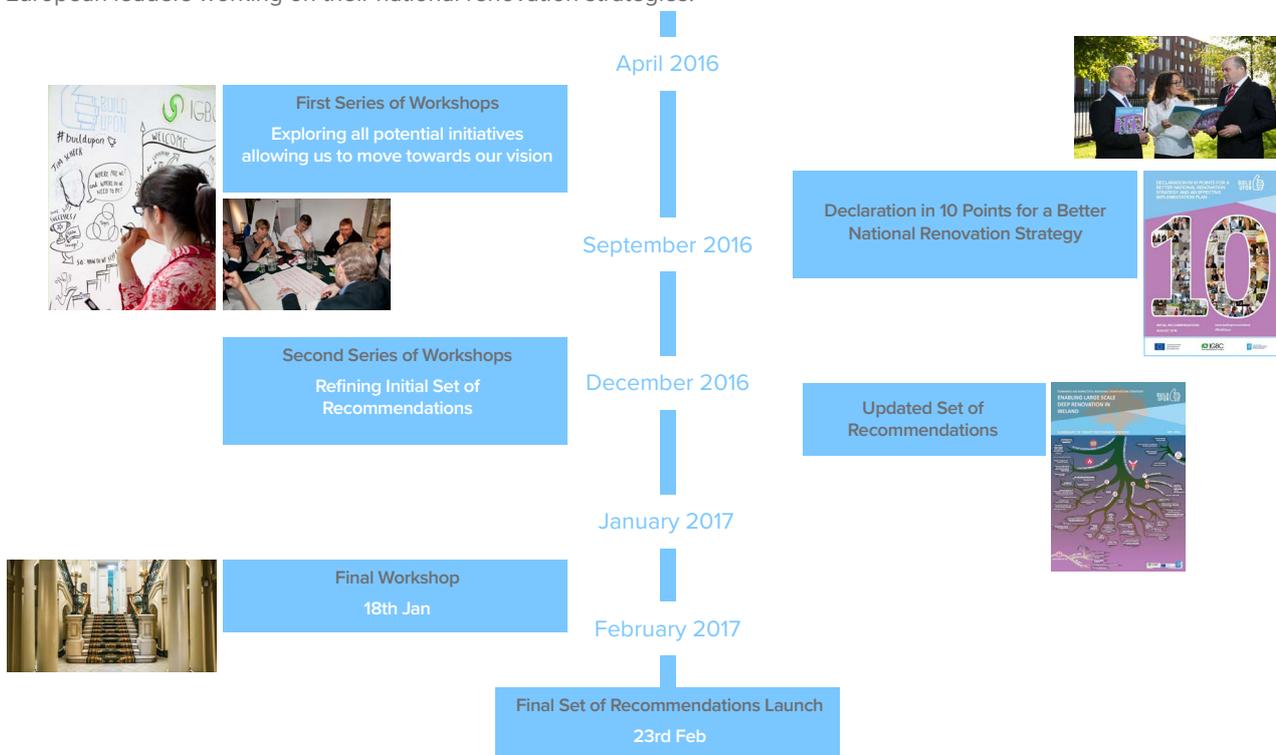


The European Commission in its roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050 (2011), established a long-term objective of decreasing the CO₂-emission levels for the building sector by 88%-91% in 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

Since the publication of this document and the adoption of the first version of Ireland's National Renovation Strategy in April 2014, significant changes have occurred. Most notably, urban areas are now facing housing shortages and a landmark agreement to fight climate change was reached at COP21. In May 2015, the EPA highlighted that Ireland was not on track to reach its 2020 emissions target. The goal set in Paris of limiting global warming to 1.5C puts even more pressure on the country. The construction sector is expected to compensate for the projected increases in emissions from agriculture and transport. This represents both enormous opportunities and challenges.

