

PRACTITIONERS' GROUP CONCEPT NOTE

outPHit

Deep retrofits made faster, cheaper and more reliable

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Practitioners' group concept note

Task 3.1 – D3.1: Needs assessment & mutual learning via practitioners' group

April 2021

Municipalities across Europe recognise the need for energy retrofits of their building stock, yet clear ideas on how to implement appropriate retrofitting programmes as well as best practice examples are often lacking. At the same time, municipalities are principle stakeholders in the so-called renovation wave, not only as owners of many of the buildings in their territories, but also as drivers of the renovation of private buildings by their citizens. The need for exchange on the topic, both in terms of access to both experts in the field as well the sharing of best practices and experiences across municipalities is of the essence.

A WORKING GROUP ON BUILDINGS

A practitioner's group can help fill the void, providing municipal technical experts interested in deep energy retrofits inspiring best practice examples, opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, and access to expert advice.

Such a practitioner's group will thus be launched within the framework of the outPHit project and form the basis of a **Climate Alliance Municipal Working Group on Buildings**, uniting municipal representatives across Europe not only on deep retrofits but on the key topic of building sustainability more generally well into the future.

ADDED VALUE

Over the years, Climate Alliance's working groups have proven to be of real added value for municipal representatives, stimulating practical exchanges, offering assistance and even serving as a platform for the formulation of meaningful policy positions. While Climate Alliance currently has working groups on a variety of topics from financing for the local level to climate change adaptation, a working group on buildings has not yet been established. The time, however, is ripe: Climate Alliance members repeatedly rank buildings high in terms of priority areas of municipal action.

TARGET GROUP

Municipal technical staff charged with tackling building issues within their cities and towns will form the base target group. Staff from municipalities that already have retrofitting as a priority area will be the focus, as these staff members will be more likely to have the permission internally to get involved with such a group and attend related meetings. Mayors, elected officials as well as representatives of municipal organisations or associated companies may, however, also join

where relevant. In this way, the Working Group on Buildings will build bridges between building experts, municipal practitioners and local level policy-makers.

Interested parties will be attracted via the Climate Alliance network as well as outPHit partner contacts in an initial call to be communicated throughout summer 2021.

Representatives from other relevant EU-funded projects related to deep retrofits may also be invited to enhance cross-project pollination and highlight potential synergies.

MAIN GOALS

1. Be a platform for peer to peer exchange of challenges and solutions
2. Provide practical knowledge to municipal constituents on energy efficient building concepts with a special focus on retrofitting.
3. Inform outPHit results to insure their applicability to municipal realities

KEY BENEFITS

In addition to the general appeal of peer-to-peer exchange and mutual learning on this important topic, participants will benefit from project results, direct access to building energy experts and advice, information on certification possibilities and tools as well as opportunities for free training including digital access to Passive House Institute's international conferences and Passive House Basics courses as well as access to International Passive House Association (iPHA) resources and benefits.

With the help of the group, participants should be able to

- Generally steepen their learning curves
- Gain a better understanding of how best to avoid errors and keep costs down when carrying out deep retrofits
- Gain an overview of different approaches and technologies for specific building typologies
- Get inspiration on communication, legislative and financing approaches to encourage deep retrofitting

Frontrunner municipalities presenting their examples will also enjoy enhanced visibility amongst their peers and via project communication more generally.

BAST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

A cornerstone of the group's legacy will be the collection of best practice examples of successful legislation and funding schemes for deep retrofits in one go-to resource. While viable options for this will be examined during the group's launch and in its initial year, the expansion and internationalisation of Climate Alliance's current [Climate Action database](#) may prove well-suited for this

purpose. Several of the examples collected will be presented and discussed during group meetings.

FORMAT

Digital meetings, for example via Zoom, and potentially also live meetings (situation dependent) are foreseen once per quarter starting in Q4 of 2021, supported by email lists and a Cloud-based platform provided by Climate Alliance that can be expanded upon if needed to ensure exchange between meetings. Meetings will be held in English.

NEEDS ANALYSES

One of the main goals for this group is to deliver input on outPHit results, making sure they are in line with municipal needs and realities. To better serve the group's participants, it will, however, also be instrumental to understand their needs. The focal topics for the first two years will thus largely be the result of project and participant needs, as determined in initial needs analyses.

Project partners will continuously be asked for which outPHit project deliverables and tasks would municipal input would be useful. This results will then help guide the focal points of the Working Group.

On the practitioner side, a survey will be communicated as part of a call for interest extended to Climate Alliance members as well as the municipal contacts of project partners and other interested stakeholders. This short questionnaire on needs and challenges, to be filled out before the first meeting, will form the basis for further planning of group activities and topics. Questions may include, for example:

- What are your main challenges when it comes to improving energy efficiency in buildings and, especially, in retrofits?
- What measures does your municipality already take or what programmes does your municipality have in place?
- What are your municipality's main goals in the field? How successful has your municipality been in fulfilling these goals?
- Who is instrumental in making decisions in this area and in carrying out those decisions?
- Where do you see the most potential and which building types is your municipality most interested in tackling?
- What would benefit you most: peer to peer exchange, training or best practice examples?
- Which topics in the area of retrofitting do you find most pressing and/or relevant?

POTENTIAL TOPICS

In addition to the needs analysis and various best practice examples, topics to be discussed during meetings could include dealing with districts, tools, energy poverty, certification schemes, training opportunities, benchmarking and the monitoring of retrofit energy savings and programmes, legislative and funding frameworks as well as communication and communication campaigns.

In addition to regular meetings, periodic information on relevant topics as well as the possibility to work together on positions, campaigns, further proposals, etc. may be offered.

PROPOSED TIMING

	Task
Apr 21	Design and prepare call Prep stakeholder survey
May 21	Launch call with survey
Jun 21	Communicate call in mailings and events throughout summer
Jul 21	
Aug 21	Evaluate survey and plan topics
Sep 21	Group launch after PHI/CA conference

CONTACT

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OUTPHIT - DEEP RETROFITS MADE FASTER, CHEAPER AND MORE RELIABLE

outPHit pairs such approaches with the rigour of Passive House principles to make deep retrofits cost-effective, faster and more reliable. On the basis of case studies across Europe and in collaboration with a wide variety of stakeholders, outPHit is addressing barriers to the uptake of high quality deep retrofits while facilitating the development of high performance renovation systems, tools for decision making and quality assurance safeguards. outphit.eu