

## Ljubljana Declaration

### A Stakeholder Call for Greater Ambition on Energy Renovation of Buildings in South-East Europe

***Whereas** we are a cross-sector group of stakeholders drawn from several countries in South East Europe (SEE) and from multi-national industrial, manufacturing, construction, civil society and financial sectors;*

***Whereas** we met in Škofja Loka, near Ljubljana, Slovenia on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 to reflect on the current economic and social context in SEE and the way the energy efficient renovation of its building stock would positively contribute to a prosperous and vibrant future for SEE, its people and its environment;*

***Whereas** we have examined European and national policy frameworks that impact on the energy performance of buildings in SEE and are aware of the legislative process to transpose EU legislation that requires all countries to develop effective long-term renovation strategies;*

***Whereas** we have determined that there are no technological, practical or financial barriers to future-proof our building stock that cannot be overcome and that the ambition set out below can be achieved with political will and stakeholder engagement and collaboration;*



## We Declare That

1. Developing **ambitious national long-term renovation strategies** for the transformation of the building stock in SEE, both public and private, to a highly energy efficient, decarbonised and nearly zero-energy stock by 2050 is one of the most cost-effective ways to sustainably stimulate the economy in SEE and thus bring tangible benefits to its citizens, whilst ensuring alignment with global climate commitments made under the Paris Agreement;
2. **Greater political courage and leadership** for a more ambitious energy renovation of the existing building stock in SEE through the adoption and implementation of national, regional and city-level renovation strategies containing milestones for 2030 and 2040 against which to measure progress is in the best interests of businesses and citizens in SEE;

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3. **Putting occupants and users at the heart of the holistic energy renovation** of the building stock in SEE leads to the creation of **multiple societal and individual benefits**. Principal among these are the creation of new local jobs, economic growth, enhanced energy security, improved health and well-being, better comfort and higher productivity. All these benefits should be accounted for when SEE governments are reporting on the effects of their long-term renovation strategies;
4. **Full and conscientious transposition, implementation, compliance and enforcement of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive** in SEE must be assured. In particular, technical building codes, Energy Performance Certificates, standards and labels deriving from these directives are important tools to drive the energy renovation market and each must be robust, coherent and connected, and play an important role in delivering the long-term transformation of buildings in SEE;
5. **More and better tailored financing** to support the rapid roll-out of the recommended national and regional renovation strategies can and must be identified, put in place and matched with projects building upon the initial success of the limited instruments that are currently available in the market;
6. **Better, more transparent allocation and leverage of existing and future EU funding** streams and the use of national fiscal support tools for building renovations must be further explored and utilised;
7. Existing barriers to finance must be addressed by **prioritising energy renovation in the next EU Budget** especially in Cohesion Funding and InvestEU and thus creating an improved framework for financing, that will allow energy efficiency investments to flow unhindered;
8. **Industry stakeholders** present and active in SEE are **ready to invest more resources and skills** in the energy renovation of the regions' existing buildings to facilitate, in a collaborative manner, the achievement of the objectives identified above;
9. **Industry stakeholders are ready to assist the authorities in all countries** in all stages of the roll-out of their strategies, including planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluating progress against the pre-set and agreed milestones in the above recommended approach.

The workshop was organised by



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This *Declaration* was prepared at the EuroACE Conference  
*Energy Efficient Buildings & Building Renovation in South East Europe, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019,*  
and was endorsed by the following companies and associations, all of whom were present.



Croatian Government  
Real Estate Agency

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