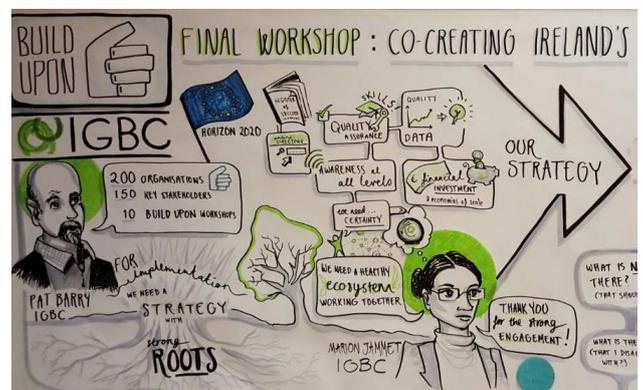
THE DIALOGUE JOURNEY

In 2016-17, Ireland hosted a series of workshops focusing on the design and delivery of the national renovation strategy. These have been a mixture of national events, local events and European events connecting national leaders with other European leaders working on their national renovation strategies.



SESSION 1: OVERVIEW

Pat Barry, CEO at the IGBC opened the workshop by thanking the almost 200 stakeholders that have been involved in the process to date. Extending the [tree analogy](#) he highlighted the importance of developing a strong root system below the surface in yielding a good crop. If a plant starts to produce before developing a strong root system, it can become easily stressed. On the contrary, a healthy root system allows a plant to absorb nutrients, while guaranteeing better stability and adaptability.



Following on this short introduction, participants were asked to introduce themselves and to explain in one sentence what they would be pleased to see in the strategy. Some of these statements are presented on [p. 6](#).

Marion Jammet, Business Development Manager at the IGBC closed the session with a presentation on the [latest version of the recommendations](#).

WHAT WILL YOU FIND MOST PLEASING TO SEE IN THE FINAL STRATEGY?



“Recognition that heritage and traditional buildings are an important sector that needs careful consideration and requires specific training programmes”

Peter Cox,
ICOMOS Ireland



“Recognition of the exemplar role the public sector must play”

Sarah Cassidy, Dun
Laoghaire Rathdown
County Council



“The importance of professionalism and quality in undertaking renovation work is recognised”

Prof. J. Owen Lewis,
IGBC



“The introduction of measures to better support landlords willing to renovate, accompanied by better monitoring of existing standards”

Tracy Murphy, Threshold



“Acknowledgement that cross-departmental collaboration is needed to deliver an ambitious national renovation strategy and commitment by all key departments”

Michael Hanratty, IHER Energy Services



“A strategy to develop market certainty through policy support from central government”

Tony Day, IERC



“Measures to increase awareness of potential long term commercial benefits of deep retrofits”

Michael Donohoe,
Colliers International

SESSION 2: FINALISING OUR SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS

In the second part of the event participants were asked to think about ways to improve the [existing document](#).

Workshop participants first highlighted a need to better define some of the words used. What is meant by “deep renovation” should for instance be clarified. Although “renovation” is the word used in the energy efficiency directive, participants felt it should be replaced by energy renovation as ordinary citizens are likely to associate renovation with something else. The language used in the document must be simplified and more visuals should be used.

Generally speaking, the document should better acknowledge building material alterations that are already occurring and see how we could ensure these are all low carbon. Construction professionals who interact with end-users at key decision points have a clear role to play. Another suggestion was to introduce mandatory minimum energy efficiency improvements as part of any domestic renovation or extension.

While the latest version of the document called for better cross-departmental cooperation and for strong commitments from the departments of housing, finance, education, health and jobs, workshop participants said that the departments of public expenditure and reform, social protection, as well as arts and heritage should also be involved.

Predictability and confidence are key and the role of supranational legislation should not be underestimated. The Paris agreement should for instance be mentioned. It might also be useful to add examples of legislations / policies that would contribute to long-term stability.

In terms of awareness and engagement, workshop participants said that a comprehensive communication plan should be included in the strategy. In particular, there is a need to focus on routes to households’ engagement. The document should be rolled out early with key organisations such as RIAI, CIF and Banks to ensure the general direction is reflected in their own strategies. Beyond deep retrofit, behaviour changes in relation to energy use should also be promoted. Playing on Ireland’s strength, the document should

put a greater emphasis on leveraging communities. E.g. working groups could be set up at county level, retrofitting community centres could have the same multiplier effect as retrofitting schools – 4.2. However, long-term banks and cross-party politicians buy-in is key and should be reemphasised.

