

Reaching maximum impact of the EPBD

Recommendations from Regions and their Energy Agencies

Key recommendations:

1. Articles 10 and 20: Embedding the energy agency facilitation model
2. Articles 2a and 10: Technical assistance for integrated renovation services
3. Successful Minimum Energy Performance Standards driven by facilitation services
4. Ensuring Minimum Energy Performance Standards are based on reliable information on building performance through territorial observatories

1. Articles 10 and 20: Embedding the energy agency facilitation model

While a strengthened EPBD will provide a clear direction and ambition to Member States, we believe its implementation towards the 2030 targets will depend on enabling frameworks which consist of delivery of technical assistance and strategic market facilitation.

Market facilitation services are what lies beyond technical assistance. Facilitation services refer to the proactive technical support provided by local/regional facilitators who are not only providing the technical assistance, but proactively creating the demand for it by advocating the energy efficiency opportunities and value within a territory, embedding it in the broader policy agenda as well as stimulating the energy services market.

Local and regional energy agencies are some of the more common organisations in Europe who play this role of facilitators, with public mandates, and who already enable the implementation of multiple provisions of the EPBD:

- advising on development and ensuring compliance with minimum energy performance requirements (art.4);
- optimising technical building systems through energy management systems (art.8);
- promoting the NZEB standard and providing practical support to achieve it (art.9);
- developing financial schemes and overcoming market barriers through strategic facilitation actions (art.10);
- issuing high quality EPC and implementing their recommendations (art.11);



- informing and activating all relevant stakeholders linked to building renovation projects (art.20).

The facilitation model of energy agencies can be broken down in 3 key steps:

1. activation (informing the multiple target groups of their options);
2. support to project development (coaching during decision making with technical and financial advice, feasibility studies, best practice transposition);
3. support to project implementation (financial, legal and technical assistance, and post-project evaluation and monitoring).

This regional energy agency facilitation model has been behind some of the most ambitious regional energy efficiency policies and renovation programmes in Europe¹, leading to outstanding primary energy savings, CO2 reductions, and billions of euros invested in sustainable energy.

Despite their extensive experience as facilitators, their lack of recognition in EU law limits their visibility at national level and lowers their capacity to promote and implement more ambitious energy efficiency policies.

Recommendation:

- FEDARENE recommends referencing at articles 10 and 20 of EPBD the role of energy agencies as publicly mandated energy efficiency market facilitators and potential operators of one-stop shops for multiple target groups.

¹ e.g. [SuperHomes](#) in Tipperary, Ireland; [GEP programme](#) in Upper Austria; [NEWLIGHT](#) in North-West Croatia

2. Articles 2a and 10: Technical assistance for integrated renovation services

The primary barrier towards developing the necessary financing strategies for mass renovation is **capacity**. Most other barriers link back to the capacity of, for instance, local and regional authorities to develop integrated renovation services mixed with the appropriate financing schemes, that reach the necessary blending and leverage effect. This capacity however can be developed through technical assistance programmes and market facilitation (see point 1).

Technical assistance funding programmes should focus on the replication and upscaling of integrated services (one-stop shops) and financial instruments. In countries where there is a wealth of funding, one-stop shops can also streamline access to the support. There are many examples of regions and energy agencies having developed snow ball effect projects thanks to technical assistance:

- Superhomes one-stop shop in Tipperary which is now being scaled up nationally²
- ZAGEE in Zagreb, which was followed by many more large scale renovations³
- BAPAURA one-stop shop focusing on public buildings in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes⁴
- Opengela one stop shop focusing on vulnerable consumers in Basque Country⁵

Technical assistance helps develop knowledge, skills and services that stay locally. It also reduces the risk of initial investments and ensures projects with a high likelihood of realization to be prepared.

Recommendations:

- **Articles 2a and 10** should require Member States to develop more funding programmes focusing on project development assistance, with the aim of developing integrated renovation services mixed with financial instruments.
- **Article 2a** could require Member States to develop enabling frameworks which prioritise technical assistance programmes focusing on the upscaling and replication of one-stop shops renovation services (e.g. French regional “public service for energy performance” provision from their 2015 Energy Transition Law that streamlines at the regional level the support and facilitation services for the renovation of buildings, enacted notably through the creation of territorial renovation platforms, which are acting like one-stop-shops with local entry point).

