



InnoRenew CoE

Livade 6, 6310 Izola/Isola, Slovenia, T: +386 40 282 944, E: coe@innorennew.eu, www.innorennew.eu

# Wood construction

Main challenges of Slovenia's biggest timber building - InnoRenew CoE



**Iztok Šušteršič**, PhD, BSc. Civ. Eng.

Research group leader of sustainable building with renewable materials - InnoRenew CoE

Assistant Professor - University of Primorska, Slovenia

Zoom, 17. 06. 2022





# InnoRenew CoE – private not-for-profit research institute based in Izola, Slovenia.



Founded in 2017 by:



ZAVOD ZA  
GRADBENIŠTVO  
SLOVENIJE

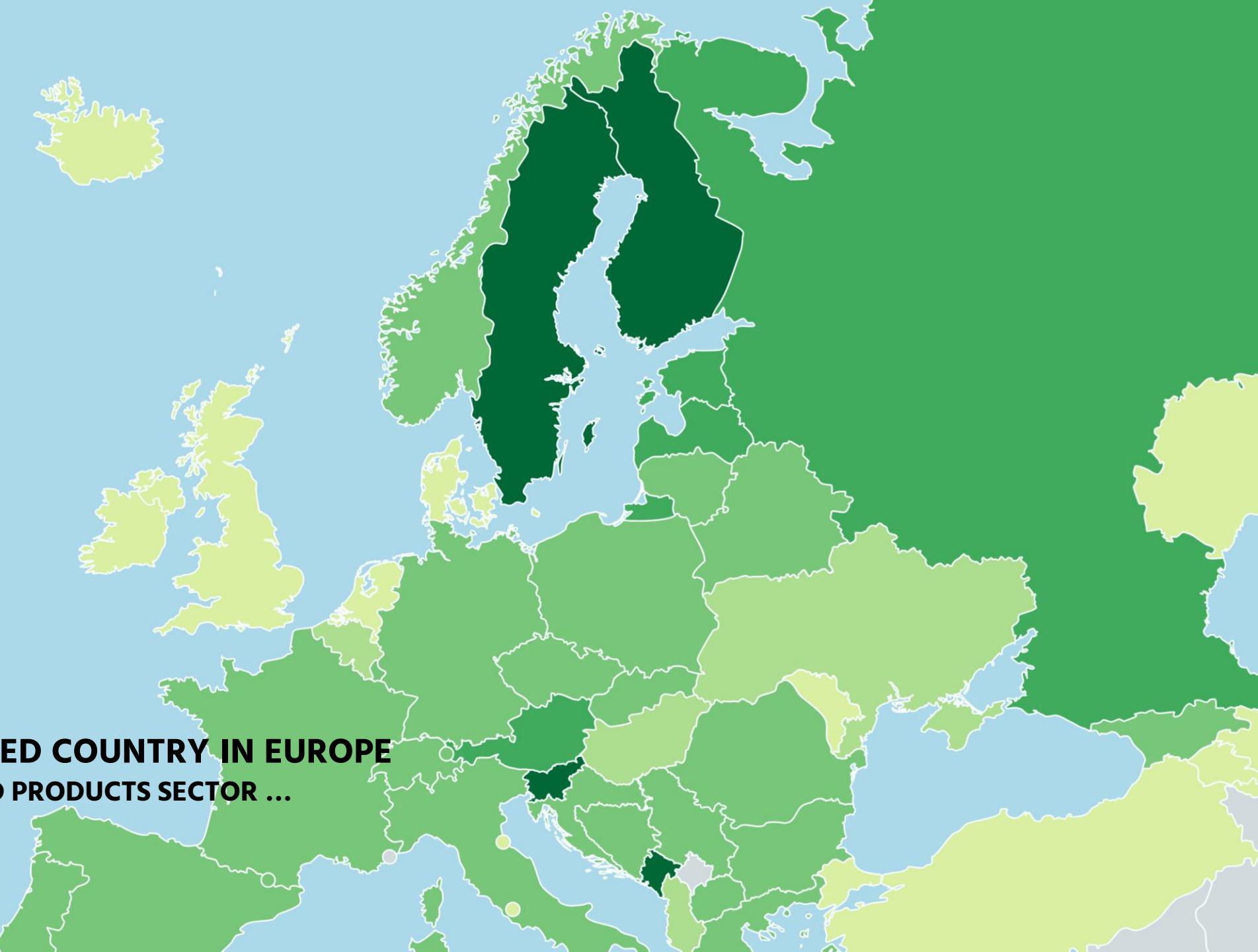
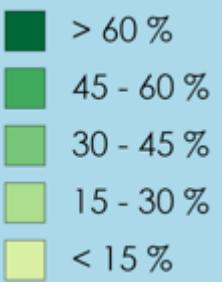
SLOVENIAN  
NATIONAL BUILDING  
AND CIVIL ENGINEERING  
INSTITUTE



**Our core focus is creating better built environments – for people and for the environment – using renewable materials.**

**Renewable materials** at InnoRenew include forest and agricultural materials (primary, residues, side-streams, fractions) and are used for a variety of end products, ranging from buildings, to treatments, to sunscreen. **Recovered materials** fit our efforts to support the Circular Economy.