Skills & training: Workshop participants felt that the strategy should include a sub-strategy on training. In particular, who will be in charge of delivering training, how and with which funding should be clarified. Furthermore, BIM training should be added to the list of skills required - 5.1 – and the section on access to training opportunities should be further developed. The focus should be on the whole supply’ chain and not only on construction workers and construction professionals. E.g. valuers, as well as construction tradespersons, should be explicitly mentioned. Valuers play a key role in the property market and are often not sufficiently aware of the benefits of deep renovation to adequately value retrofitted buildings. Finally, a strong consensus emerged that the live register mentioned in 5.4 should be well-supervised and cover both construction workers and construction professionals.



Quality & Standards: The main comments regarding standards related to the necessity to ensure standards and guidance documents stay relevant and up-to-date.

Quality Data & Information Sharing: Long-term quality data analytics are vital in dynamically informing the strategy and making sure it adapts to changes. Yet, the distinction between monitoring and tracking progress should be clearer. When it comes to quantitative quality data, a suggestion to improve confidence is to pick 100 common house types, to deep retrofit them and to collect comprehensive post-occupancy data. Other suggested research areas included behaviour

science and policy measures, e.g. how could the impact of BERs on the residential market be improved or why the EPC framework hasn't gained traction in Ireland yet. In relation to 8.1, one participant stated that we need more than quality data on the building stock: Data on the attributes of building owners and investors who make the decision to retrofit are also required (owner / investor typologies vs. building typologies). Finally, it's not only about supporting research, it should also be about promoting results and translating them into practical actions.

A majority of participants expressed concerns about deep retrofit and traditional buildings. Given the risk deep renovation in historic buildings poses to human health and physical fabric, our set of recommendations should include a specific section on historic buildings covering challenges, legislation and guidelines, as well as training.

The financial part of the document should be further developed to convey a sense of emergency and to better show the scale of ambition. In particular, workshop participants encourage DCCA to include a cost-benefit analysis of the different suggested paths. Potential unintended consequences of incentives should be considered. Workshop participants feel that the role of credit unions should be emphasised and that some funding should be allocated to communicate best practice (pilot projects). Furthermore, the recommendations in relation to EIB money and the cohesion fund should be further developed. Examples of countries and regions who have successfully availed of these financial mechanisms to support deep retrofits should be included.

Workshop participants suggested to include a detailed implementation plan in the strategy. More specifically, a "central evangelist" to coordinate and keep the process alive is required. This role could be played by a minister with dedicated central resources to "conduct the dance". In parallel, a national implementation stakeholder platform could play an advisory role, making sure all key players remain involved. This role could be played by the IGBC or SEAI with potential connections with the energy citizen forum. Key actions should include updating key stakeholders on a regular basis, evaluating and monitoring. Regular updates (including case studies) should

be sent to the Build Upon Community – the over 170 key stakeholders that have been involved in the consultation process so far. This could be supported by annual or bi-annual conferences and local dissemination through credit unions, libraries, etc. On the monitoring side, regular updates on progress should be published. In order to make this process as transparent as possible, the launch of an online dashboard showing progress for each building sector was suggested.

Residential sector:

- Ensure that the section is fully aligned with [Ireland's Strategy to Combat Energy Poverty](#)
- Consider support for feed-in tariffs in the domestic sector
- For social housing – 10.1, one participant suggested to allow funding to roll-over to allow for proper planning, deeper retrofit and ensure continuity of the funding stream. In particular, a mechanism should be in place to allow local authorities to assess funding and plan for long-term stock upgrades. The publication of a spreadsheet similar to the one used by SEAI for domestic grants would be useful.
- 9.4 text should be changed to reflect the fact that SEAI support heating controls with a small supplement for higher boiler efficiency, but does not encourage fossil fuel boiler installation per se.

In the commercial sector participants felt that the diversity of SMEs needs to be better acknowledged – 11.2, and should lead to diverse approaches. Yet, the initial focus on low hanging fruit could be dangerous if not accompanied by the introduction of building passports or other mechanisms allowing for staged deep retrofit. Some participants felt that the strategy should focus first on larger energy users such as supermarket and hotel chains. Recommendation 11.5 was perceived as key by all participants: SMEs, investors and the rest of the financial sector need convincing quality data on the direct and indirect benefits of deep renovation for an organisation and its workforce.

