CESBA MED

CESBA MED - SUSTAINABLE MED CITIES

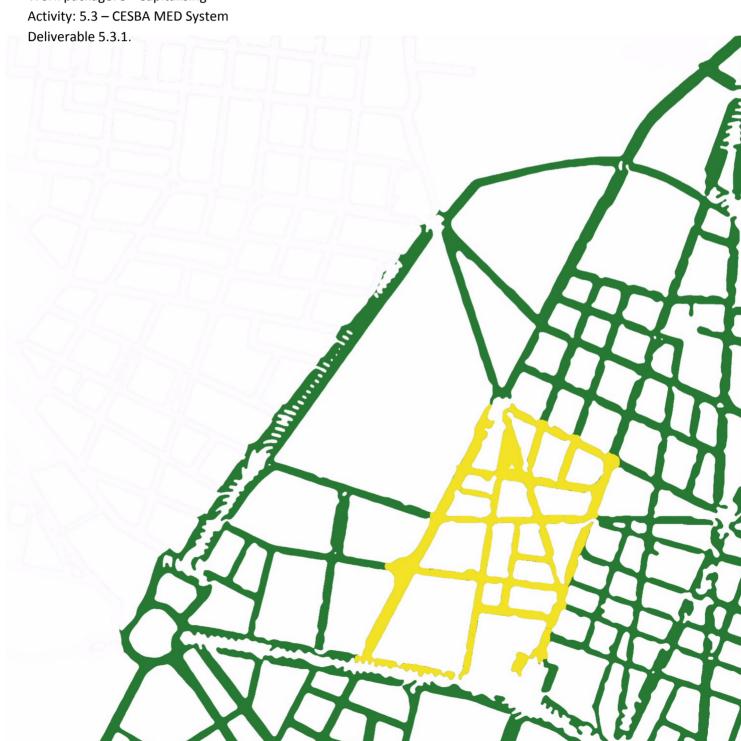
WP5 Capitalising



CESBA MED Policy Paper

September 2019 - Version 4.0

Work package: 5 - Capitalising



1. Introduction

Mainstreaming sustainability in the urban environment is crucial to support the much-needed ecological and low-carbon transition in Europe. To meet the EU environmental commitments, and achieve the goals set under the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, there is a need to untap the potential of improvement that lies in existing residential buildings. The building and housing sector has become one of the most important ones with respect to energy and resource efficiency policies, as well as one of the most challenging ones, given the complexity of aspects that play a role (economic, technical, environmental, social, etc.) and the number of existing linkages with other sectors (urban planning, mobility, waste management, water supply, etc.).

To improve the sustainability of Europe's existing building stock, and without a widespread and common framework for assessing buildings' environmental performance in place, a number of projects and other public or commercial programs and initiatives have surged in recent years, proposing different methods, tools and indicators. However, these are mainly following a building scale approach, which is not optimal in reaching significant and cost-effective improvements and do not fully exploit the potential for synergies that groups of buildings might offer. The implementation of energy and sustainability measures at a broader scale (e.g. district heating, mobility and transport, etc.) are clearly showing that a neighbourhood level is a more effective approach to scale up results and secure the fulfilment of the European commitments on urban sustainability, energy and climate change.

Responding to these challenges, CESBA MED has developed a transnational, harmonised and integrated assessment framework and process of buildings and urban areas which has been implemented in 9 different urban contexts from 7 countries. CESBA MED has also developed an innovative decision making model, and common metrics to allow comparability of sustainability performance of neighbourhoods in the Mediterranean context.

2. What is CESBA MED?

CESBA MED is a European project, built on the CESBA initiative, that has mobilised 12 partners from 7 countries between 2016 and 2019 to develop a common method for assessing the sustainable development of the built environment in the Mediterranean region.

CESBA MED responds to the global challenges set by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; and to the European challenges set by the Communication on Harmonisation of Building Assessment Systems



Figure 1. CESBA MED top-down and bottom-up initiative



(COM(2014) 445 final), the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (COM(2011) 571 final), and the Urban Agenda of the EU.

