e-SAFE

DELIVERABLE REPORT

WP7 Communication, dissemination and training

D7.5

REPORT ON DISSEMINATION TO POLICYMAKERS

Due date

M24 30.09.2022

e-SAFE has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 893135

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LEAD PARTNER

BPIE

CONTRIBUTING PARTNER(S)

MOVERIM, DELOITTE

LEAD AUTHOR(S)

Caroline MILNE (BPIE)

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TYPE

- ☒ R - Report
- ☐ DEM - Demonstrator
- ☐ DEC Websites, patents filling, videos, etc.
- ☐ OTHER
- ☐ ETHICS – Ethics requirement
- ☐ OPRP - Open Research Data Pilot
- ☐ DATA – Data sets, microdata, etc.

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1.0	Giuseppe Margani	Project Coordinator	UNICT	06.10.2022	GM

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CONTENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current Deliverable D7.5 "REPORT ON DISSEMINATION TO POLICYMAKERS" is produced in the context of Task 7.5 "External dissemination to policy-makers" of the **e**-SAFE project, which began in M13 and runs until M46. This report serves as a progress report, and will be updated in a second version in M46. The report provides an overview of the policy background against which **e**-SAFE began and, more broadly, the key policy events that directly shaped the policy narrative since the project kicked off. It then explains the different types of policy dissemination with an overview of the policy dissemination strategy that is suitable for **e**-SAFE, followed by a description of the policy dissemination strategy and outreach carried out to date, with a view to next steps and remaining work until the end of the project.

Task 7.5, which focuses on raising awareness of the **e**-SAFE project among key EU policymakers, benefits especially from work taking place particularly in WP2 on stakeholder engagement and WP6 on business models and financial schemes. This work is expected to intensify particularly from M30 of the project, which should feed content development for future policy outreach action towards policymakers.

To date, the key work completed has been the identification of key provisions in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), which is currently open to revision by the EU institutions. This is the foundational Directive most relevant to building renovation. We identified a number of opportunities where seismic safety could be better integrated into the EPBD, which forms the basis of our first policy briefing, published in July 2022 and sent to a number of policymakers (mainly Members of the European Parliament, MEPs), who were identified as having a strong interest in the topic of seismic safety. This first policy briefing and analysis of the EPBD revision have also been foundational to identifying future topics and potential angles that will be relevant for policymakers in the second half of the project, in order to increase awareness and potential engagement.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
BRP	Building Renovation Passport
DBL	Digital Building Logbook
DEG	Dissemination & Exploitation Group
EC	European Commission
EPC	Energy Performance Certificate
EGD	European Green Deal
EPBD	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive
LTRS	Long-term renovation strategies
MEP	Member of the European Parliament

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this report

The present report is the first of two versions of D7.5, where Version 2 will be submitted in M46. This version describes the current policy context and identifies opportunities and hooks that will be most relevant for policymakers now and in the final years of the **e**-SAFE project. The report provides a track of key policy actions performed to date within Task 7.5.

Version 2 of D7.5 (due M46) will provide an overview of all outreach actions taken towards policymakers, which is expected to intensify with the production of numerous deliverables which are expected to provide content that will be relevant for policymakers against the current policy landscape (elaborated in Section 3)

The **e**-SAFE project touches upon a subject which has not yet been sufficiently tackled at EU level. The building sector in the EU accounts for 36% of the EU's CO_2 emissions (construction, usage, demolition, usage, renovation) and close to 40% of its energy consumption. Around 75% of European building stock is energy inefficient meaning that a large part of energy use is wasted [1]. Building renovation, particularly deep renovation, is urgent in order to tackle climate change and also to increase comfort and well-being in citizens, and to help alleviate energy poverty, which is at an all-time high in Europe: according to Eurostat, as of 2020, approximately 35 million Europeans are currently living in energy poverty, however, this number has likely grown since fall of 2021 as the prices of fuel have dramatically risen across the EU [2].

The EU is currently prioritizing building renovation more than ever before; the EU Green Deal, the Renovation Wave, and now the "Fit for 55" legislative packages recognize and seek to operationalize the rapid decarbonization of buildings in order for the EU to meet its climate objectives. This is a positive step forward, and policymakers at EU and Member State level alike are acutely aware of the need to rapidly upscale solutions that will accelerate deep renovation, particularly in the next decade. This is particularly evidenced by the ongoing revisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).

However, alongside energy (in)efficiency, 50% of European territory is also seismic prone [3] yet seismic efficiency has not been adequately addressed at EU level. Failure to act on energy efficiency in a strategic manner that is integrated with seismic safety could mean inefficient renovations in the long run: carrying out energy renovations in a seismic-prone zone that experiences an earthquake some time later, could mean destruction of those positive energy renovations, resulting in wasted work (raising sustainability issues), materials and other negative socio-economic impacts.

The difficulty in addressing seismic safety at EU level and proposing policy suggestions is ultimately that while 50% of EU territory is more or less earthquake prone, the other 50% is not, and thus not all Member States are concerned with seismic safety. This means that it is unlikely that seismic safety will become a mainstream topic among EU policymakers. It also means that many will doubt whether or not seismic safety should be addressed at EU level at all: until now, seismic safety has been taken care of uniquely at Member State level. However, given the magnitude of the challenge to meet the EU's climate targets and the level of threat seismic safety poses to so many buildings and homes in the EU, the topic should at least be considered at EU level.

This current moment in time in terms of EU policymaking is a good time to raise awareness of new concepts. For example, the introduction of a Whole Life Carbon (WLC) roadmap into the EPBD, to track and reduce embodied emissions from buildings, has also been proposed as part of the Renovation Wave. The idea of tracking the carbon life cycle of buildings has long been considered by many stakeholders as incoherent with a directive that has traditionally focused on buildings

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performance [1]. However, the Renovation Wave and "Fit for 55" package have essentially widened the scope of what buildings performance means by including WLC for the first time, which represents a substantial shift in thinking. At the same time, the European Commission's (EC) proposed revision of the EPBD in December 2021 includes new language on seismic and structural safety. This shows a clear political will to strengthen EU-wide buildings legislation as much as possible towards the objectives of reaching the EU's 2030 climate target and 2050 target of climate-neutrality, with a strong focus on citizens' well-being.