Most of the comments received on the day related to the public sector:

- 12.1: The public sector's leadership role needs to be re-emphasised and public sector buildings should be retrofitted as a priority. The diversity of the public sector's building stock should be acknowledged in this paragraph.
- 12.2: While clear leadership from the top is needed, the "top" needs to be defined. Are we talking about the EU, ministers or senior civil servants?
- 12.3: Several participants felt that the reference to making ISO 50001 compulsory for all public offices should be removed. The standard is only suitable for organisations (as opposed to offices) and may not be suitable for smaller organisations. It might be better to emphasise the need for "minimum actual overall performance standards".
- 12.5: One participant suggested to add a comment on the importance of enforcing green public procurement rules for all public bodies.
- 12.6: Strong opposition to the development of "simpler EPC models". Several participants felt this could lead to unforeseen consequences and that instead of calling for simpler EPC models, we should call for extra training in the area, coupled with more robust models and improved post-occupancy monitoring.
- 12.8: While some participants strongly supported the idea, others felt that the discretion to re-deploy budget resources no longer needed within their annual budget allocation to pay for energy to other areas of the operating budgets should be strictly limited to other energy efficiency updates.

KEY ELEMENTS TO IMPROVE THE STRATEGY



Based on the first part of the discussion's key findings participants were asked to propose topics they wished to explore further. Seven working groups were subsequently set up.

LEGISLATIVE CERTAINTY

There are currently no legal requirements for retrofit at national level - This is mainly driven by EU targets. While workshop participants said that the need to meet significant CO2 cuts in the building sector is widely acknowledged, they felt that the introduction of targets for renovation could improve the current situation. Another suggestion was to use carbon taxation as an energy price escalator.

More specifically, workshop participants agreed that the legislative framework should encourage all stakeholders to make a real difference. In particular, a majority of participants felt that legislation has a key role to play in influencing decision making at household level. One suggestion was to introduce mandatory retrofits when extending / renovating a house for any other purposes. However, the greatest scope for legislation is probably in the private rental market as the split incentive issue and the short length of leases in Ireland currently prevents the take up of deep renovation in the sector. Any lease changes could for instance be linked to mandatory minimum energy efficiency retrofit.

Public Sector: The majority of participants supported the proposal to give public bodies discretion to redeploy budget resources no longer needed within their annual budget allocation to pay for energy to other areas of their operating budget.

The introduction of statutory minimum standards for indoor air quality was broadly supported.

Finally, workshop participants reemphasised the importance of enforcement and real penalties to strengthen action.

BUILDING REGULATIONS

Although the BER methodology may need to be reviewed and some exceptions are needed for historic buildings, participants supported the introduction of building performance targets. They also highlighted the importance of future proofing buildings and making sure all regulations are aligned with Ireland's decarbonisation objectives. In particular and some participants suggested to outlaw gas and oil in new build.

SCALE OF AMBITION

According to workshop participants the size and scope of ambition must be better defined. Clear and specific targets, including targets by sector and interim targets, are needed. These should be complemented by localised targets to better connect with local communities.

Ambitious targets should be supported by clear regulations, greater state support and awareness campaigns. Finally, shallow retrofit should be better incorporated into deep retrofit, through initiatives such as building passports. Going one step further, building passports could be used to introduce mandatory improvements over time.



EDUCATION & TRAINING

The level of support for the measures suggested under the “skills & training” section of the latest version of the document was high.

However, workshop participants stated that upskilling should not only be supplier led and called for more accredited upskilling. Research should be better coordinated between private organisations and research bodies.

Beyond building physics, risk evaluation and consumer interaction, extra BIM training is required.

Finally workshop participants said that the document should focus more on life-long learning.

TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS

Traditional buildings (i.e. pre-1945) account for a third of Ireland’s building stock. The specificity of these buildings, as well as parallel objectives that may exist when renovating them, should be better acknowledged.

Technical Guidance Documents should be developed to ensure appropriate methods and materials are used. All materials used for deep retrofit of traditional buildings must be “breathable” by default. The final set of recommendations should mention the need for specific training courses covering deep retrofit of traditional buildings. Finally, waivers available for historic buildings should be reconsidered.