**3<sup>RD</sup> MOST FOREST COVERED COUNTRY IN EUROPE  
BUT WEAK ENGINEERED WOOD PRODUCTS SECTOR ...**

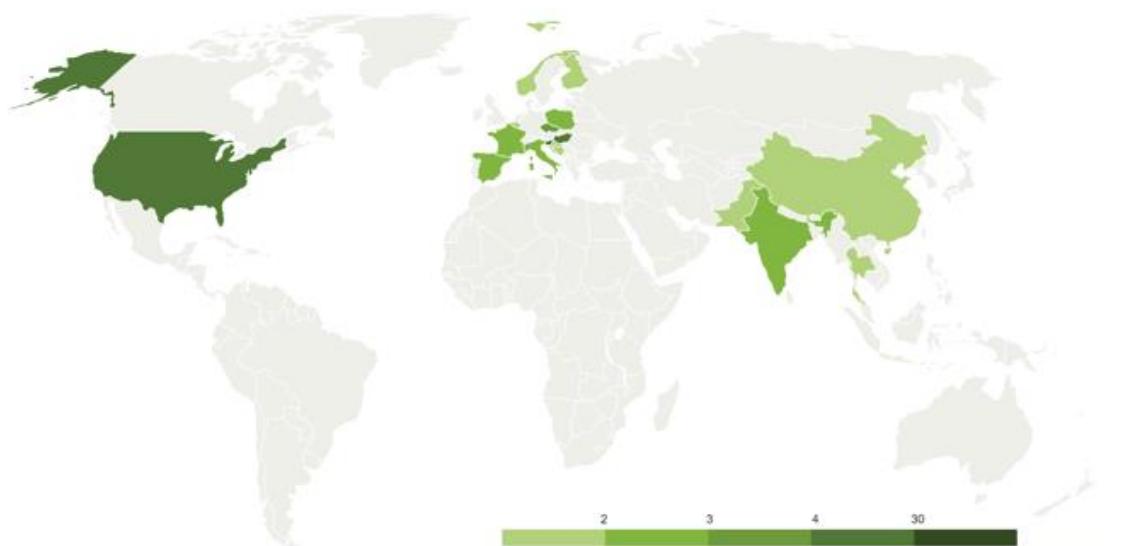


**InnoRenew CoE has an international outlook and employs researchers from around the world.**

**70 Employees  
(58 FTE)**

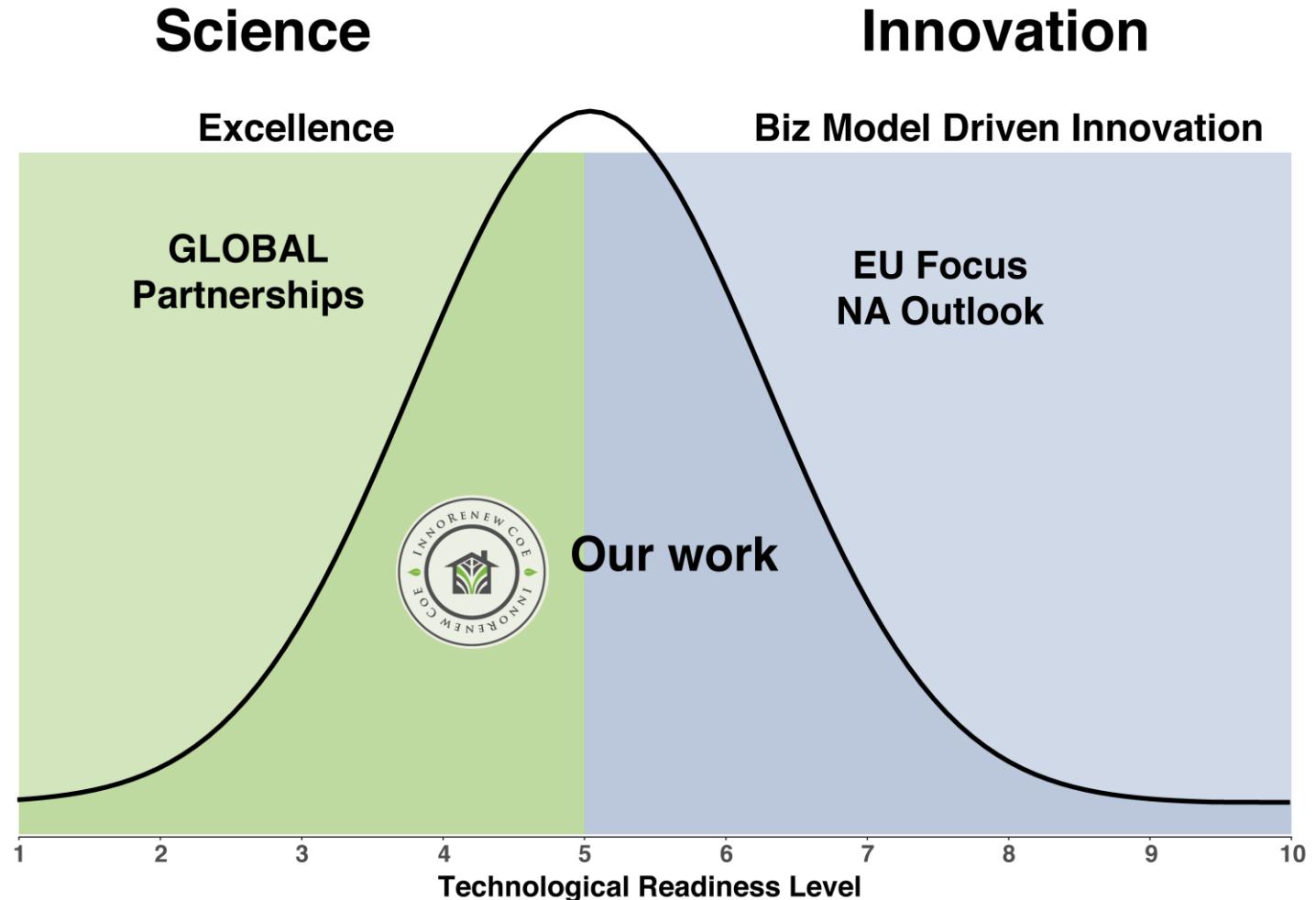
**46 % women and  
54 % men**

**44 % international  
employees  
(17 countries)**



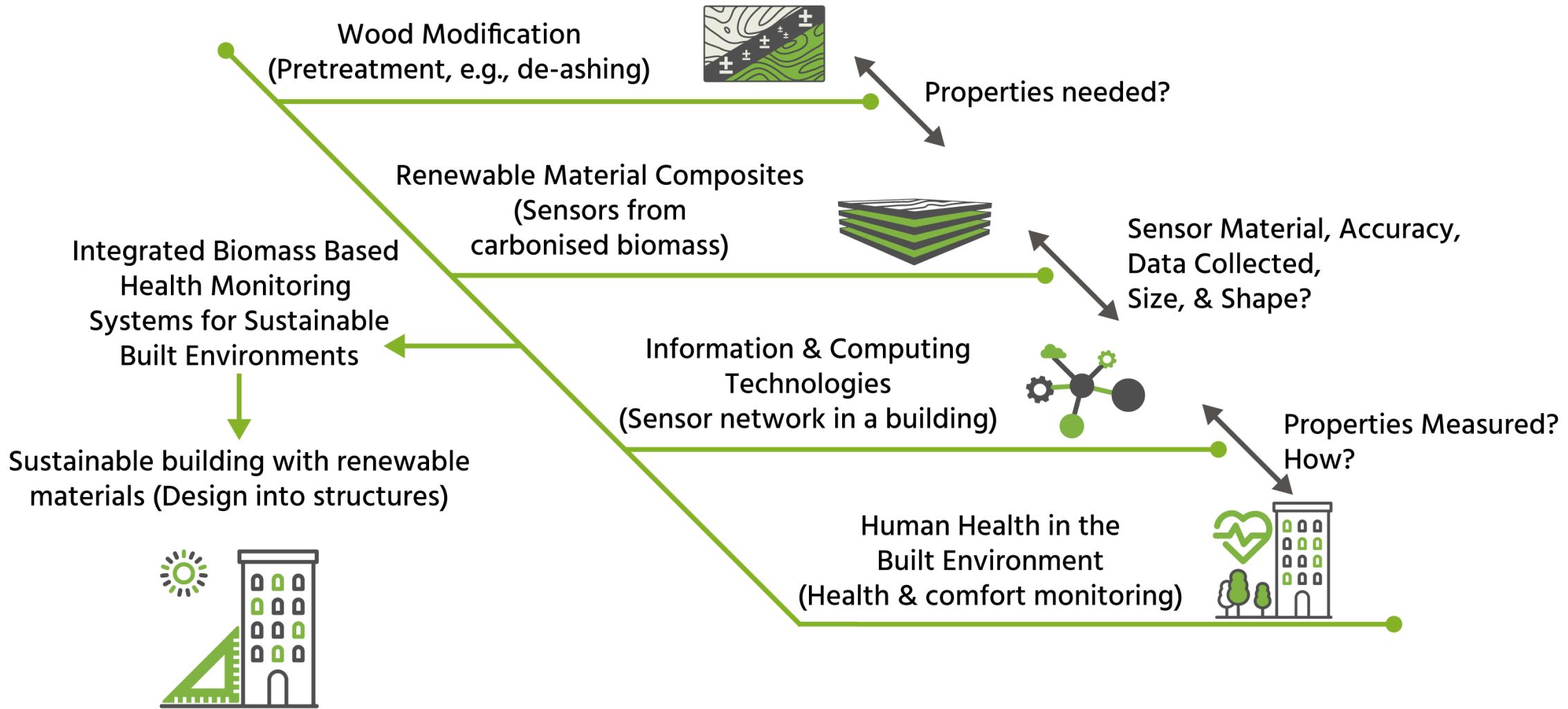
39 running projects  
Over 400 international partners

We increase innovation and investment readiness all actors in wood-related sector through fundamental and applied research.



# Interdisciplinary structure

How can renewable materials be used to monitor human health within the built environment?





## CONSTRUCTION PROCESS VIDEO LINK

# In-house building design by researchers

<b>Architecture:</b>	Eva Prelovšek Niemelä, Aarne Niemelä
<b>Structural design:</b>	Iztok Šušteršič, Sašo Vozel
<b>HVAC:</b>	Rudi Grahek, Robert Krese
<b>Laboratory technology:</b>	Matthew Schwarzkopf, Jakub Sandak, Rok Prislan
<b>Restorative design:</b>	Mike Burnard
<b>Building Monitoring:</b>	Michael Mrissa, Anna Sandak, Jakub Sandak, Mike Burnard, Andreja Kutnar, Iztok Šušteršič, David B. DeVallance, Miklos Kresz

A total of  $\approx 1000 \text{ m}^3$  of timber used  
 $\approx 870 \text{ m}^3$  for load bearing construction



# Basic data

**Size:**

8.194 m<sup>2</sup> (gross)

1.361 m<sup>2</sup> roof terrace

**10 research laboratories:**

- Characterisation lab.
- Microscopy lab.
- Kemijski lab.
- Physical testing lab.
- Human health research lab.
- High power computing lab.
- Acoustic research lab.
- Composites lab.
- Workshop
- Living lab