Over the course of the next year and until M46 (the near-end of the project), through Task 7.5, **e**-SAFE will aim to leverage this shift in policy context and take hold of opportunities to raise awareness of the concept of seismic safety and its link with the narrative on energy efficiency, climate change, health and well-being. However, given that seismic safety concerns comparatively few EU Member States, we cannot expect it to become a mainstream topic among policymakers, especially as other proposed measures for the EPBD are being hotly debated by all Member States (such as Minimum Energy Performance Standards, which, at the time of writing this deliverable, are being hotly debated by many Member States within Parliament and Council). Raising general awareness among EU and also national/local policymakers of the connection between seismic safety and energy efficiency will therefore be the main objective of the work of Task 7.5, however overly prescriptive, or too-specific recommendations that cannot reasonably apply to all Member States will have to be avoided. It will also be necessary to keep a certain level of flexibility in terms of topics, timing and angles, in order to catch policymakers' attention, and ensure to be sensitive to the main 'hot button' issues of the moment. This deliverable, in its current and final version (M46), will track how **e**-SAFE has sought to engage and raise awareness of the issue (and solutions) of seismic safety as related to energy performance of buildings.

1.2 Overview of the document

As described above, Version 1 of Deliverable D7.5 sets the scene to the current policy context and identifies opportunities and hooks that will be most relevant for policymakers now and in the final years of the **e**-SAFE project. It does not, however, go into detail on specific policy items, such as the Renovation Wave, the "Fit for 55" package, or the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). Rather, it assumes the reader is already familiar with these terms, particularly as these specific policy packages have been described in Deliverable D6.3 Version 1 ("White Paper on Policy Engagement"). The purpose of the present deliverable is to keep track of the actions taken within Task 7.5 and reflect how they align with the broader outreach strategy. Section 2 of the document describes the **e**-SAFE policy dissemination strategy, including the tools and channels foreseen as well as the challenges and solutions to potential policy dissemination actions. Section 3 then describes the policy context in which the **e**-SAFE project, and specifically Task 7.5, began, and highlights the key elements identified within the EPBD recast proposal that have potential relevance to seismic safety, followed by a description of key policy dissemination actions taken to date. Section 4, finally, focuses on conclusions and next steps. This section in particular outlines the connections of potential topics of particular relevance for policymakers to upcoming **e**-SAFE tasks, which could feed the development of future dissemination towards policymakers.

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2. e-SAFE policy dissemination

2.1 Challenges to policy dissemination

There is an important distinction between policy dissemination and policy advocacy. Policy *dissemination* should focus principally on raising awareness of key issues and solutions to policymakers, which can take different forms and levels of intensity. *Advocacy*, conversely, is often associated with intensive media campaigning, or street-based activism of petitions, posters, and demonstrations. This is because these are the most visible actions of actors attempting to make or force policy change. While these can indeed be elements of dissemination, this type of 'advocacy' is outside the scope of the **e**-SAFE project; as we are a research and innovation project, any outreach to policymakers we do should be directly based on knowledge/results developed within the project (many of which will only come towards the end of the project).

Ultimately, as a consortium with the specific goal of research and innovation, anything we say to policy makers needs to be justifiable: we cannot make big statements or claims without being able to back up what we say. While this does not mean that **e**-SAFE will not attempt to push for any policy change, it is necessary to define the scope of what is appropriate for us. The Overseas Development Institute produced a useful way of illustrating these differences by mapping the typical advocacy activities undertaken by different actors, covering two dimensions of the outreach process:

1. Whether an organisation takes a cooperative or confrontational approach to their outreach, that is, whether they are 'whispering' vs 'shouting' at decision-makers.
2. Whether their advocacy messages are more evidence-based or interest/value-based.

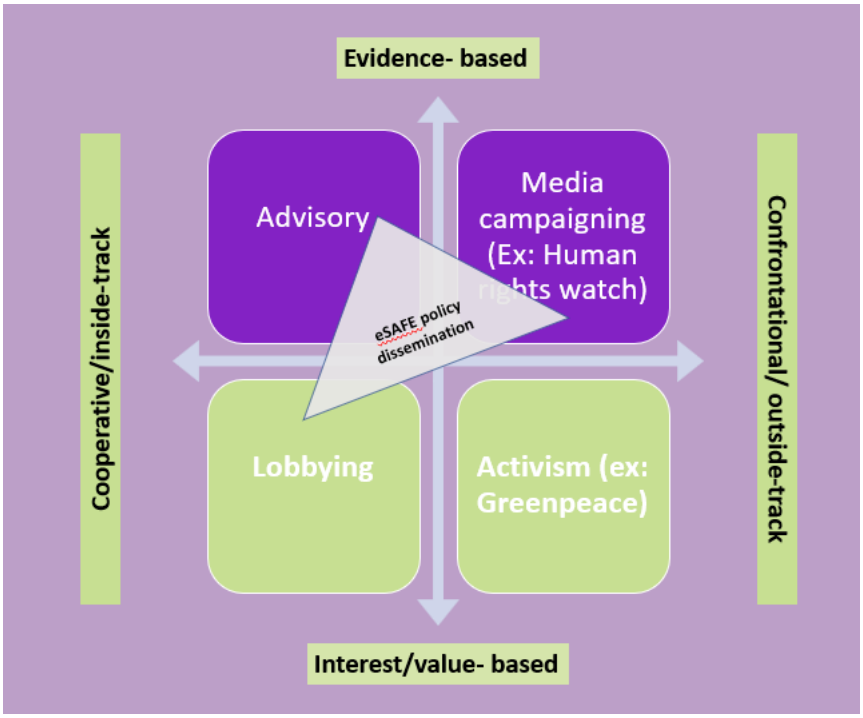

Figure 1: The advocacy roles of different types of NGOs. Adapted from the International Centre for Policy Advocacy [5]

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Advising — advising involves empirical investigation on a certain policy question or problem. This usually entails working with authorities and producing new research and proposing ideas/solutions to assist them in making a policy decision. This is one of the main areas that **e**-SAFE will concentrate on, and involves the production of policy briefings. This can be a more discrete form of outreach than for example lobbying or activism (or even media campaigning) as described below.

Media campaigning — many advocacy organizations decide to include a public dimension to their campaign as they feel some type of public or external pressure on decision-makers is required to achieve results. This type of approach is commonly used by watchdog organizations that monitor government action. **e**-SAFE will engage in some light media campaigning, through the production of op-eds published in well-read media outlets.

Lobbying — face-to-face meetings with decision-makers or influential people is a commonly used approach for organisations that are defending the interests of a certain group of people, such as business, professional or community associations, or unions. As **e**-SAFE is a research and innovation project, it is outside the scope of work to enter into this type of lobbying action.

Activism — petitions, public demonstrations, posters, and leaflet dissemination are common approaches used by organizations that promote a certain value set, or have a defined constituency and represent or provide a service to a group of people who are not adequately included within government social service provision. While dissemination materials have been and will be produced for **e**-SAFE, these are to promote the solution and not a particular value set or push any emotional messages. Such activism is well outside the scope of an EU-funded research project and will not be included in policy dissemination.