ROUTES TO ENGAGEMENT – RESIDENTIAL SECTOR

In order to better engage with the various segments of society, in-depth analysis of sectors and sub-sectors, as well as routes of influence, is required.

Depending on training and engagement, the supply chain can act as an advisor or as a negative influencer. In fact, construction workers and construction professionals often interact with end-users at trigger points in time. Trusted professionals such as estate agents, architects, banks and solicitors can be powerful channels. Yet, these key stakeholders need to be trained and to have a good understanding of deep renovation co-benefits. Trade associations and suppliers have a clear role to play there. Incentives could also be designed so as to encourage greater levels of engagement between end-users and the supply chain.

The power of word of mouth should not be underestimated as people tend to trust their neighbours and local community more. Good local case studies and open house type events should be developed and organised across the country.

RETROFITS FOR FREE

One group explained that 11 Mt of CO₂ could be saved through deep renovation at a total cost of €40Bn. This money could potentially be raised through reallocation of the fuel poverty allowance budget and reallocation of investments currently taking place in renewables. This would allow to retrofit one million houses for free. Making deep retrofit free to house owners, landlords and tenants would allow for a quicker scale-up, developers would be incentivised to stay in the retrofit game long-term and to innovate, the split incentive that exist between tenants and landlords would disappear and jobs would be created around the country.



RISKS & CHALLENGES



According to workshop participants a lack of long term strategic thinking and political uncertainties could threaten the strategy: “What is needed is a visionary, a T.K. Whitaker of deep renovation, as opposed to somebody with a green hat”. Full political buy-in is required. Yet, this could be jeopardised by the rise of populism. Quality data are also key to ensure policies development are not threatened by vested interest lobbying. The lack of full political buy-in could lead to inertia, lack of funding and to the development of conflicting policies and legislation overtime. At macro-level, changes in the economic path and direction could also threaten the strategy. For all these reasons, overdependence on governmental funding or overreliance on the market should be avoided.

Low energy prices could limit large scale deep renovation uptake in Ireland as financial savings would not be perceived by end-users. The strategy should also allow for leveraging the decarbonisation of the electricity system in decarbonising heat and hot water demand in our buildings.

As mentioned in the latest version of the document – 13.2, skills failure at any level of the supply chain could significantly jeopardise a successful implementation of the strategy. In fact, lack of skills could lead to a lack of coherent advice, poor quality work and ultimately to a general lack of confidence in the process as cases of building / health damages from inappropriate upgrading works emerged in the press. Nevertheless, these risks could be limited by the introduction of high standards and robust quality assurance – see point 6 of the latest version of the document. Measures should be taken to ensure this extra regulation does not lead to a growing black market.

Workshop participants expressed concerns at the lack of funding for communication. Communication support is needed if the Irish Water’s mistakes are not to be repeated

Finally, some participants highlighted that the final version of the strategy should assigned responsibilities to allow for accountability.

THREE SMART ACTIONS

In the last part of the morning session, each working group was asked to list three smart actions to improve Ireland's National Renovation Strategy.

Awareness

- “Make deep renovation irresistible to all stakeholders”
- “Develop a national communication plan as part of the strategy”
- “Better promote the co-benefits of deep retrofit, especially health and well-being”
- “Simplify the message”
- “Enhance the role of champions / spokespersons, including to interact with senior government and industry representatives”

Quality Data & Information Sharing

- “Recognise the role of data and research to inform quality, technical performance, standards and decision making”
- “Conduct a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of inputting money into retrofit now instead of waiting for international fine”
- “Support technical research and the development of quality case studies, leading to best practice”
- “Research and analysis of market impact of various actions”

Collaboration & Engagement

- “Encourage a holistic approach which allows for a range of suppliers / stakeholders to work towards a similar goal”
- “Develop transparent, robust and well-informed engagement with lobby groups”

Skills & Training

- “Promote upskilling of the whole supply chain, through standards and certification”
- “Celebrate expertise from craft workers and construction professionals”
- “Develop a register of architecture, engineering and construction professionals who have upskilled in deep retrofit and energy efficiency”

Financial Incentives

- “Introduce ambitious carbon pricing”
- “Ring-fence funding in the public sector”

Historic Buildings

- “Develop technical guidance documents for “breathable” buildings”

Accountability

- “Develop specific actions with clearly defined responsibilities signed off by government”

SESSION 3: NEXT STEPS

The aim of the afternoon session was to explore the framework and mechanisms required to successfully implement Ireland's National Renovation Strategy V.2.