# Construction





# Construction



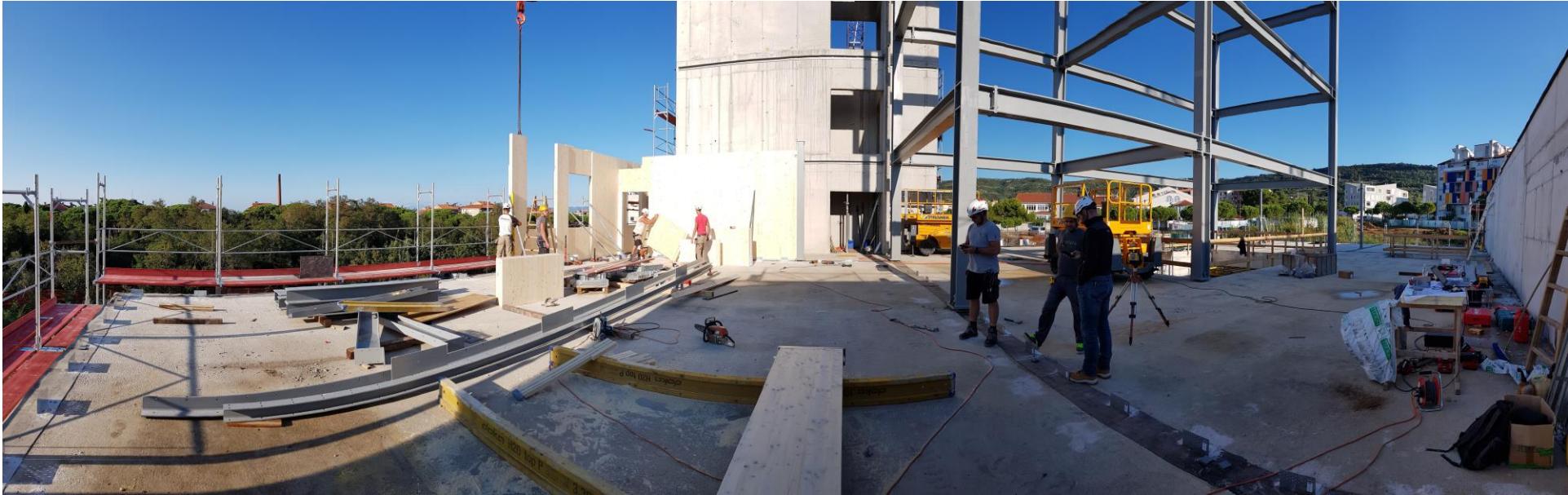
# Construction



# Construction



# Construction



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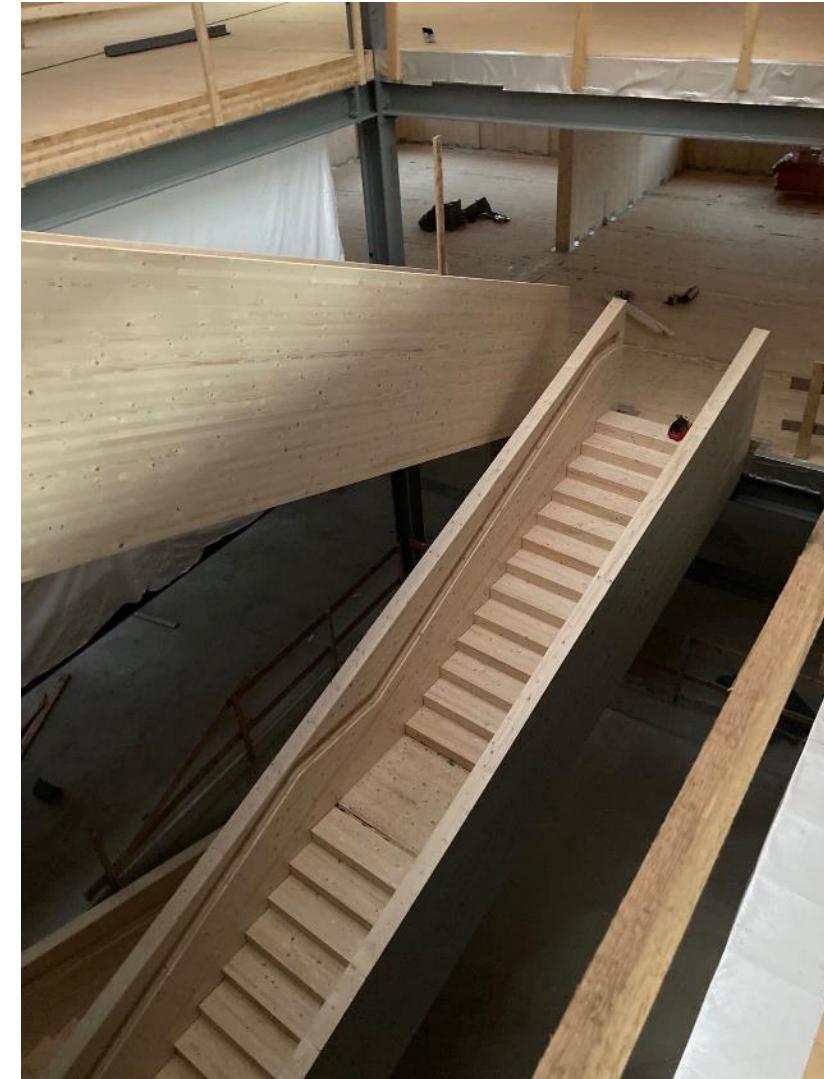


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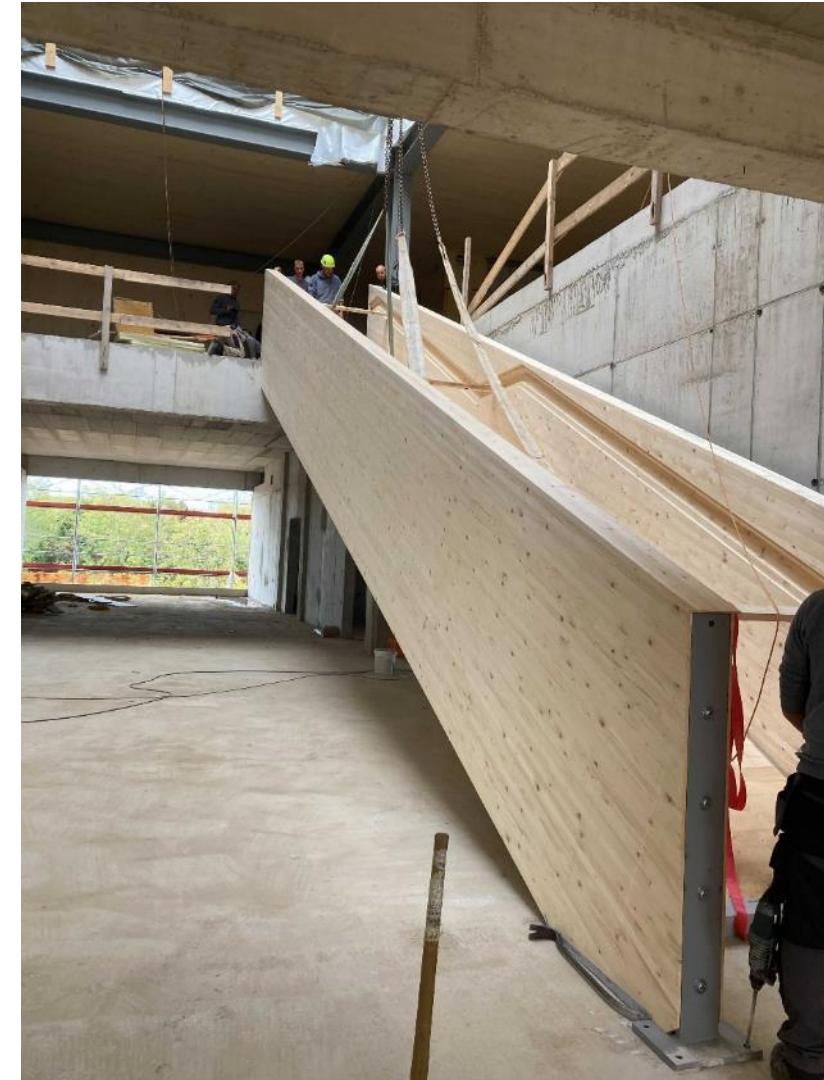




