

The building sector accounts for 40% of the total energy use and for 36% of Europe's CO2 emissions. It generates 9% of the total EU 27 GDP and 8% of the total employment. The building stock, in particular the housing sector, plays indeed a major role in achieving the "20-20-20" strategic targets. There are many advantages in reducing the environmental footprint of buildings that should be carefully considered. The CE project GovernEE has some good practices to build on.

Delivered under the URBACT II Programme of the EU, promoting sustainable urban development, the activities of URBACT's Capitalisation Workstream 6 "Building Energy Efficiency" (EE) will receive inputs from GovernEE's transnational work on good governance in EE. The Workstream capitalizes on the main European initiatives in the field of energy efficiency in the built environment as well as the work in progress in the URBACT Networks dealing with related topics. An important step of this process will be the organisation of a Thematic Workshop at the **URBACT Annual Conference in Copenhagen 3-4 December 2012**. Francesco Tutino, Responsible of the Energy Unit at the Municipality of Bologna, will represent GovernEE at the Conference and will hold a presentation of main achievements during a witnesses hearing session followed by Q&A from the public.

The Workstream is inspired by the principles of the report "Cities of Tomorrow" and by the outcome of the Conference "Cohesion policy investing in energy efficiency in buildings" organised by DG REGIO in November 2011, in Brussels. Key questions of the 6th Workstream are addressing the theme of "Building Energy Efficiency (EE) in Housing" that is how to help urban policy makers, industrial players, practitioners, end users and actors of the building sector to contribute to improve EE in the housing sector across Europe. New decisions must be taken to upgrade the regulatory framework to facilitate mainstreaming of green building materials, renovation and building techniques in the housing sector but still the question is which are the most suitable financial tools to support EE housing policies at both EU, national, regional and local levels?

GovernEE brings historic buildings' EE constrains to the debate at URBACT Annual conference

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The conference will also address the tools allowing EE renovation and construction in both public & private spheres, to be more attractive and sustainable and to overcome the opposition between renewables and traditional materials or building techniques. Citizens shall be involved in the design process of the building refurbishment in order to foster climate friendly lifestyles in climate friendly buildings. Regarding the interesting question on the conflicts between conservation of heritage value and new needs in historic housing estates, GovernEE's pilots involving the feasibility studies and recent findings carried out by City of Bologna shall bring suitable answers to enhance a constructive debate at the Conference.