2.2 e-SAFE approach to policy dissemination

Like many other organisations, **e**-SAFE does not fit neatly into one quadrant on the figure. Taking a lobbing/activism approach in particular could expose **e-**SAFE to public debates that we are not able to follow through on. As an EU-funded project, **e**-SAFE is driven by research and innovation and has clear limits on what it can and cannot do in terms of policy dissemination: we cannot enter into any sort of outreach that is anchored in value-based arguments or aggressive outreach.

For this reason, it is not appropriate nor possible to develop a fixed set of policy messages or recommendations that we push repetitively over an extended period of time, like many typical advocacy associations with high visibility among policymakers. Policy messages that we produce must at once take into consideration the changing policy landscape, and especially, must be rooted in research outputs (the majority of which are not yet developed or ongoing).

The **e**-SAFE policy dissemination approach will therefore focus on advising/informing policymakers as well as media campaigning, using real research outputs and tying them as best as reasonably possible to the current policy narrative. However, opportunism is less important than accuracy: it is crucial that any policy messages and outreach to policymakers is driven by our research outputs, otherwise the consortium (and its individual partners) risk their credibility. This will, by necessity, have consequences on how bold we can be in our messages and outreach; it is better to stay on the conservative side in messaging if we are not convinced we have all the empirical evidence to back up our recommendations or ideas. While in the Grant Agreement we say that our policy briefings will be 'shaped by policy messages', it is crucial to understand that we will not forgo accuracy for the sake of creating a 'buzz'. The challenge within **e**-SAFE is therefore to strike the balance between capitalising on political timing and being relevant in the moment in order to increase our chances of being 'heard', and also to use real **e**-SAFE results (many of which do not include detailed policy

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analysis), towards creating impactful messages, while being sober and evidence-based in our approach.

Finally, an additional challenge that is central to raising awareness among policymakers in the EU is the fact that seismic safety varies widely in terms of importance in different Member States and is very geographically specific. All policy outreach actions will therefore need to take care to ensure that recommendations avoid being Member State specific or too geographically specific, and focus on solutions and suggestions, highlighting the benefits and possibilities of considering seismic safety at a wider scale. Policy outreach may also concentrate more intently at the local level towards the end of the project, for example in Italy, where seismic safety is an important concern at national level. The real pilot in Catania could be a trampoline towards engaging policymakers at local level.

2.3 e-SAFE policy engagement strategy

Policymakers at local, national and European levels are important actors for drawing attention to the **e**-SAFE project. Exchange of knowledge, know-how and expertise with these actors can bring additional support and added value to the project. The consortium partners will use their already existing links with policymakers to bring the project results to their attention. The following activities are foreseen.

Events (online or in-person)

According to the Grant Agreement, an event is foreseen in September 2022 at European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) in Brussels in order to generate interest and get feedback/input from strategic stakeholder. This event will be included in the final version of D7.5.

A special working session of the final clustering event in Task 7.4 will be organized. It will be dedicated to policy-and decision-makers, to finalize a white paper on deep renovation policies and incentives at the national and European levels.

More clustering events, either online or in-person, while not foreseen in the grant agreement, may be foreseen in order to boost dissemination in next half of the project, based on whether we view dissemination as having been sufficient or whether more action should be taken.

Policy briefings

A **policy briefing** is a stand-alone communication tool used to inform or advise decision-makers and those with an interest in influencing the policy process. It sets out the policy options to deal with, and some general recommendations on the best option(s). It should be thoroughly researched and present a concise summary of relevant information on a complex issue in a way that readers (usually policymakers) can understand the key points and take from the brief what they need in order to make policy decisions. It should be evidence-based and cater to inform non-specialist actors, be short, and avoid jargon as much as possible, as opposed to policy research studies which are often too long and expert-orientated for most policy actors.

There are two basic kinds of policy brief: **(i) an advocacy brief** argues in favour of a particular course of action **(ii) an objective brief** gives balanced information for the policymaker to make up his or her mind. **The e-SAFE project focuses on providing objective policy briefs**, aiming primarily at sensitizing key policymakers to the objectives and purpose of the **e-**SAFE project, namely the need to combine energy efficiency renovations with earthquake safety wherever the one or the other is needed, i.e. for both energy efficiency and earthquake safety to act as a trigger point for the one or the other action. The policy briefings will highlight potential solutions and ideas based on other outputs developed in the project (see Section 3 for more details), however these will remain objective as they are not intended to be especially prescriptive/specific in terms of policy design.

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In accordance with the Grant Agreement, 3-4 policy briefings will be prepared throughout the lifetime of the project, using the main project deliverables and turning them into shorter, more impactful briefings, shaped with policy messages.

Targeted mailings to policymakers

Around four personalized targeting policymakers are foreseen, especially to launch the policy papers and communicate about the events. E-mails will be personal and sent directly to policymakers identified as having a particular interest (or potential interest) in the topic of the policy brief and potentially a role in the decision-making process (see Section 4.1 for examples). Target policymakers will be chosen based on partners' in-house knowledge and existing relationships. In terms of EU policymakers, BPIE closely follows the policymaking (and implementation) process of the EPBD within all EU institutions, even outside of the **e**-SAFE project. Within the Parliament, for example, BPIE attends/follows all public debates and debriefs within its policy team weekly on key discussion points, priorities, and regularly identifies the most influential policymakers of interest for a given topic. This ongoing monitoring directly feeds the e-SAFE approach to dissemination to policymakers.

Engagement with EU media – opinion papers

At least two opinion papers will be produced to support the development of policies in this field and placed in media such as Euractiv, which is among the most read media outlets by policymakers in Brussels that allows for free publication of opinion pieces. Opinion papers (OpEds) can be understood as short, easy to read articles written in a journalistic tyle (usually 500-800 words and no more than a thousand) on a topic of relevance for the project and for policy stakeholders. These papers are an opportunity to condense key messages from policy briefings (simultaneously promoting their dissemination by linking them directly into the text) signed by one or more partners within the consortium. They can directly help support dissemination of our work to a wider audience and raise awareness of key ideas/solutions we want to push to our target audience. These opinion papers will be included in the final Deliverable D7.5 in M48.

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3. Policy outreach to date

3.1 Policy context

The **e**-SAFE project kicked off in October 2020, the same month that the EC's Communication on the Renovation Wave [6] was published. The Renovation Wave is a strategy developed as part of the Commission's EU Green Deal (EGD) which aims to strengthen the EU's position as a global climate leader, announced by newly appointed president Ursula Von der Leyen in 2019. The Renovation Wave communication is a set of priority actions that will be taken to bring the built environment in line with the Commission's new and more ambitious 2030 and 2050 climate targets: to cut GHG emissions by 55% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030, and to reach climate-neutrality, respectively. It is important to note that the Renovation Wave communication was delayed for several months due to the COVID-19 pandemic which broke out in early 2020. The first months after the outbreak of the pandemic, there was some debate among policymakers whether or not the EGD should remain a priority; the Renovation Wave in the end was named a priority and included as part of the Commission's Recovery and Resilience package proposed in spring 2020.