# Construction



# Construction



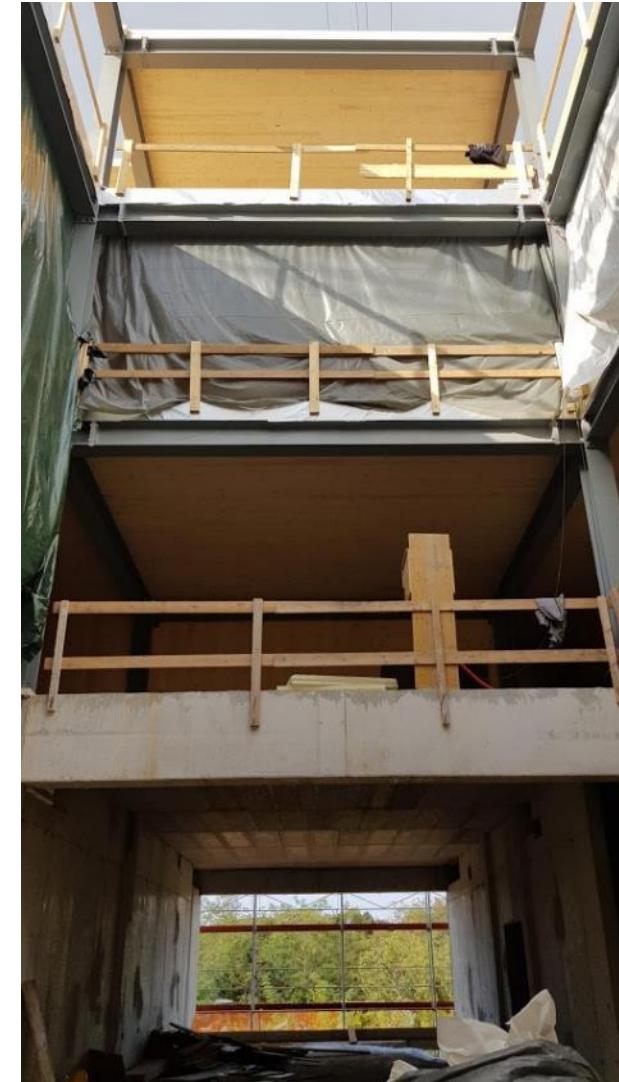
# Construction



# Construction



# Construction



# Monitoring

## Monitoring of the building structure and environment:

- *32x Humidity and temperatures in envelope*
- 4x WMC on CLT construction
- 22x WMC/T/RH on possibly wet spots in the interior (toilets, kitchens, baths, technical rooms)
- 24x Weather Doze response sensors on 4 building sides, wooden lamellas, 4x wooden facade
- 2x Flat roof leakage sensor system
- 12x Indoor environment quality sensors IAQ\_04
- 9x Outdoor microclimate sensors
- 2x IR Camera
- 9x Acceleration and vibration monitoring



## Monitoring of facades:

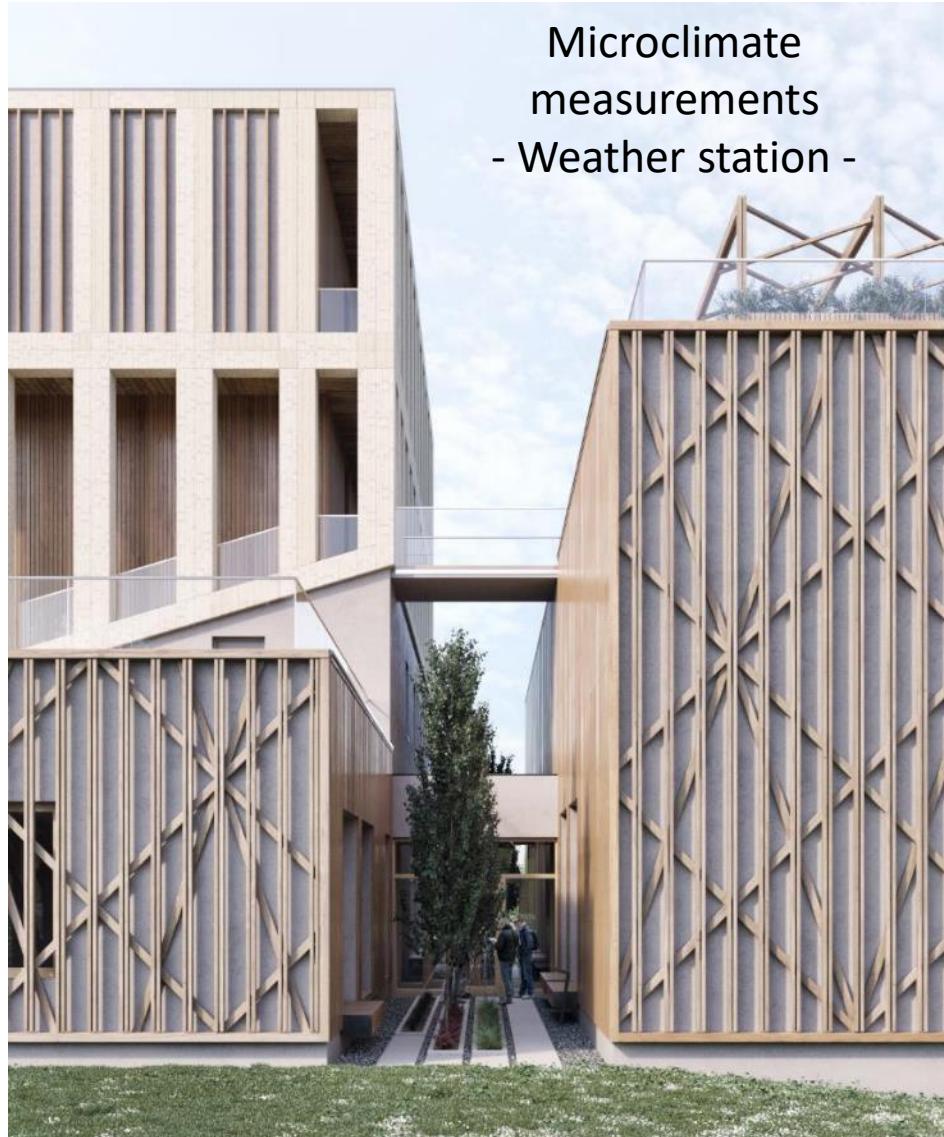
- Wood ageing (colour, surface, gloss, cracks, chemical changes, erosion)
- Strength
- Heat transfer, moisture
- Doors, windows



