

# PROJECT ViSiBLE: TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

## PROJECT RELEVANCE

***A sustainable built environment plays a key role for the quality of life.***

Most people spend over 90% of their lifetime inside buildings. For citizens of the EU, having comfortable homes and good working facilities are key ingredients for their wellbeing. A sustainable built environment is therefore essential for a high quality of life within the EU.

***Buildings highly contribute to overall resource use and energy consumption.***

Better construction and use of buildings in the EU would influence 42% of our final energy consumption, about 35% of our greenhouse gas emissions and more than 50% of all extracted materials; it could also help us save up to 30% water.

***The EU sets ambitious goals regarding the built environment.***

Lowering the high energy consumption of buildings is at the heart of EU plans for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. EU member states have signed up to a voluntary objective of reducing the EU's primary energy use by 20% by 2020, measured against 2005 levels. The flagship initiative for a resource-efficient Europe states that by the year 2020, all new constructed buildings have to be so-called “nearly-zero-energy buildings”.

***The current proliferation of buildings assessment systems leads to market fragmentation.***

Building assessment systems are a crucial tool for moving the built environment towards sustainability. However, building assessment schemes currently are not harmonized and often limited to one nation or region. Therefore, current assessment methodologies and data are not comparable. This leads to increased cost and administrative burden for SMEs and hampers export opportunities as well as the diffusion of know-how within the Alpine Space.

***Different EU projects have addressed this issue.***

Many EU funded projects have approached the topic of sustainable building within the last years. Platforms and networks on sustainable buildings have been launched, many pilot activities have been conducted successfully and valuable know-how has been accumulated. Especially projects funded via the Alpine Space Programme have gained experience in the field of sustainable construction and sustainable building assessments.

***CESBA – Common European Sustainable Building Assessment***

The CESBA initiative is the result of several EU funded projects. It is a collective bottom-up initiative promoting a holistic and voluntary framework for a sustainable building assessment in Europe.

## PROJECT FACTS

***ViSiBLE – an Alpine Space project to valorise the experiences of 22 EU funded projects***

**ViSiBLE** stands for **V**alorisation of **S**ustainable Alpine Space nearly zero-energy **B**uilding and **L**ow-carbon **E**xperiences. The project focuses on the valorisation, i.e. dissemination and exploitation, of sustainable building and low carbon experiences in the Alpine Space and beyond and will thus contribute to enhancing the quality of life of building users.

***Which organisations participate in the project partnership?***

Five project partners from four Alpine countries form the project partnership. They are: Regional Development Vorarlberg (AT), Rhône-Alpes Regional Energy and Environment Agency (FR), University of Applied Sciences Rosenheim (GER), European Academy Bolzano (IT), Piedmont Region - Department for Strategic Programming, Spatial Policies and Housing (IT)

***What does ViSiBLE want to achieve?***

The project promotes a holistic, lifecycle and neighbourhood oriented approach for building assessment.

***What will ViSiBLE do?***

- Identify the experiences and results of EU-funded projects in the thematic field of low-carbon economy and energy efficiency.
- Capitalise and valorise results of EU funded projects through targeted dissemination activities at the relevant policy levels on regional, national and EU level.
- Provide strategic input for the Alpine Space Programme 2014+ project generation in the thematic field of low-carbon economy and energy efficiency.

***How will ViSiBLE reach its goals?***

- ViSiBLE will analyse 22 EU funded projects and integrate their deliverables in the CESBA framework.
- ViSiBLE will contribute to an objective and constructive discussion on the promotion of sustainable buildings. The project partners will participate in public events and conferences.
- ViSiBLE will further develop the CESBA Wiki ([wiki.cesba.eu](http://wiki.cesba.eu)) which is an online hub for the generation, collection and transfer of knowledge on sustainable building assessments.

***What is the project budget and what is the implementation period?***

Project Budget: 494.700 EUR (ERDF grant: 375.972 EUR)  
Project start date: 01/09/2013  
Project end date: 30/11/2014

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### ***Further information***

Homepage ViSiBLE: [visible.cesba.eu](http://visible.cesba.eu)

CESBA-Wiki: [wiki.cesba.eu](http://wiki.cesba.eu)

Homepage Alpine Space Programme: [www.alpine-space.eu](http://www.alpine-space.eu)

### ***Contacts***

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