Following the announcement of the Renovation Wave, on July 14 2021, the EC adopted the "Fit for 55" package of legislative proposals as part of the EGD's implementation plan. The package aims to modernize existing legislation in line with the EU's 2030 climate target and introduce new policy measures to help bring about the transformative changes needed in the economy, society and industry to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 and to support it, reduce net emissions by at least 55% (compared to 1990) by 2030. To this aim, the proposed package reopened a number of legislative files in 2021, notably the EPBD, which is of particularly relevance for actions pertaining to deep renovation of buildings.

As the "Fit for 55" process got underway, in fall 2021, energy prices began to rapidly increase. The EC provided an emergency toolbox to counteract the immediate effects on citizens, particularly by alleviating energy poverty for the most vulnerable groups.

On 15 December 2021, finally, the Commission published its proposal for a revised EPBD. The EPBD first and foremost aims at improving the energy performance of buildings and to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The recast proposal additionally aims to protect vulnerable households, alleviate energy poverty and ensure housing affordability.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, only two months after the Commission's EPBD revision was proposed, was a considerable shock and has posed consequences of great magnitude to the EU. Price hikes in gas that were experienced in the fall have not dropped; at the time of writing this deliverable, the rising price of energy remains one of the central preoccupations among EU leaders and citizens alike. The RePower EU Action Plan, proposed in spring 2022, proposes short and long-term solutions to fast-track the EU in securing its energy supply without Russian sources, but it is nonetheless expected that citizens will face cold winters ahead. Energy security and energy prices, and the existential impacts of this on daily life, well-being, and the economy, will remain an ongoing priority in the next years.

The **e**-SAFE project thus began against a backdrop of major political change and geopolitical upheaval, both positive and negative. The Renovation Wave, the "Fit for 55" package, and particularly the EGD, which is at the foundation of these initiatives, are positive steps forward which should push the EU towards accelerating deep renovation of buildings in the next years. However, major world events have slowed the process of the EGD and Renovation Wave, and have had an impact on the political discourse. Under such circumstances, political priorities remain a moving target; introducing a new idea that remains peripheral to current discussions on energy performance

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of buildings must be done with great sensitivity to the wider context, with care to avoid creating propositions or raising ideas that could be redundant a short time later.

3.2 Analysis of the EC's recast EPBD proposal

Task 7.5 on outreach to policymakers officially began in Month 13 of the project, precisely during the period when energy prices started rising and the EC was focusing on revisions for the EPBD, the Directive most directly concerning **e**-SAFE. Amidst these shifting conditions, it was necessary to closely follow the priorities of key policymakers at the EU level, and understand where and how **e**-SAFE could fit into this wider and continually shifting policy landscape. Identifying key messages that would be relevant for policymakers now and in the years ahead until the project end, and understand what elements of the project will be most relevant for immediate concerns and priorities of policymakers.

The first task was to identify the extent to which seismic safety was included in the EC's recast EPBD proposal (published in December 2021), and which elements needed to be strengthened. The key elements identified as relevant to the concept of seismic safety were as follows.

New provisions:

Inclusion of the seismic safety and seismic resilience in the definition of deep renovation and training needs:

- "A deep renovation for energy performance purposes is a prime opportunity to address other aspects such as living conditions of vulnerable households, increasing climate resilience, resilience against disaster risks including seismic resilience, fire safety, the removal of hazardous substances including asbestos, and accessibility for persons with disabilities."
- "Training Member States shall ensure that guidance and training are made available for those responsible for implementing this Directive. Such guidance and training shall address the importance of improving energy performance and shall enable consideration of the optimal combination of improvements in energy efficiency, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, use of energy from renewable sources and use of district heating and cooling when planning, designing, building and renovating industrial or residential areas. Such guidance and training may also address structural improvements, adaptation to climate change, fire safety, risks related to intense seismic activity, the removal of hazardous substances including asbestos, air pollutant emissions (including fine particulate matter) and accessibility for persons with disabilities."

Deep renovation from 2030 is defined with ZEB (zero-emission buildings) standards

- "Deep renovation should be defined as a renovation that transforms buildings into zero-emission buildings".
- However, Annex III defining ZEB does not include provisions regarding seismic safety.
- Annex II on National Building Renovation Plans (substituting LTRS) mention policies for seismic resilience: Policies and measures with regard to the following elements: D) The increase of resilience against disaster risks, including risks related to intense seismic activity.

Missed opportunities to integrate seismic safety within the EPBD

- Seismic safety is not included in policies regarding information provision, such as EPC and digital building logbook.
- Seismic safety is not included in the renovation advice, such as staged renovation roadmap of the building renovation passport, renovation advice of one-stop shops.
- MEPS prioritise worst-performing buildings in terms of energy performance and ignore aspects of structural safety.

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- Silos of policies that tackle energy efficiency and programs for urban regeneration for seismic resilience, structural safety.

Seismic certification schemes

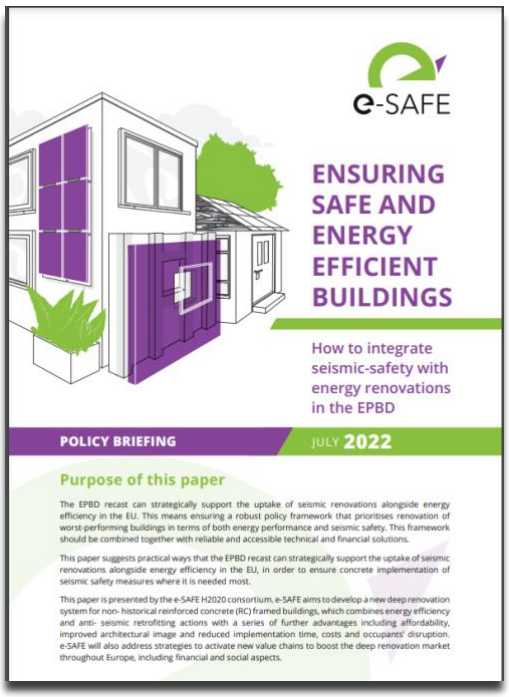
Seismic certification schemes can exist at national level. We have identified Italy's seismic certification scheme as a good example that other seismic-prone countries could potentially adapt/use. Such certification schemes could be made interoperable with the digital building logbook and building renovation passports, to give a full view of all renovations that need to be taken in a given building.