CESBA MED capitalises existing knowledge from 14 previous EU-funded projects, Urban Scale Assessment Tools, and EU Common Framework Initiatives that support the development of energy and sustainability plans for buildings in the context of their surrounding neighbourhoods. By doing so, CESBA MED has identified and tested the most affordable, operational and suitable assessment criteria and method for the Mediterranean region at building and neighbourhood scales.

City of Torino - Italy

iiSBE Italia R&D - Italy

City of Udine — Italy

EnvirobatBDM - France

AURA EE - France

Metropolitan City of Marseille — France

Government of Catalonia - Spain

City of Sant Cugat del Vallès — Spain

University of Malta — Malta

National Observatory of Athens — Greece

Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar — Croatia

CESBA Association — Austria

Figure 2. CESBA MED Project Partners Process

2.1. CESBA MED results

The main results and contributions of the CESBA MED project are:

Revision of Transnational Indicators and Assessment Methods for Buildings and Urban Areas: CESBA MED has brought together information from 14 transnational projects and public assessment systems. They have been critically reviewed in order to develop a generic list of CESBA MED indicators at building and urban scale that allow the sustainability assessment of public buildings and areas in the context of the Mediterranean area.

<u>CESBA MED Assessment Process:</u> CESBA MED has developed a sustainability assessment process of the urban environment. Using a series of tools developed by CESBA MED, decision-makers and managers of building stocks can implement more energy-efficient and sustainable retrofitting plans combining the building and the urban scale.

CESBA MED Assessment System and Tools: The CESBA MED Assessment System is a free and open-source set of tools composed by a Transnational Generic Framework and locally contextualised assessment tools. By using the CESBA MED Assessment System, cities can adapt the tools to their specific contexts, needs and priorities.

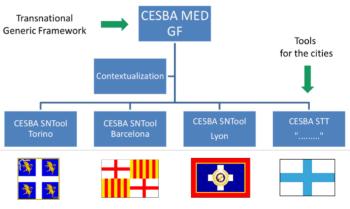


Figure 3. Process of adaptation of the CESBA MED Assessment System to local conditions

<u>CESBA MED Passport:</u> CESBA MED has developed a 'Passport', a transnational document that allows the comparison of results against potential retrofitting scenarios, or against the performance of other Mediterranean areas. The Passport is currently available in two versions: one for buildings and another one for neighbourhoods.



<u>CESBA MED Decision Making Process:</u> CESBA MED has designed a model of decision-making process intended to

Figure 4. CESBA MED Neighbourhood passport

support public administrations in the definition of the best sustainability retrofit scenarios for small urban areas and buildings in the context of their urban environment. This decision-making process is articulated in 6 phases.

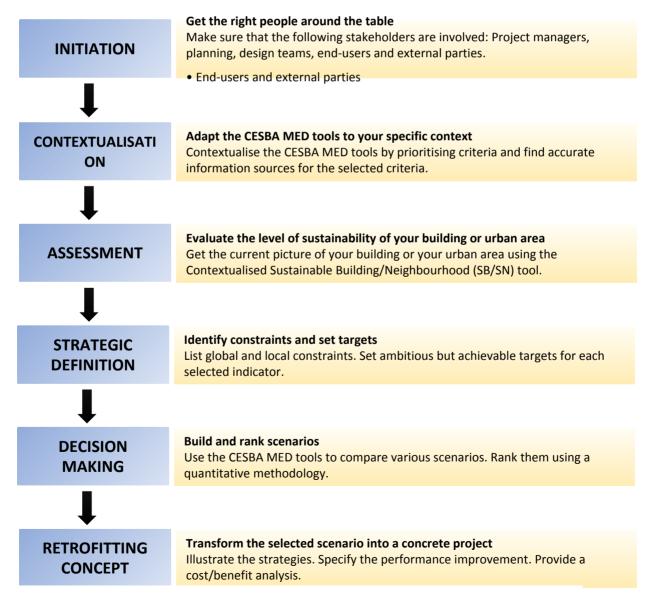


Figure 5. CESBA MED Decision Making Process

3. CESBA MED implementation

3.1. Learnings and conclusions

The CESBA MED methodology and tools have been piloted and implemented in 9 different urban contexts in 7 countries from the Mediterranean region. After reviewing the results of the application, several learnings and conclusions can be drawn:

