
Press Release

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New EU-funded project Sinfonia looks to refurbishment master plans

Passive House Institute to measure energy savings – presented at the BAU trade fair

Darmstadt, Germany. Institutions across Europe are working together in the EU-funded project Sinfonia in order to develop feasible energy refurbishment concepts for cities. For the demo cities Innsbruck and Bolzano master plans are prepared and implemented at the urban district level. The energy savings are being monitored by the Passive House Institute, which is also participating in the individual refurbishment projects by providing consulting and certification services and by looking at the electrical efficiency in households. Representatives of the Institute presented key aspects of their involvement in this project at the BAU trade fair in Munich.

Within the framework of the Sinfonia project, over 100 000 square metres of living space will be optimised for energy efficiency. The EnerPHit Standard serves as a basis for this. In addition to the extensive refurbishment of buildings, this five-year project will also involve the integration of intelligent control systems for energy grids at the district level. The models for integrated urban district refurbishment, which are being developed in the Austrian city of Innsbruck and in the provincial capital Bolzano in northern Italy, will then be transferred to other European cities; Seville in Spain, Paphos in Cyprus, La Rochelle in France, Borås in Sweden and Rosenheim in Germany are participating as early adopter cities.

The refurbishment of buildings dating from the 1950s to the 1980s, as well as those built in the early 20th century is the basis for this project involving more than 25 partners from 8 countries. The focus will be placed on the close integration of theory and practice. The development of intelligent urban district concepts will therefore also include instruments and methods that will make it possible to address social and economic obstacles.

The aim of the Sinfonia project is to demonstrate how the high demand for energy efficiency can be reconciled with a high quality of life in European cities. A key goal of the pilot cities, Innsbruck and Bolzano, is to achieve primary energy savings between 40 and 50 percent and increase the share of renewables by 20 percent. Sinfonia is funded by the 7th European Union Framework Research Programme. Further information can be found at: www.sinfonia-smartcities.eu

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