- Seismic certification scheme in Italy:
    - ♦ The Certificate comprises of 8 risk classes: A +, A, B, C, D, E, F, and G. Buildings in class G are in the maximum expected seismic risk conditions, while a property classified with risk A + is in the lower risk conditions foreseen.
    - ♦ The class is expressed on the basis of two indicators:
        - ◊ The Expected Average Annual Loss (PAM), which considers the cost of repairing the damage caused by seismic events that may occur during the life of the building, broken down annually and expressed as a percentage of the reconstruction cost.
        - ◊ The Safety index (IS-V) of the structure determines the achievement of the Life Protection Limit State (SLV). The safety index (IS-V) of the structure is also commonly called the "Risk Index".

3.3 Key outreach actions to date

Policy briefings

Following this first analysis, in July 2022 BPIE published the project's first policy briefing, *Ensuring safe and energy efficiency buildings: How to implement integrated seismic and energy efficient renovations through the revised EPBD* (see Annex 1). BPIE chose to use the first policy briefing as an opportunity to position **e**-SAFE within the shifting policy context and to find the right arguments to link the concept of seismic safety to revised EPBD provisions that have been proposed/added by the EC.



To develop the briefing, BPIE leveraged its existing in-house policy intelligence on the EPBD revisions and decision-making process to develop recommendations on how seismic safety could potentially be strengthened within the EPBD itself, in order to create a holistic, streamlined approach to energy and seismic renovations in earthquake prone countries. Ultimately, seismic safety has traditionally been treated separately from energy performance and has not entered into the mainstream decarbonisation narrative – this is especially challenging to push at EU level as not all decision-makers or EU Member States face the same level of earthquake risk.

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While earthquake safety is a preoccupation in countries like Italy and Greece, which have experienced severe damage to buildings and infrastructure over the last decades, it is not equal everywhere across the EU, which presents a challenge to integrating earthquake safety into a European-wide Directive.

The **key aim** of the briefing to decision-makers was therefore to highlight how strategically integrating seismic safety measures into a number of provisions can support and even reinforce implementation of energy efficiency measures, and how seismic safety is in turn linked to key goals of the "Fit for 55" package, such as decarbonization and protection of vulnerable citizens. The briefing then identifies which provisions of the EPBD could include strengthened/more explicit language on seismic safety to ensure that Member States facing these risks take an integrated approach to seismic and energy renovations.

The main provisions identified as having relevance to strengthen seismic safety include:

- National Building Renovation Plans, Article 3, Annex II.
- Minimum Energy Performance Standards, Article 9.
- Building Renovation Passports and Digital Building Logbooks, Article 10.
- Technical Assistance, Article 15.
- Guidance and Training, Article 26.

E-mail outreach to EU policymakers

The first policy briefing was published in early July 2022, strategically following the draft report on the EPBD amendments produced by rapporteur, MEP Ciarán Cuffe (Greens/EFA, Ireland), in June 2022. The intent was to provide input to MEPs sitting in the committee of Industry Research and Energy (ITRE), who were responsible for commenting on the report which would be finalized at the end of July. The aim was to ultimately to provide impetus for MEPs with an interest in seismic safety to push on this topic and give practical suggestions where it could be strengthened.

To have a potential impact on the decision-making process in Parliament, BPIE identified a list of the top **12 MEPs** in ITRE who have at once the highest influence and potential interest in seismic safety based on their geography and political history/previous discourses (Table 1).

MEPS within ITRE were given focus as the ITRE Committee in Parliament was leading on the Parliaments revision proposals and are in general the MEPs who have the strongest leadership position in Parliament on the EPBD. MEPS within ITRE who have either previously spoken about seismic safety during Parliamentary discussions/debates or those who have a strong presence in the EPBD debate while also living in a seismic-prone country were the main criteria used to identify the MEPs selected for this (and likely future) outreach. The briefing was sent individually by BPIE on July 5th to the following MEPs:

Table 1: List of MEPs identified as having strong potential interest in e-SAFE

Name of MEP	Political party	Country
Klemen GROŠELJ	Renew Europe	Slovenia
Romana JERKOVIĆ	S&D	Croatia
Ladislav ILČIĆ	ECR	Croatia
Tsvetelina PENKOVA (shadow rapporteur for EPBD)	S&D	Bulgaria
Iskra MIHAYLOVA	Renew Europe	Bulgaria
Ivo HRISTOV	S&D	Bulgaria
Eva MAYDELL	EPP	Bulgaria
Patrizia TOIA	S&D	Italy
Nicolo DANTI	Renew Europe	Italy
Paolo BORCHIA	ID	Italy

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Isabella TOVAGLIERI	ID	Italy
Maria SPYRAKI	EPP	Greece

With respect to anonymity, we have received three 'thank you' responses from MEPS' assistants ensuring the briefing was well received, however we have not seen further action taken at this time.

In the Council of the EU, the EPBD has been discussed extensively in the Working Party on Energy and in the Permanent Representatives Committee. The latter produced a progress report (published on 10 June 2022) that was discussed in the Council of Energy Ministers on 27 June 2022.

In early September, the briefing was then sent to **7 energy attachés** from Permanent Representatives of relevant Member States, i.e. from Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, and Romania, who have an influence on the Council's positioning on the EPBD, in preparation of Council meetings in October.

With trialogues between the Commission, Parliament and Council coming in the next months (following finalisation of this deliverable), BPIE will monitor discussions and will **consider a second outreach to a selected number of policymakers in each institution as well as at national/local level to push for strengthening language on seismic safety in the EPBD.**

An op-ed is foreseen to be placed in Euractiv, one of the most read news sites by Brussels policymakers, for the period leading up to December 2022. The op-ed will focus on the big picture narrative, underlining the link between seismic safety and energy efficiency renovations.

Dear XXXX,

It is my pleasure to reach out to you on behalf of the e-SAFE H2020 project consortium.

Amidst the urgency to rapidly upscale deep energy renovations, the European building stock faces another significant challenge. About 50% of European territory is earthquake-prone. In the last 50 years, earthquakes in Europe have caused over 36,000 deaths and around 1.4 million people becoming homeless. In highly seismic countries, such as Greece, Italy, Croatia and Romania, a destructive earthquake would render investments in energy-efficient renovations unsustainable from a social, economic and environmental point of view.

Seismic safety has traditionally been treated separately from energy performance and has not entered into the decarbonisation narrative. The revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) provides an opportunity to consider how strategically integrating seismic safety measures can in fact support and even reinforce implementation of energy efficiency measures. The ability of a building to withstand earthquakes, specific to its geography is directly linked to safety, and the aim to protect vulnerable citizens. Ultimately, by not following an integrated approach to renovation in seismic countries, there is a risk of using neither seismic nor energy renovation as a trigger point to invest in both simultaneously, representing a significant opportunity loss.

The EPBD recast can strategically support the uptake of seismic renovations alongside energy efficiency in the EU. This means ensuring a robust policy framework that prioritises renovation of worst-performing buildings in terms of both energy performance and seismic safety. This framework should be combined together with reliable and accessible technical and financial solutions.