- * Using harmonised assessment systems fosters the reach of greater sustainability standards in the built environment. These systems facilitate the adequate measurement of sustainability performance, allowing regular monitoring and proper comparability of results against other scenarios and/or urban areas.
- * Having access to reliable data and information is essential to adequately assess the sustainability performance of the urban environment. Ensuring regular access to data and information allows the adoption of good monitoring practices, resulting in better policy formulation and implementation.
- * Using the neighbourhood scale is optimal to reach significant and cost-effective sustainability improvements. Between the building and the district scales, neighbourhoods allow the full exploitation of the existing potential synergies between the different urban scales.
- * Each urban area has its own unique characteristics. For this reason, it is important to use disaggregated data and information and assessment systems that can be well adapted to the specific contexts, needs and priorities of the areas to be assessed.
- * Consulting, dialoguing and involving citizens in the assessment of the built environment is key to ensure that local knowledge and priorities are adequately considered and integrated. This ensures an adequate adaptation of the assessment process to the local conditions.

3.2. CESBA Neighbourhood Award

CESBA MED has been actively supporting and promoting the CESBA Neighbourhood Award (CNA) during the project implementation. The CNA is an official recognition created to showcase and acknowledge best practices of good neighbourhood developments. The Award is a European section of the Global Urban Challenge 2020 of the Sustainable Built Environment series. The CNA fosters a competitive challenge for urban areas in three main categories. The winners of the 2019 CNA Edition were the following:

- * **New Developments category:** <u>Zac Castellane</u> (Sathonay-Camp, Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, France).
- * Areas under a planned or project phase retrofitting category: El Cabanyal (Valencia, Comunidad Valenciana, Spain) and Schnifis (Vorarlberg, Austria).
- * Existing retrofitted areas: Strubergasse (Salzburg, Austria).



Figure 6. From left to right, winners of the 2019 CNA: Zac Castellane, El Cabanyal, Schnifis and Strubergasse

4. Promoting a new culture of the built environment in Europe

Based on the learnings of the CESBA MED project, a series of recommendations, intended for policymakers and key decision agents from the public and private sectors, are presented. The recommendations, which have been formulated to optimise sustainability planning measures in the built environment, aim at promoting a new culture of the built environment in Europe, with special attention to the Mediterranean region.

Each of the following recommendations is structured in four sections: 1) level of applicability (EU level, Member States, Regional/Local level) and linkage with SDGs; 2) background information and justification; 3) description of the recommendation, as formulated by the CESBA MED project; and 4) examples and/or references related to the recommendations, to better reflect the idea behind the recommendation.

Linkage to SDGs **CESBA MED recommendations** •R1: Ensure the mainstreaming of sustainability in urban planning and management •R2: Promote the use of assessment systems, labels or certificates as instruments to reach greater sustainability standards in the built environment •R3: Promote the harmonisation of assessment tools to measure, monitor and compare the sustainability of the urban environment • R4: Make environmental data accessible to public administrations • R5: Seek private investments and other financing schemes to fund sustainable urban initiatives, specially at local level •R6: Integrate the economic and social dimensions in all urban project interventions

•R7: Regularly involve citizens and stakeholders on sustainable urban development













• R8: Organise regular training to better equip professionals and public officers in the field of sustainable urban development

ommendation 1: Ensure the mainstreaming of sustainability in urban planning and management

Level of applicability and linkage with SDGs

☐ EU level | ☐ Member States | ☑ Regions/Towns





Background and justification:

The concept and practice of sustainability in urban planning have since the early 2000s gained global significance and become increasingly mainstream in policymaking. The adoption of global frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and initiatives such as the Urban Agenda of the EU, the Covenant of Mayor for Climate & Energy, the Urban Development Network, and the Sustainable Cities Platform become an opportunity to build more sustainable, innovative and equitable towns and cities, and to use the world's natural resources more efficiently.