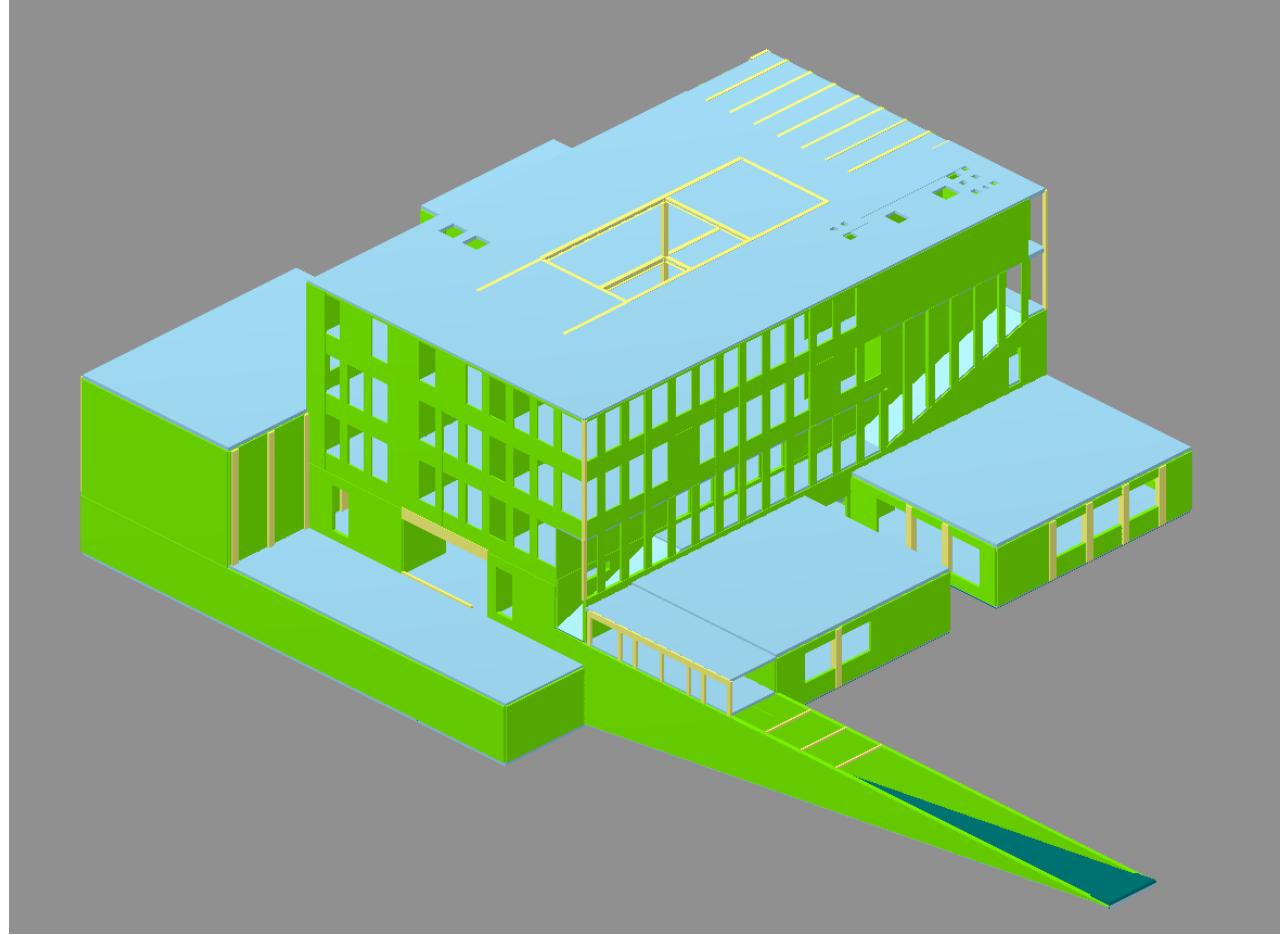
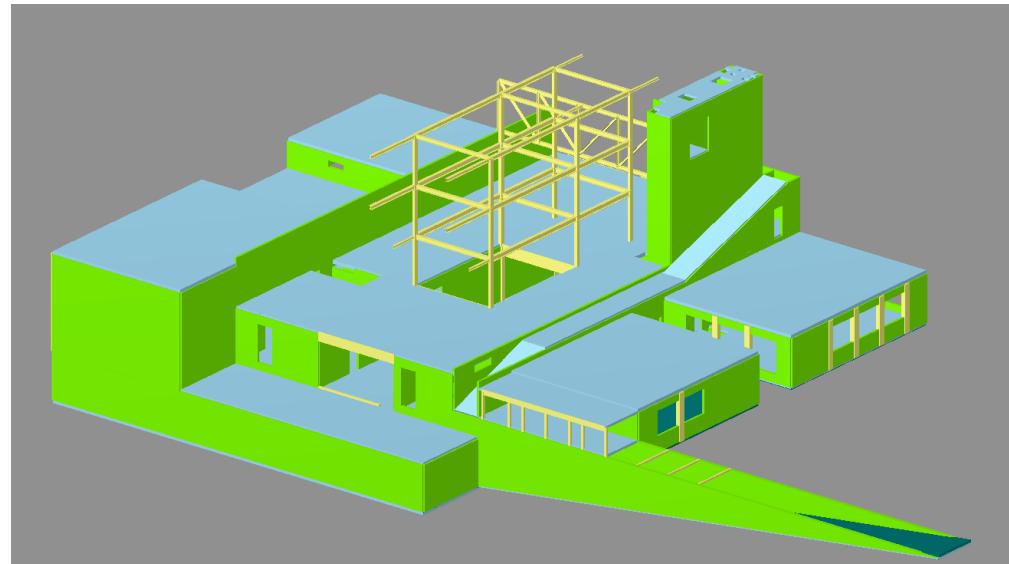
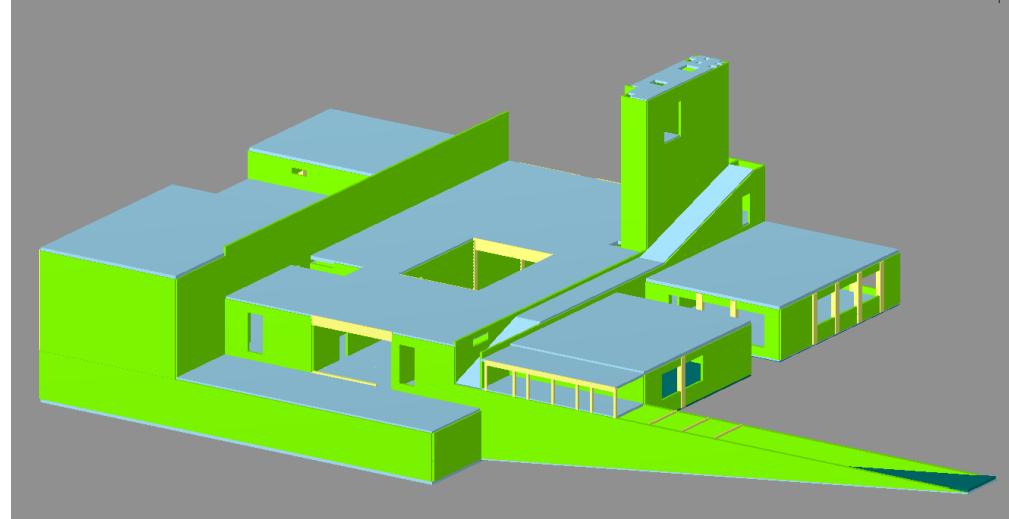
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All monitoring data (also weather station data) is being recorded in BIM libraries