The attached policy briefing provides practical suggestions where seismic safety can be included to ensure real implementation on the ground takes place. As we are in the last days before Parliamentary amendments are closed, we hope you will find these suggestions useful and that they could inform any input you have on integrating seismic safety into the EPBD.

I remain at your disposal should you have any questions.

Many thanks for your attention and
Best regards,

Caroline Milne
Head of Communications, BPIE

Figure 2: Template email sent to policymakers to disseminate first policy briefing

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Presentations at policy conferences

Workshop within eceee Summer Study, 9/06/2022

BPIE led a workshop within the ECEEE summer study, *"Seismic resilience and EPBD revisions: How to advance integrated seismic and energy renovation?".* The eceee summer study is a cornerstone event which takes place every two years for five days, bringing together approximately 2000 experts on energy efficiency and policymaking across the EU. The study is an excellent opportunity to disseminate ideas and raise awareness among academia and those with a direct involvement or influence on the policymaking process.

The workshop included a presentation of the **e**-SAFE project, its aims and objectives, followed by an overview of the 2021 EPBD recast proposal and the analysis on provisions that are relevant for seismic renovation. Following the presentation, a feedback and discussion session focused on how to best implement integrated seismic and energy renovation through new and existing policy instruments. The workshop was attended by approximately 50 experts. See Annex 2 and 3 for the slides and minutes for additional information on the workshop and its outcomes.

Key takeaways from the discussion which will feed into future policy work include:

- Funding for seismic and energy efficiency works must be integrated. One-stop-shops (OSS) should provide process support (When to do which audit, when to design a solution, when a technical survey, contacting experts, permits, etc.)
- The EPC certifiers do not possess the technical background to perform seismic certifications, while experts in structure do not possess knowledge on energy performance, financing, etc. Thus, separate expert profiles are necessary.
- Creating a functional OSS is challenging.
- Aspects like acoustic comfort, fire safety, urban planning and accessibility should be taken into account.
- Funding opportunities exist through the Recovery and Resilience Facility.
- Links could be made to national EPC databases and the Digital Building Logbook.

Meetings with policymakers in Catania

In the framework of the local pilot in Catania, the IUCT team met a number of local policymakers after M13. A subset of local platform members – under the leadership of UniCT researchers and the director of IACP (the Catania Public Housing Authority, which is also an **e**-SAFE partner) – have agreed on meeting periodically to focus on how to advance an integrated approach to public and affordable housing. From February to April 2022 the group has met three times. This group is currently composed of:

- UniCT e-SAFE researchers.
- IACP Director.
- Representatives from the Department of Urban Policies and structural funds of the city of Catania
- The regional secretary of SUNIA (National Union of Public Housing Tenants).
- Secretary-general of the Sicilian Cooperative League.
- President of the "Trame di Quartiere" community-based cooperative, running a social housing project after renovating a historic building in one of the most challenging neighborhoods of the city.

The working group faces the incoming availability of public funds and fiscal incentives due to recovery policies that can be used to advance the renovation of public housing. However, it appears evident that there are still many obstacles to the actual implementation of deep renovation,

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especially an approach to renovation that can really benefit local residents. A more detailed report on initial activities is partially described in D2.3 (see paragraph 3.2.5).

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4. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Overall, three more policy briefings are foreseen in the project, which will serve as the basis for additional targeted outreach to policymakers as well as media outreach. This will also feed into the design of the policy workshop which will take place at the final event at the end of the project, which is planned in the grant agreement. The following section will set out in more detail potential options as to policy outreach considered.

4.1 Connection to other e-SAFE deliverables and future potential topics

BPIE's own analysis which is summarised in the first policy briefing, and in particular the results of discussion with other national experts at the ECEEE summer study have helped narrow down a number of key topics that will be further explored and linked to other upcoming outputs from the **e**-SAFE project, namely outputs that relate to the co-design process with the virtual and real pilots, business and financial models and the development of the **e**-IPR and **e**-FOUNDATION (within the Exploitation Plan), and the guidelines for **e**-SAFE implementation. Key deliverables that could provide some guidance include:

- D2.5 "Report of the co-learning & engagement activities" (UNICT, M27)
- D2.6 "3D physical and digital models for the virtual pilots" (UNICT, M30)
- D2.8 "Preliminary e-SAFE co-design protocol" (UNICT, M39)
- D2.9 "Final e-SAFE engagement protocol" (BPIE, M42)
- D2.10 "Final e-SAFE co-design protocol" (UNICT, M45)
- D4.5 "Final parameterized e-DSS" (ENG, M30)
- D5.8 "Guidelines for e-SAFE implementation" (SALFO, M48)
- D6.2 "Report on business models and financial schemes" (Deloitte, M18, M30)
- D6.3 "White paper for policy engagement" (Deloitte, M30)
- D6.4 "Exploitation plan – Draft and final version" (Deloitte, M33, M45)

The below table links these reports to key topics identified for future potential briefings, with potential topics of relevance for EU policymakers, with a particular focus on the EPBD. The next months until the end of 2022/early 2023 will see the European Parliament and Council solidify their positions and negotiate, together with the Commission in trialogues, on the final text of the EPBD. There is still potential to influence some MEPs and Council, although it is important to be aware that key elements such as MEPS (Minimum Energy Performance Standards) and the integration of a Whole-Life Carbon roadmap are being hotly debated by Member States and this will likely remain the focus of major negotiations. There is therefore a significant challenge at this time to push for additional change on seismic safety, although as mentioned previously, we will look to push some further outreach actions towards this end.

The next steps, once the EPBD has been finalised in early 2023, will be to focus on implementation. Even without clear steps, we can push towards Member States and the EC to ensure that many of our asks in the first briefing (such as including seismic safety in the Building Renovation Passport) can be pushed during the implementation phase (even if this is not specifically prescribed in the EPBD). We could decide to focus both at implementation ideas at national level and towards the EC, and also towards influencing the next EC (towards the end of the project) on key priorities for the future work plan.