Description of the recommendation:

Mainstreaming sustainability priorities into city-level and local urban planning and development plans, in particular through City Development and Urban Strategies, allows the reconciliation of urban economic growth, increases social equality and promotes better resource efficiency. While adequately connected to other spatial and strategic plans (e.g. Regional Planning Strategies, Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans, etc.), and backed up with strong political support and commitment, mainstreaming of sustainability involves actions such as: planning urban development to generate environmental and social opportunities; designing and developing green urban infrastructure; integrating greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions reduction strategies in urban planning and management; transitioning towards low-carbon mobility models; creating "green jobs"; undertaking environmental rehabilitation projects that can enhance ecosystem services; expanding access to energy through greening energy supplies; reducing the consumption of water and the generation of waste; adopting circular economy principles; etc.

Examples and/or references:

The City Council of Sant Cugat del Vallès (Spain) is using development of new buildings and urban areas, for exa of 'Can Mates' and the city's new Central Library. In p developments, developers are required to provide with indicators, indicate the evaluation methodology used meters, if needed.



Figure 7. Render design of the future Central Library of Sant Cugat del Vallès (Spain)

Background and justification:



Recommendation 2: Promote the use of assessment systems, labels or certificates as instruments to reach greater sustainability standards in the built environment

Level of applicability and linkage with SDGs

☐ EU level | ☑ Member States | ☑ Regions/Towns













Background and justification:

The use of voluntary schemes, certificates and labels (BREEAM, HQE, BDM, Protocollo ITACA, VERDE, etc.) to assess and certify sustainable development practices at building scale is increasingly common in Europe. Although the use of such systems at urban scale is still limited, they are gaining attention. Member States, following global commitments like the SDGs, are giving increased importance to using such certificates, demonstrated by the fact that various European countries have moved further than the obligations of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD, 2010/31/EU), and have set up a central/regional Energy Performance Certificate registers, to regularly monitor, collect and make the EPCs publicly available.

Description of the recommendation:

Promote or regulate the use of assessment systems, labels or certificates at neighbourhood level, along with their corresponding compliance/conformity assessments. These instruments should set minimum scores to reach and be gradually implemented to ensure test-and-learn practices, contributing to the set-up of a framework with common and measurable indicators (e.g. Protocollo ITACA). Given the experience achieved in the use of voluntary certification schemes and the progress achieved under the implementation of the EPBD, there is room to reach further ambition and expand the use of such systems. These certificates should not focus on energy and GHGs emissions only, but further extend their scope to other environmental vectors (e.g. water, waste, materials, air quality, etc.) potentially including economic and social indicators. The use of such instruments could be incentivised with fiscal benefits when achieving certain performance level, and be properly measured with common and harmonised assessment tools. The use of these systems helps public authorities to advance toward the achievement of the SDGs.

Examples and/or references:



Figure 8. Protocollo ITACA environmental labels

Protocollo ITACA is an environmental label promoted by the Italian Regions for the evaluation and classification of buildings. It is based on the transnational SBTool methodology, developed by iiSBE, the reference assessment methodology adopted by CESBA MED. Protocollo ITACA has been contextualised at local level by several regions: Piemonte, Liguria, Valle d'Aosta, Veneto, Toscana, etc. Approved in 2004 by the Conference of Presidents of the Italian Regions, since 2015 Protocollo ITACA is the Italian National Standard for the Assessment of the Sustainability of Buildings and it is legally binding.

Recommendation 3: Promote the harmonisation of assessment tools to measure, monitor and compare the sustainability of the urban environment

Level of applicability and linkage with SDGs

☑ EU level | ☑ Member States | ☑ Regions/Towns













Background and justification:

In recent years a variety of projects and other public or commercial programs and initiatives have surged in Europe, proposing different methods, tools and indicators on how to measure urban sustainability. Most of these tools are being used on a voluntary basis and follow a building scale approach, but a number of them also consider the neighbourhood scale. Adopting a widespread, harmonised and common framework for assessing the sustainability performance of the built environment opens a window of opportunity to spread out sustainable urban development practices in the region.