The session kicked-off with a presentation from Ken Cleary, Assistant Principal at the DCCAE. Mr. Cleary first praised the work that has been done by the IGBC over the last 18 months in engaging with over 170 key stakeholders. He subsequently updated participants on the national strategy and a series of pilot projects on deep renovation conducted by DCCAE such as the warmth & wellbeing scheme.

Following this presentation, participants were asked to think about the various mechanisms required to successfully implement the strategy. After a short brainstorming session, workshop participants broke down into seven working groups.

OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION

All workshop participants agreed that a full time dedicated team is required to coordinate the overall implementation of the strategy. However, they could not reach an agreement on which organisation should coordinate this work. The working group suggested DCCAE or a multi-funded agency, but some participants feared that it could become overly bureaucratic and suggested a non-governmental organisation.

The coordination team should be made up of representatives from various sectors and be able to hold the government to account. Longevity of that group – to ensure continuous progress – is needed.

In terms of activities, the group should be in charge of the overall strategy coordination. It would set targets, overlook the activities conducted by the communication and training working groups – see below, interact with government and media, and monitor and report on progress.



Several departments including DCCAE, departments of housing, finance, public expenditure and reform, education and health, as well as SEAI, local authorities, IGBC, CIF and other professional bodies should be involved in setting up that group. The board should be formed in the next few months after the publication of the strategy.

EDUCATION & TRAINING WORKING GROUP

A group suggested to create an education and training sub-committee. The sub-committee would be made up of professional bodies, education institutions – from primary level to universities, practitioners, contractors and representatives from the whole supply chain. The group would be in charge of developing and implementing the training part of the strategy.

More specifically, they would research international precedents for delivery systems, as well as best practice. They would also develop dynamic curricula, including mandatory modules in schools and university. The group would also look at mechanisms (e.g. accreditation) required to provide confidence in the quality of training courses and modules. Exemplar case studies and comprehensive information would be disseminated across the industry and education system.

SESSION 3: NEXT STEPS

COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP

As part of the national renovation strategy coordination structure, workshop participants suggested to set-up a communication and engagement working group. The group would be made up of experts and representatives of different market segments, as well as professional bodies. It would have both an internal and external communication mandate. However, no final agreement was reached on the necessity to create one national working group or several regional/local communication working groups.

The group would be a resource for informing and assisting the ongoing implementation of the strategy. It would be in charge of developing targeted messages to reach, engage and persuade various segments of society, building trust and confidence. Expert inputs, international experience and focus groups would be key to developing these messages and in identifying the right communication channels. All the information provided should be robust and reviewed on a regular basis. The working group would report to the organisation / group in charge of overall coordination.

ENGAGEMENT: ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Highlighting the need to keep the Build Upon community alive a group suggested to organise an annual / biannual event to keep all key stakeholders updated on progress, share best practice and raise awareness. This could take the form of a conference moving around Ireland with a keynote speaker, breakout sessions and an award ceremony. The conference should be organised by the IGBC, in conjunction with DCCAE.

RETROFIT PROJECT HACKATHON

A small group of participants worked on a residential retrofit project hackathon. In this situation, the homeowner is both a problem owner and a decision maker. (S)He needs to think about comfort, finance, the supply chain and various specifications. Ideally, this is facilitated at local level, standards

specifications and technical / financial packages are available. Local champions that have gone through the deep renovation process can share their problems and knowledge. High quality monitoring allows for iterations of technical /financial standards and specifications, which in turn contributes to building confidence.

IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING

This group worked on how to monitor and disseminate information collected from pilot projects to better inform policy and design decisions. Quantitative data should be captured and qualitative data (e.g. research papers) should be developed to identify what works and build the business case. In relation to quantitative data, one suggestion was to capture them at city / county level and to make them publicly available in order to inspire local pride and friendly competition. For this to work, the whole supply chain, academia, CIF, politicians and SEAI would all need to work in close cooperation. Results should be presented at an annual stakeholder's conference to coincide with the strategy review. One point remained to be clarified at the end of this session: What performance specification should be monitored (watt/person/hour, air quality, comfort)?

