

Renovate Europe Day 2020: REDay2020



Short Report from the Austrian National REDay2020 event

Date: Tuesday, 27th October 2020

Organised by: REC National Austrian Partner: 17und4

About the event: “If Austria raises considerable funds from the EU Recovery and Resilience Fund, which is endowed with a record sum of € 673 billion, what could we achieve for building renovation? Spending money in a targeted manner needs a plan, and Austria is now calling for one.”

Speakers:

- “The Facility - setting priorities, opportunities for structural conversion and renovation”, **Jozef Vasak**, Austrian Representative to the European Commission
- “Is the new klimaaktiv standard suitable for a large wave of renovation?” by **Inge Schrattenecker**, ÖGUT
- “Renovation program of the Climate and Energy Fund” **Heinz Buschmann**, Climate and Energy Fund
- “Example of innovative renovation” by **Gerhard Kopeinig** (Architect)
- “Component activation in the renovation – The Salzburg multifunctional façade” by **Matthias Gnigler**, (Centre for Alpine Building)
- “Quality assurance with the new energy certificate” by **Georg Thor**, (Energieberatung Salzburg)
- “Qualification of specialists, international database” by **Ronald Setznagel** (EU project Newcom)
- “Viennese one-stop shop supports the renovation of private buildings” by **Walter Hüttler**, (EU project RenoBooster)

Link for more information: <https://www.17und4.at/renovate-europe/>



Considering the full budget (€672.5bn) of the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility, Austria’s share could be ~€3bn. With 37% of funds earmarked for climate-related reforms, it is valid to ask what could be achieved through deep energy renovation of the building stock.

Now that the EU Green Deal is in place, Jozef Vasak, Austrian Representative to the European Commission, highlighted to need for Austria to develop a solid plan to spend available funds in a targeted manner. Setting priorities, for structural remodelling, renovation reform and investment should be done through an inclusive process that ensures dialogue among all stakeholders, including government, the private sector and social partners.

The importance of optimising available funding, through programmes such as *Mustersanierung*, and initiating monitoring activities that will capture not only data but also learnings to support deployment

of deep renovation was highlighted by Heinz Buschmann, Climate and Energy Fund. In turn, architect Gerhard Kopeinig presented examples of deep renovation, pointing out various aspects of quality. The klimaaktiv building standard, an ambitious and well-developed building declaration system, could now be more closely linked to funding systems, suggested Inge Schrattenecker, ÖGUT, as an effective instrument to drive the Austrian Renovation Wave.

From a technological perspective, Gerhard Moritz, ARGE EBA, presented the new energy consultation protocol / renovation concept, an automated tool developed in accordance with Austrian standards. Using a 'quick and dirty' approach to identify renovation projects that could be implemented quickly, the tool can deliver valuable results over the long term. Two speakers profiled innovations that can address special challenges. Matthias Gnigler, Center for Alpine Building, showed an example of thermal component activation in renovation, through the Salzburg multifunctional façade. Robert Philipp, Terra Umwelttechnik, described the Heat Harvest Demo Project, which aims to harvest excess solar heat in urban areas to heat buildings in winter.

The aspect of lack of workforce competence was raised by Ronald Setznagel, 17&4 consulting, who also informed participants about the EU project NEWCOM, which provides training modules and should be developed further as a tool for an international database.

Finally, Walter Hüttler, e7, reported the status of HAUSKUNFT, Vienna's one-stop shop for supporting renovation of private households and the EU project RenoBooster. Experience on EU-level shows that such initiatives can boost demand for renovation – hopefully, for deep renovation.

In discussion, participants raised the importance of developing a cohesive plan – incorporating many perspectives – in the strategy to adapt the entire building stock for climate neutrality by 2040. The strategy should avoid lock-in effects and recognise that continued use of fossil fuels for heating is counterproductive, even if efficiency is improved. Clearly, Austria has very good approaches in place; the task now is about integration and up-scaling. Actions that could contribute to structural reform include: an advisory offensive with automation support and one-stop-shop elements; expansion of proven standards such as klimaaktiv and funding, transparency in qualifications; and scale up of successful models at community level.

Participants were invited to engage in the development of the National Recovery & Resilience Plan to be sure Austria can take advantage of the EU Renovation Wave.

Johannes Fechner, Ronald Setznagel, Renovate Europe – Austria

Current data on renovation in Austria

The government has stated a target to reach climate neutrality by 2040; the current renovation rate will not support this. At present, key data points include:

- 1.9mn residential units have an inadequate thermal standard, 1.4mn are principle residences.
- 700 000 oil and 900 000 gas heating systems are still in use.
- The renovation rate is at its lowest point since 2010. Ten years ago, extensive renovations dominated; today, individual measures predominate.¹

¹ Renovation rate in Austria, IIBW, Federal Environment Agency 2020

- The interim balance of the ‘renovation offensive’ as of 12 October 2020 showed 10 817 applications so far, with funds of ~€46mn collected for climate protection measures. The main focus is on replacing old, climate-damaging heating systems.

About 17&4:

17&4 is an independent private consultancy and research company for sustainable development, founded in 1992. The main sectors where they operate are resource and material efficiency, sustainable building, energy and mobility, climate protection and sustainable urban development.

<https://www.17und4.at/>

About the Renovate Europe Campaign:

Renovate Europe is a political communications campaign with the ambition to reduce the energy demand of the EU building stock by 80% by 2050 through legislation and ambitious renovation programmes. Accelerating the rate of renovation is a key tool in the fight against climate change, and will deliver major benefits for people, their quality of life, and the economy. www.renovate-europe.eu

#PrioritisePeople

#AccelerateRenovation