Description of the recommendation:

The promotion of Harmonised Built Urban Assessment Systems (HBUAS) at the different spatial scales would allow the adequate measurement, regular monitoring, and proper comparison of sustainability performance of urban environments in Europe. In this sense, CESBA MED provides a free and open-source methodology to reach a common EU approach to the assessment of environmental performance of the built environment. HBUAS that go beyond the building scale (e.g. urban blocks, neighbourhoods, districts, etc.) are very useful to effectively assess the adequate development and implementation of urban, energy and sustainability policies, regulations and plans linked to the built environment. Further dissemination of existing HBUAS, via public and private authorities, networking activities, peer-learning programmes, would allow the regular and widespread use of such tools and exchange of best practices.

Examples and/or references:

One example of harmonisation exercise and attempt to adopt an EU common framework at building scale is Level(s), a tool for assessing the level of sustainability of existing and new buildings. The main purpose of this tool is to advance towards circular economy and to increase resilience against climate change in the building sector. Level(s) encourages life cycle thinking at a whole building level, supporting users all the way from design stage through to operation and occupation of a building. Networking activities and synergies between CESBA MED and Level(s) have been established and regular cooperation is underway.



Figure 9. Level(s) initiative

Recommendation 4: Make environmental data accessible to public administrations

Level of applicability and linkage with SDGs

☐ EU level | ☑ Member States | ☑ Regions/Towns















Background and justification:

In Europe, the right and freedom to access to environmental information is granted since the early 2000s. Various regulations (including the Aarhus Convention (2001), the Freedom of access to information Directive (2003/4/EC), and the INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC)) ensure that environmental information is systematically available and distributed to the public. The EU regulations require Member States to ensure that public authorities are required to make the environmental information they hold available to any legal or natural person on request. But, in some countries, accessing to environmental information is still challenging and difficult, even for public bodies and local authorities.

Description of the recommendation:

Improve and secure, enforcing the compliance of legal requirements by Member States, the easy access to environmental and sustainability data by citizens and public administrations. Environmental information (including energy-related data and information) should be easily accessible by public administrations, even when this is owned by private entities. Easy access to environmental data and information allows the adoption of regular, high-quality monitoring practices, resulting in better formulation, implementation and assessment of policies in relation to the built environment. EU regulations include specific requirements that grant public access to data, when it is not intended to be used for commercial purposes and protects confidentiality. Alternatively, following up on existing initiatives that collect data on sustainability performance of smart buildings, or collecting energy consumption data by addressing the associated environmental impacts could be potential options to effectively secure access to this information. Data providers should also be regular and transparent on the construction of the meta-data they provide.

Examples and/or references:

In France, the availability of energy data is possible thanks to the Law no. 2015-992 on Energy Transition for Green Growth ('Energy Transition Law'). Improved access to local energy data is one of the contributions of the Law, which obliges Distribution System Operators and Transmission System Operators to publish data on energy consumption and production. This data is publicly available through the Open Platform of French Public Data (http://data.gouv.fr). In 2019 energy data at building scale became available, under the condition that respect of statistical confidentiality was granted.



Figure 10. The Energy Transition Law in France

Recommendation 5: Seek private investments and other financing schemes to fund sustainable urban initiatives, specially at local level

Level of applicability and linkage with SDGs

☐ EU level | ☐ Member States | ☑ Regions/Towns









Background and justification:

The capacity of European local authorities to collect revenues from taxation and funding schemes is fairly limited. Towns and cities usually experience budgetary constraints to implement cost-intensive measures, like the ones linked to urban development. The integration and development of sustainable practices usually translates into high investment needs, where meeting higher sustainability standards and internalising environmental costs increases initial expenditure. Moreover, the traditional and common use of payback as an economic indicator and condition for urban project developments has limitations, for example in the development of green infrastructure (e.g. green spaces to limit Urban Heat Island effect).