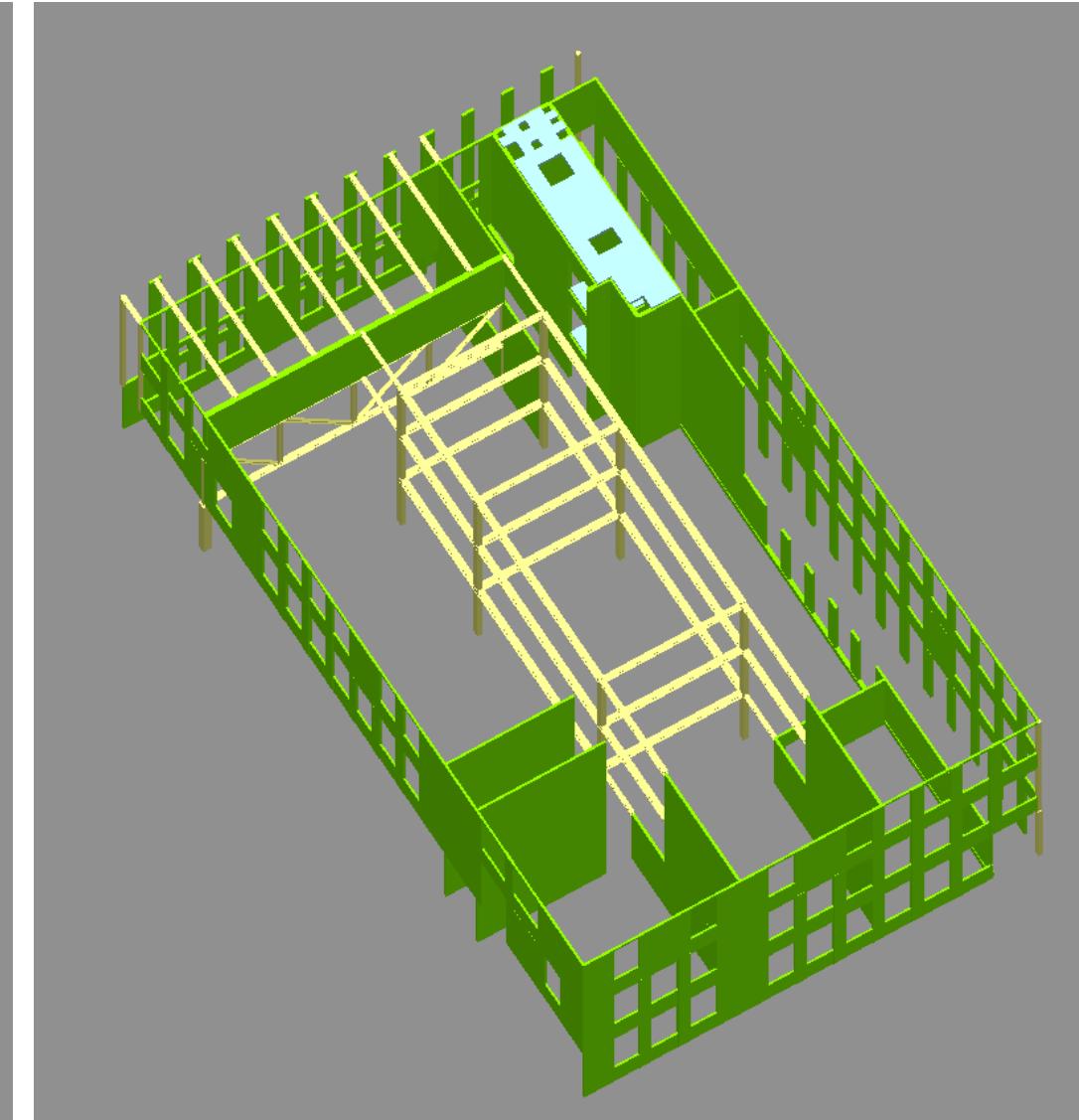
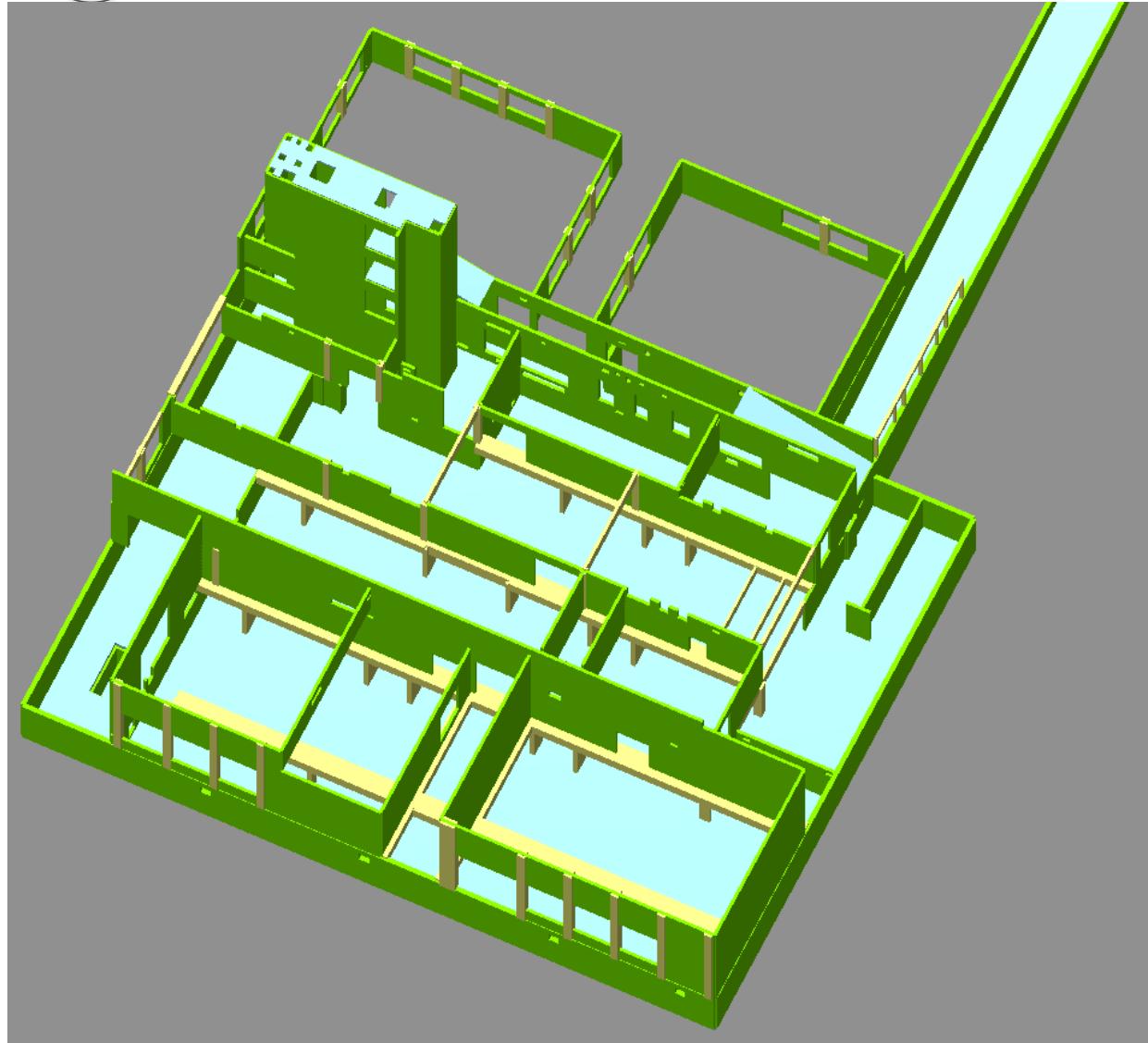
# Monitoring