² <https://superhomes.ie/>

³ <https://fedarene.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Result-oriented-report-project-ZagEE.pdf>

⁴ <https://bapaura.fr/>

⁵ <https://opengela.eus/en>

3. Successful Minimum Energy Performance Standards driven by facilitation services

MEPS should focus on delivering comprehensive deep renovation and avoid any risks of lock-in of suboptimal renovations. To this end, one-stop shops managed by independent market intermediaries with public mandates such as local/regional energy agencies who advise renovation projects for public authorities, residential as well as businesses will be crucial to implement deep renovation standards and enforce the MEPS.

The successful roll-out of MEPS will rely on enabling frameworks that stimulate the energy efficiency market. The facilitation activities provided by energy agencies through their one-stop shops focus on:

- demand: provide tailored direct advice to public authorities, companies and citizens ensuring they benefit from deep renovation
- supply: prepare regional supply chains to match the demand, thus locally anchoring the economic benefits of the renovation programme and embedding it in the territorial development strategy.

Such functional enabling framework for MEPS can be seen in France where the “éco énergie tertiaire” decree scheduling the renovation of public buildings in steps by 2030, 2040 and 2050 has empowered territorial renovation platforms such as BAPAURA (<https://bapaura.fr/>) to encourage immediate deep renovation avoiding the necessity of subsequent renovations. The BAPAURA one-stop shop is becoming a trusted service for public authorities who now have a strict renovation schedule and performance to respect.

Recommendation:

- EPBD should encourage Members states to promote one-stop shops as drivers for the implementation of MEPS.

4. Ensuring Minimum Energy Performance Standards are based on reliable information on building performance through territorial observatories

Access to buildings related data (energy and non-energy aspects) is a fundamental first step for the development of Minimum Energy Performance Standards binding roll-out schedules and for the monitoring of their compliance.

Multiple regional energy agencies across Europe developed energy & climate observatories which collect and process energy related data to inform local/regional energy planning and policy making (e.g. the observatories involved in the ENERGeE Watch programme: <https://energee-watch.eu/observatories/>). Energy agencies such as in the Ile-de-France and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes regions also began monitoring flows of materials in their territories related to the building construction sector, in order to accompany their territorial circular economy strategies and help decarbonize the construction sector.

Some observatories are specializing on the energy performance of buildings such as the one developed by the Ile-de-France Energy Agency focusing on the energy performance of multi-apartment buildings: [Observatoire Energétique des Copropriétés](#). This observatory centralizes data from multiple sources such as the [national registry of condominiums](#), the [regional energy observatory](#), regional agencies for [housing](#) and [environment and territorial planning](#) as well as the Paris local energy agency.

Based on this data, the observatory enables the region to have a reliable picture of their building stock, identify the renovation needs and potential, identify the worst-performing buildings, their typology, it enables them to guide financial incentives as well as technical support. Regarding the latter, these observatories can work hand in hand with renovation one-stop-shops and with fuel switch campaigns (e.g. <https://www.coachcopro.com/>).

There are local and regional authorities looking into developing similar initiatives⁶. Countries in central and eastern Europe, where buildings related data is scarce and unreliable, would certainly benefit from the upscaling/replication of such observatories. The Alba Local Energy Agency in Romania has developed the [ANERGO](#) observatory and the Plovdiv Energy Agency developed the [ROECC](#) observatory, however, the development of their services (and of Observatories throughout Europe) are hampered by the reluctance of energy data providers to disclose data (even aggregated data that does not pose any GDPR compliance issues).

⁶ <https://www.arec-idf.fr/evenements/les-observatoires-des-coproprietes-au-service-de-la-renovation-energetique/>

Energy data providers (utilities, DSOs...) should be legally obligated to cooperate with such operators and share energy related data in appropriate formats. In countries such as Romania utilities have a wealth of energy performance related data that remains underutilized, serving only invoicing purposes.

Recommendations:

- Strengthening the EPBD's art. 10.6b could facilitate access to aggregated energy data by obligating energy data providers to cooperate with observatories.
- The EPBD could require MS to upscale/replicate observatory services who have become trusted advisors of local/regional authorities across the EU assisting them in monitoring the performance of their building stocks and planning renovation.

FEDARENE welcomes to opportunity to meet and discuss the recommendations above in greater detail by providing data and feedback from the ground.

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