Description of the recommendation:

Due to the limited amount of economic resources available by public local entities, there is a need to seek for private investments and alternative funding schemes (e.g. green fiscal policies, public/private partnerships, crowd funding initiatives, etc.) to help fund sustainable urban initiatives, specially at local level. The Electricity Directive (2009/72/EC) and the Electricity Regulation (COM/2016/0861 final) opened a window of opportunity for 'citizens energy communities', which can bring alternative financing schemes, like collective funding initiatives. However, the transposition of these directives by Member States is still not homogeneous and it is running at different speeds, resulting in different outcomes in each country.

Examples and/or references:

In 2018 the city of Križevci (Croatia) organised a crowdfunding campaign to build a 30-kW solar power plant on the roof of the Development Center and Technology Park, owned by city. The initiative became the country's first renewable energy crowdfunding project financed through micro loans. The commissioning of the plant had an estimated investment of HRK 230,000 (EUR 27,000). Citizens were offered to invest money in the solar power plant by providing a 10-year loan with a 4.5% annual interest rate which set the



Figure 11. Members of the Križevački Sunčani Krovovi crowdfunding campaign (2019)

right conditions for the successful completion of the campaign. After the success of the campaign, a second crowdfunding initiative took place in 2019, which was funded only 48 hours after its launch.

Recommendation 6: Integrate the economic and social dimensions in all urban project interventions

Level of applicability and linkage with SDGs

☐ EU level | ☐ Member States | ☑ Regions/Towns













Background and justification:

In a warming planet the effects of climate change, such as flooding and droughts, increased temperatures, etc., can have a significant influence on the built environment and on people. The impacts of climate change can affect elements like materials, labour, energy costs, plant, equipment and construction methods. The impacts on people are usually unequal, especially affecting the most vulnerable communities. Consequently, to maintain buildings and urban areas within the same ranges of serviceability as before, there is a need to ensure their economic feasibility and social equality, by making sure that the economic and social components are well addressed in the design and maintenance strategies.

Description of the recommendation:

In a scenario of local budgetary constraints, changing climate conditions, and lack of sufficient consideration of present and future environmental and social externalities, the inclusion of the economic and social components in project investments is necessary to ensure the feasibility and equality of urban interventions. In this scenario, Social/Cost Benefit Analysis (S/CBA) and other social and economic instruments, should be properly integrated, through voluntary or mandatory regulations and schemes, in urban project investments and included in the initial project's design. Introducing and considering S/CBA in the project analysis phase, using common processes to reduce (social) costs and assessing the direct and indirect benefits reached, allows the design of cost-efficient and socially fair urban areas. However, S/CBA should be considered in all life cycle stages of the urban projects.

Examples and/or references:

Several tools and methodologies available in Europe, like CESBA MED, become simple entry points for urban planners to develop their knowledge and skills in the incorporation of the social and economic dimensions in the urban projects. By adequately incorporating these aspects, urban planners can ensure the optimal and fair design of budgets by estimating the costs that will incur during the whole life cycle stages of buildings and urban areas. The costs linked to adaptation and resilience to climate change should also be properly considered.



Figure 12. The social aspects in the CESBA MED Assessment Methodology and Tools

Recommendation 7: Regularly involve citizens and stakeholders on sustainable urban development

Level of applicability and linkage with SDGs

☐ EU level | ☐ Member States | ☑ Regions/Towns









Background and justification:

Urban developments affect not only those that invest in them or occupy the buildings and places within them, but a wider community of influence (citizens, workers, commuters, visitors, etc.). Therefore, it is essential that all the affected parties, including local citizens and businesses, are actively involved in shaping the developments that affect them. Having policies, processes, tools and methods that empower communities, while keeping a regular conversation between all parties is crucial. But, more participation in this area also comes with great expectations for the legitimacy and effectiveness of planning efforts.