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Table 2: List of e-SAFE deliverables and their potential connection to relevant policy topics for future briefings and outreach

	Potential concept	*Connection to e-SAFE outputs*	*e-SAFE Lead expert*	*Timing in project*
Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), Article 9	**TBD – A full paper on MEPS is unlikely to be possible within the scope of the e-SAFE project, but MEPS could potentially be integrated in other briefings**	D6.2 Report on business models and financial schemes	DEL	M30, M42
		D6.4 Exploitation plan (final version)	DEL	M33, M45
Building Renovation Passports and Digital Building Logbooks, Article 10	How to streamline seismic safety renovations into the Building Renovation Passports and Digital Building Logbook	D4.5 Final parameterized e-DSS	ENG	M30
		D5.8 Guidelines for e-SAFE implementation	SALFO	M48
Technical Assistance, Article 15	The e-Foundation: How to build a one-stop-shop for seismic + energy efficient renovations	D4.5 Final parameterized e-DSS	ENG	M30
		D5.8 Guidelines for e-SAFE implementation	SALFO	M48
		D6.2 Report on business models and financial schemes	DEL	M30, M42
		D6.4 Exploitation plan (final version)	DEL	M33, M45
Guidance and Training, Article 26	How to engage communities in renovation: Lessons from the e-SAFE project co-learning process	D2.5 Report of the co-learning & engagement activities	UNICT	M27
		D2.6 3D Physical and digital models for the virtual pilots	UNICT	M30
		D2.8 Preliminary e-SAFE co-design protocol	UNICT	M39
		D2.9 Final e-SAFE engagement protocol	BPIE	M42
		D2.10 Final e-SAFE co-design protocol	UNICT	M45

Figure 3: Potential timing for future policy briefings according to production of relevant e-SAFE deliverables

Figure 3 provides a rough sketch of the sequencing of potential briefings; however, these are dependent on the content that will be produced. The topic of guidance and training is mentioned twice, as depending on the depth of D2.5 and the results of the co-design process, it could be possible to already deliver relevant content based on these results alone; however more experience

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may be needed, in which case a more robust policy briefing could be delivered towards the end of the project with the completion of D2.10 (due M46). It is important to note that this is a *guideline*, which, depending on the content and results of other deliverables as well as the changing policy landscape and priorities of policymakers, is subject to change.

To effectively raise awareness to policymakers, it is crucial first and foremost to be clear about what it is that needs to be said, and also to be aware of the limits we have within **e**-SAFE and that detailed recommendations based on extensive policy analysis will not be feasible. We will use the regular DEG meetings to discuss priorities what actions and messages we will focus on, with the aim of having a clear plan updated every 6 months. Within this context, it may also be agreed to be of higher strategic interest to target one or two of the briefings particularly to the national situation in a given country.

4.2 Conclusions

This deliverable is the first of two reports on **e**-SAFE Task 7.5 on policy dissemination. The final report will be delivered in M46 of the project. The purpose of the present report is to highlight the overall approach and strategy including the specific list of actions e-SAFE plans to take towards policy dissemination, and to track actual actions and outputs, and their impacts, where possible/available. This deliverable has additionally explained the current policy context against which the **e**-SAFE project, and this specific task, got under way, highlighting how major and unforeseen events have had an impact on the policy narrative, which has presented a challenge in terms of how to present **e**-SAFE to policymakers, both in terms of key messages/positioning and timing. Challenges and solutions have been identified, and an approach and strategy has been chosen. This report also details key first outreach actions which have already been taken in the first months of this task to reach policymakers during the EPBD revision; notably the first **e-**SAFE policy briefing and the workshop led by BPIE at ECEEE in June.

At the time of writing, the "Fit for 55" policy process remains ongoing and the geopolitical crisis in Europe means that fuel prices will remain a key preoccupation among policymakers and citizens alike. As the past two years have shown - since the beginning of the **e-**SAFE project - amidst several lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, major political upheaval and rising fuel prices, the political narrative is constantly changing shape. However, despite future uncertainty, we know that well-being, fighting energy poverty and helping Europe's most vulnerable citizens is a key priority of the EC, as entrenched in the EU Green Deal, the Renovation Wave, and the "Fit for 55" package. This will remain ever more relevant in the EU Member States; it will be crucial to pay close attention to what is happening particularly in Member States with a high seismic risk. Against this backdrop, we have a clear policy hook that will need to be strongly linked to future e-SAFE outputs. With a clear list of topics linked to future deliverables on the horizon, we will regularly review the best course of outreach action in our DEG meetings.

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ANNEX 1 – e-SAFE policy briefing

e-SAFE

ENSURING SAFE AND ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

How to integrate seismic-safety with energy renovations in the EPBD

POLICY BRIEFING JULY **2022**

Purpose of this paper

The EPBD recast can strategically support the uptake of seismic renovations alongside energy efficiency in the EU. This means ensuring a robust policy framework that prioritises renovation of worst-performing buildings in terms of both energy performance and seismic safety. This framework should be combined together with reliable and accessible technical and financial solutions.

This paper suggests practical ways that the EPBD recast can strategically support the uptake of seismic renovations alongside energy efficiency in the EU, in order to ensure concrete implementation of seismic safety measures where it is needed most.

This paper is presented by the e-SAFE H2020 consortium. e-SAFE aims to develop a new deep renovation system for non-historical reinforced concrete (RC) framed buildings, which combines energy efficiency and anti- seismic retrofitting actions with a series of further advantages including affordability, improved architectural image and reduced implementation time, costs and occupants' disruption. e-SAFE will also address strategies to activate new value chains to boost the deep renovation market throughout Europe, including financial and social aspects.

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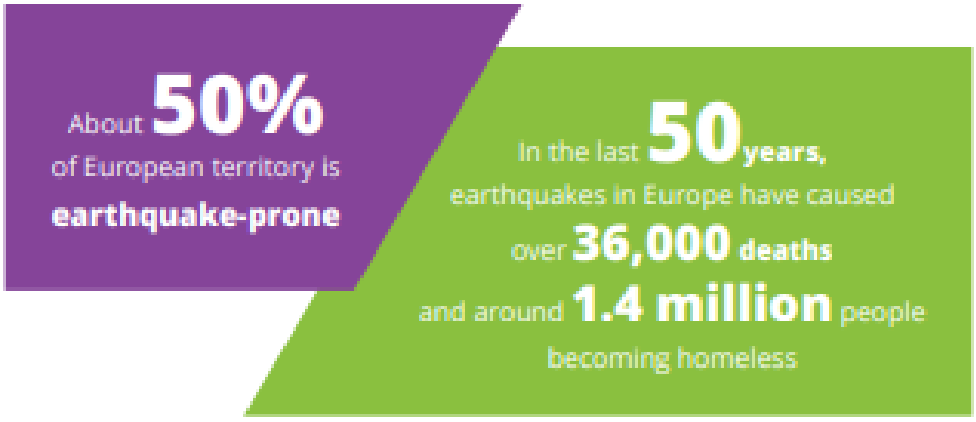
Introduction

Fighting the climate crisis, lifting citizens out of energy poverty and achieving energy security requires full decarbonisation of the EU building stock. The challenge is great: almost 75% of the building stock is inefficient and the EU average rate for deep renovation – i.e. leading to at least 60% energy savings – is only at 0.2% annually[1]. According to BPIE, this number must increase to 3% annually of deep renovation (or scaled up by a factor of 15) to reach the EU's 2030 and 2050 climate targets[2].