INTEGRATING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES, MATERIALS AND WORK PRACTICE

According to workshop participants a mechanism to integrate innovative technologies, materials and work practice, while respecting tradition quality, is required.

This would guarantee up-to-date quality standards, allow economies of scale and limit skills shortages risks. More specifically, it would contribute to the upskilling of architects, engineers and construction professionals, but also to clients' awareness and education. This would be facilitated by the development of high quality local case studies and best practice. New innovative technologies should also be supported through pilots. In particular, the Irish state should use its purchasing power to promote innovation.

TESTIMONIALS



“The strategy is essential to accelerate our national energy transition”

Susan Cogan, MCO



“The strategy means the development of a more sustainable housing stock”

Gary O'Sullivan, NSAI



“The strategy represents an opportunity to achieve significant energy savings whilst at the same time improving the health and wellbeing of the population”

Michael Donohoe, Colliers International



“Ireland’s National Renovation Strategy means a transformation from the past to a bright future. It means the creation of jobs, the strengthening of Ireland Inc. and

represents a huge step towards mitigating climate change”

Eloise Heron, Murphy Mulhall



“I was very happy with the day and previous workshops I attended. It was interesting to hear the views of such a diverse cross section of stakeholders”

Peter Nolan,
Department of
Education



“The strategy means a hopeful, sustainable, viable construction sector delivering added value to clients over the life-cycle of buildings”

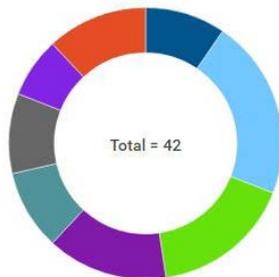
Vincent Gibson, Optima
Facilities Solutions

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT ANALYSIS

A broad diversity of stakeholders took part in the Build Upon Ireland final workshop. The majority of the participants were from the energy and construction industries, as well as public bodies. In comparison to previous workshops, there was an increase in the number of building users (domestic) representatives. However, the financial sector remained under represented.

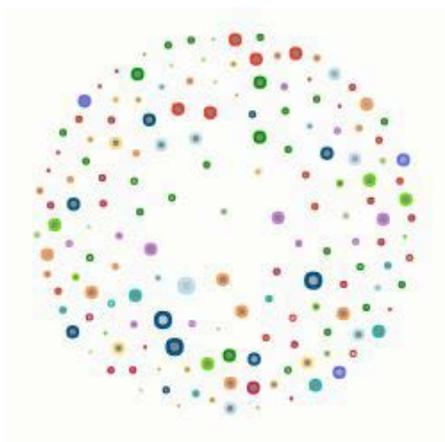
WS6 Attendees



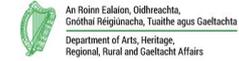
- Central Government
- Construction Business
- Energy
- Other Public
- Research & Academia
- Building Users (Domestic)
- NGO
- Local Authorities

STAKEHOLDERS

Discover who's who in renovation with our interactive map.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS



DMD | Urban Design | Planning | Conservation | Architecture

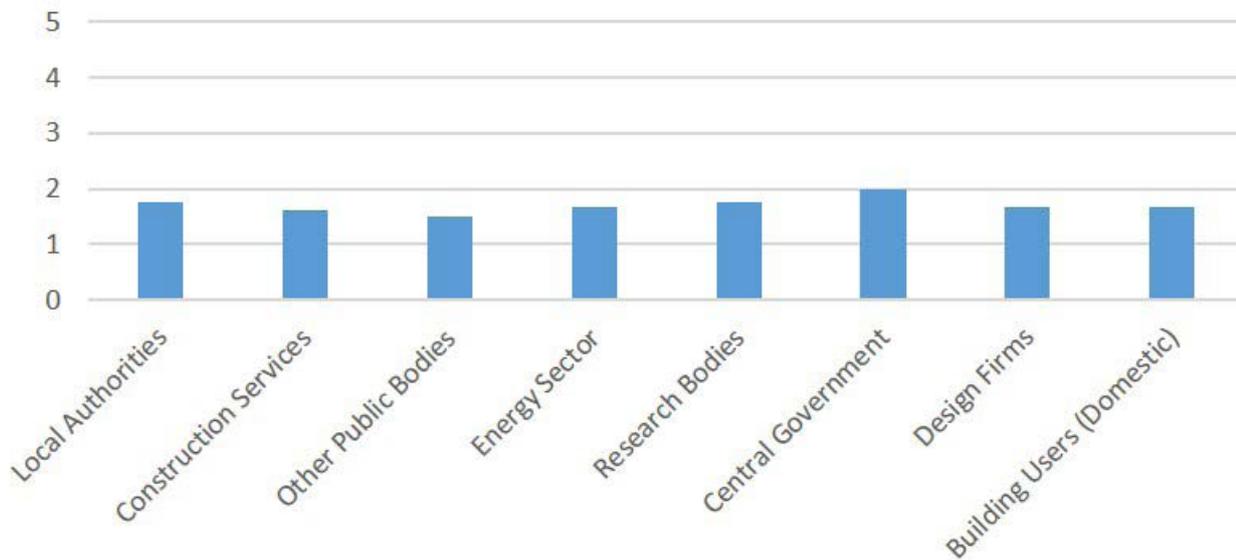


GRADIENTS OF AGREEMENT

One of the objectives of the workshop was to finalise our set of recommendations to DCCAE. At the end of the event participants were asked to complete a short survey to measure their level of support for the [latest version of the document](#).

On a scale from 1 (whole-hearted endorsement) to 5 (serious disagreement), how would you rate your level of agreement with the current set of recommendations?

Level of Agreement with the Current Set of Recommendations



HOW CAN YOU ENGAGE?

Key areas where stakeholders are able to engage and input during the BUILD UPON process include:

Renovation stakeholder systems maps: Over 1,000 individual key stakeholder organisations have been mapped across the project countries. Your input is welcome to help ensure they are a representative picture of the key organisations that need to collaborate on Ireland's National Renovation Strategy V.2.

["RenoWiki"](#) is a groundbreaking online portal which allows individuals to upload real-life initiatives on building renovations in Europe in order to share best practice and successful initiatives. To date, there are more than 550 initiatives (including 59 Irish initiatives) on the RenoWiki. Examples include Latvia's 'Lets Live Warmer', an award-winning awareness raising campaign that has led to greater uptake of housing insulation, and Ireland's "QualiBuild", a training programme to ensure a construction force capable of delivering quality energy efficient renovation.

COLLABORATING ON WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS:

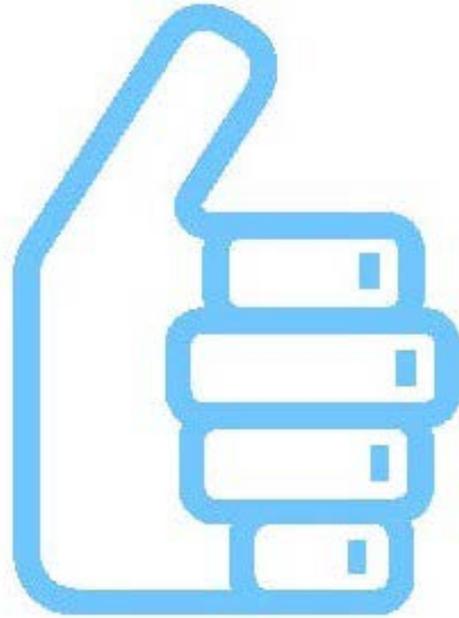
A series of over 80 events in the 13 project countries have brought together over 900 key stakeholders across Europe. As part of this process, six high level Building Renovation Workshops were organised in Ireland by the Irish Green Building Council. The workshops have been supported by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. Copies of the six workshop reports are available at <http://buildupon.eu/dialogue/countries/ireland/>. If you have any comments on the content of this report, please contact us.

 Email Us: Marion@igbc.ie

 #BuildUpon

 [Join our LinkedIn Group](#)

BUILD UPON



A PROJECT BY



Funded by the Horizon
2020 Programme of
the European Union



Platinum Members



Gold Members



Silver Members



Funded by the Horizon
2020 Programme of
the European Union