Description of the recommendation:

Improve urban development transparency through more open governance and greater public participation, by making compulsory the need to consult and engage with citizens and other local stakeholders (businesses, trade unions, civil society organisations, etc.) during the planning phase. This will ensure that the preferences and priorities of the local communities are taken into account (accessibility, gender-based urbanism, green infrastructure, etc.) reaching greater public acceptance and ensuring ownership. CESBA MED experience proves that dialogue is easier when the target audiences are:

- **Single communities of stakeholders:** citizens living in the district, citizens working in a district, retired people of the district, etc.
- **Stakeholders from small neighbourhoods:** the smaller the community acting in the district is the more knowledge they have, and the easier monitoring they can perform, of their own district.

Examples and/or references:

The French public label 'ÉcoQuartier' sets the consultation process with neighbours as a mandatory step in the certification process. The second of the '20 commitments of the ÉcoQuartier reference framework' is to 'Formalise and implement a participatory piloting process and broad governance creating the conditions for citizen mobilisation'. At local level, in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, the *Quartiers Durables Méditerranéens* approach provides detailed goals for participation, going from shared diagnosis with local communities up to facility management by the community.



Figure 13. French label 'Quartiers Durables Méditerranéens'

Recommendation 8: Organise regular training to better equip professionals and public officers in the field of sustainable urban development

Level of applicability and linkage with SDGs

☑ EU level | ☑ Member States | ☑ Regions/Towns









Background and justification:

Integrating sustainability in the urban development processes is a dynamic, multi-dimensional and challenging process, given the complexity of aspects that play a role (economic, technical, environmental, social, etc.) and the number of existing linkages with other sectors (urban planning, mobility, energy generation, waste management, water supply, etc.). Amid the emergence of new methodologies, technologies, tools and approaches to respond to the sustainability challenge, there is a need to provide specialised training in the measurement and response to the urban sustainability needs.

Description of the recommendation:

Implement regular capacity building and training activities to increase the knowledge on state-of-the-art technologies, as well as technical skills and capacities of the public officers at local/regional level for proper addressing sustainable urban development. The exercise should become a continuous learning process tackling the different aspects of sustainable urban development, including: design and formulation of policy initiatives, project design and development, procurement, monitoring and evaluation, urban retrofitting, governance, public engagement, etc. This process should not only target public officers but also address relevant agents from the private sector, including workers, building managers, urban developers, etc. which are also involved and have a relevant role in urban development and/or retrofitting practices. These trainings may be organised, harmonised and certified with an EU-wide accreditation system to ensure that common knowledge and expertise are evenly levelled across countries.

Examples and/or references:

CESBA MED has developed a <u>Training Framework</u>, aimed at improving professionals' technical skills on sustainable urban development; and to strengthen the capacity of local stakeholders to develop efficient policies; and to design integrated Local Action Plans for sustainable urban development. The Training System, which is composed by 8 modules, capacitates the trainees on the CESBA MED tools and methodology. The system has been tailored for two specific main target groups: technicians (professionals, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), technicians, urban planners, and public bodies' technical staff); and decision-

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1	Generic Framework, multicriteria assessment
2	The decision-making process
3	Case studies analysis, focus on decision making
4	Assessment criteria of the contextualized SBTool
	Use of the contextualized SBTool - building scale
	Case studies analysis, focus on technical issues
7	Assessment criteria of the contextualized SNTool
	Use of the contextualized SNTool - urban scale

Figure 14. CESBA MED Training Modules

makers (policymakers, investors, developers, and public managers).

4.1 Capitalising CESBA MED

CESBA MED has produced a valuable and innovative set of tools and a methodology to improve the energy and sustainability performance of public buildings with an approach that combines the building and the urban scale for maximising the efficiency of retrofit actions. To capitalise these results an integrated group of actions has been put in place, and described in continuation.

4.2 CESBA MED Guide

To further explain the benefits and how to include the CESBA MED outcomes in the management of public building stocks, public policies, multi-level government and urban planning, a CESBA MED Guide has been developed. The objective of the CESBA MED Guide is to become a methodological document with specific recommendations and potential applications of the CESBA MED methodology and tools in policies, plans and regulations for the improvement of sustainability in the built environment.

5. Contact details

If you want to get in touch with CESBA MED members, please use the following contact details.

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