Amidst this urgency to rapidly upscale deep energy renovations, the European building stock faces another significant challenge. About 50% of European territory is earthquake-prone. In the last 50 years, earthquakes in Europe have caused over 36,000 deaths and around 1.4 million people becoming homeless[3]. In highly seismic countries, such as Greece, Italy, Croatia and Romania, a destructive earthquake would render investments in energy-efficient renovations unsustainable from a social, economic and environmental point of view[4].

Seismic safety has traditionally been treated separately from energy performance and has not entered into the decarbonisation narrative. The revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) provides an opportunity to consider how strategically integrating seismic safety measures can in fact support and even reinforce implementation of energy efficiency measures. The ability of a building to withstand earthquakes, specific to its geography is directly linked to safety, and the aim to protect vulnerable citizens. Ultimately, by not following an integrated approach to renovation in seismic countries, there is a risk of using neither seismic nor energy renovation as a trigger point to invest in both simultaneously, representing a significant opportunity loss.

Amidst this urgency to rapidly upscale deep energy renovations, the European building stock faces another significant challenge.



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The full file is available for download at this link

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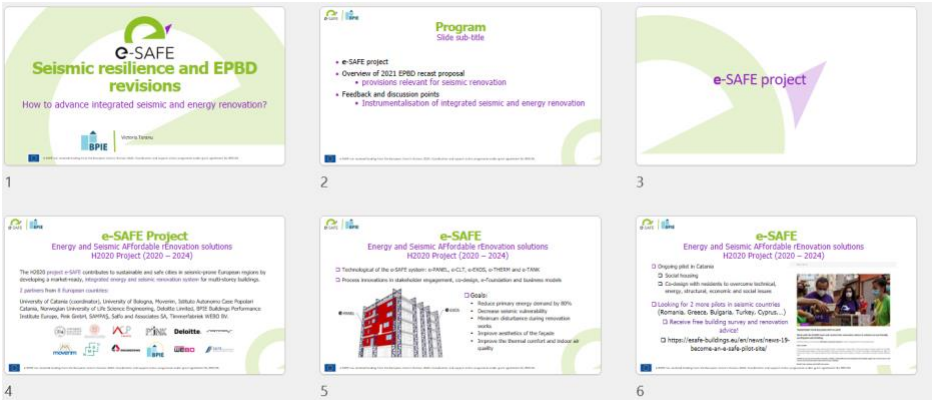
ANNEX 2 – Slides of ECEEE 2022



Full slide deck available by clicking the icon below.

eceee 2022 slides.pptx

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ANNEX 3 – Minutes from ECEEE 2022 workshop

Workshop within ECEEE 2022 Summer Study

Seismic resilience and EPBD revisions

How to advance integrated seismic and energy renovation?

Date 9/06/2022

Program:

- presentation of e-SAFE project
- presentation: overview of 2021 EPBD recast proposal
    - provisions relevant for seismic renovation
- feedback and discussion points
    - instrumentalisation of integrated seismic and energy renovation

Minutes:

Discussion points on instrumentalisation of integrated seismic and energy renovation into the EPBD:

- How can seismic safety be better integrated in the definition of deep renovation?

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- Can seismic certification scheme contribute to integrated energy advice and renovation? How does it relate to the EPC, digital building logbook, building renovation passport or renovation advice of OSS?
- Can MEPS integrate information on seismic safety, besides EPC classes, so that building with structural safety issues are prioritised in the renovation programs?
- The cost of seismic certification is rather high (1000 euros in Romania and 2/3000 euros in Italy), which business models or funding schemes can be lower the cost for the homeowner?

Expert from Romania – what the EPBD is doing applies to the whole EU – not all the EU countries experience the same problems – question: why do you want to link it to seismic safety? Why do you want to integrate it into the EPBD?

Perhaps its difficult to link it to the same logic -

Expert on EPBD – SRI is now embedded into the EPBD – there are opportunities to mainstream the seismic thinking – it remains very important to stress the energy dimension into the seismic renovation, what passive measures are possible? What technical aspects are required? –

Moderator: The EPBD regards energy performance because this is a competence at the EU level – at the same time, in reality, treating energy efficient renovations separately from seismic and urban regeneration programs leads to missed opportunities. Moreover, renovating a building various times with different experts' advice and funding may lead to lock-in risks.

Expert from Romania – it is difficult to integrate something that forces everyone to do it – how to integrate it into the legislation when it's only affecting several Member States.

In Romania we take this very seriously – but in the last multi-annual financial discussion (MFF) – it was almost impossible to change the view of the commission to give funding for seismic resilience. Right now, the guidelines for the financing are based on a regional (operational) level.

In Romania – we have two programs: One is for multi-family buildings. One for public buildings. With previous EU funds, subsidies could not be accessed for renovations that regarded seismic safety, because of a special national implementation. If a building was labelled 1 or 2 for seismic risk, you cannot access money from the EU. That was defined on national level. The new EU funds for 2021-2027 period do not have this issue.

His is how seismic certification works in Romania. We have separate technical experts – they are certified by a Ministry (public works) with a system based on six basic requirements (safety, EE, other aspects). To make a seismic survey requires specific skills and is expensive (1000 euro), so few buildings are certified.

For energy efficiency there is a simplified survey (structural analysis) – there is no geological testing, to testing of the building materials that have to be broken off – these do a simple model – They give a sign if you can renovate or not. If you insulate, you can't find the layer underneath necessary for the more in-depth analysis. Very few EPC certifiers would have the technical knowledge for the structural safety survey, even if they are architects, only engineers could do it.

Other points:

- Issues remain to integrate energy efficiency on a ministerial level, because the ministries have different competences. a world bank / EU project aimed to develop necessary capacity in the ministry.
- separate strategies are made for seismic resilience and for energy efficiency. In Romania efforts to integrate the strategies did not work. a guideline was developed to integrate the two fields.

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- difficult to get funding for integrated projects, we discussed with regional development agencies – some of them want to implement this integration of energy efficiency and seismic safety. They got some money. When you do energy efficiency, you report the savings and emission reductions.
- OSS could integrate seismic safety, although we should keep in mind that energy and seismic auditors have different competences. engineering skills are required. some member states such as Romania did not yet set up OSS and these are costly.

Important takeaways

- Funding for seismic and energy efficiency works must be integrated.
- OSS should provide process support (when to do which audit, when to design a solution, when a technical survey, contacting experts, permits etc).
- the EP certifiers do not possess the technical background to perform seismic certifications, while experts in structure do not possess knowledge on energy performance, financing, etc., thus separate expert profiles are necessary.
- creating a functional OSS is challenging
- aspects like acoustic comfort, fire safety, urban planning and accessibility should also be taken into account.
- funding opportunities exist through the recovery and resilience facility.
- links could be made to national EPC databases and the digital building logbook

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