# Modeling

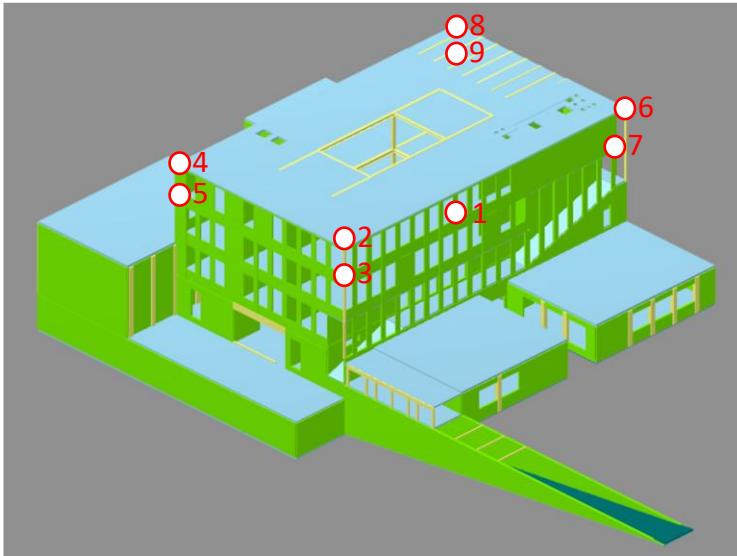


# Modeling



# Modeling and in-situ measurements

- Ambiental vibrations measuremens:



# Waste wood analysis



- Analysis of wood waste generated on the construction site (amount of it, type of waste, proportions, etc.)
- Minimizing the burned waste (recycle/reuse within other projects)
- Comparison with the LCA study

# Waste wood analysis

375 m<sup>3</sup> of wood for formwork

Waste wood is approximately 1,4 %

Total amount of wood used for building = 1347,1 m<sup>3</sup>

Waste wood is approximately 0,4 %

3 main categories

Solid wood - group A

Wood composites - group B

Other parts (I-joist, little pieces, etc.) – group C

4 sub-categories

Clean and uncontaminated wood – subgroups A1, B1

Present metals (screws, nails, staples, etc.) – subgroups A2, B2

Present contaminants (adhesives, insulation, concrete, impregnators etc.) – subgroups A3, B3

Present both metals and contaminants– subgroups A4, B4



A1 and A2

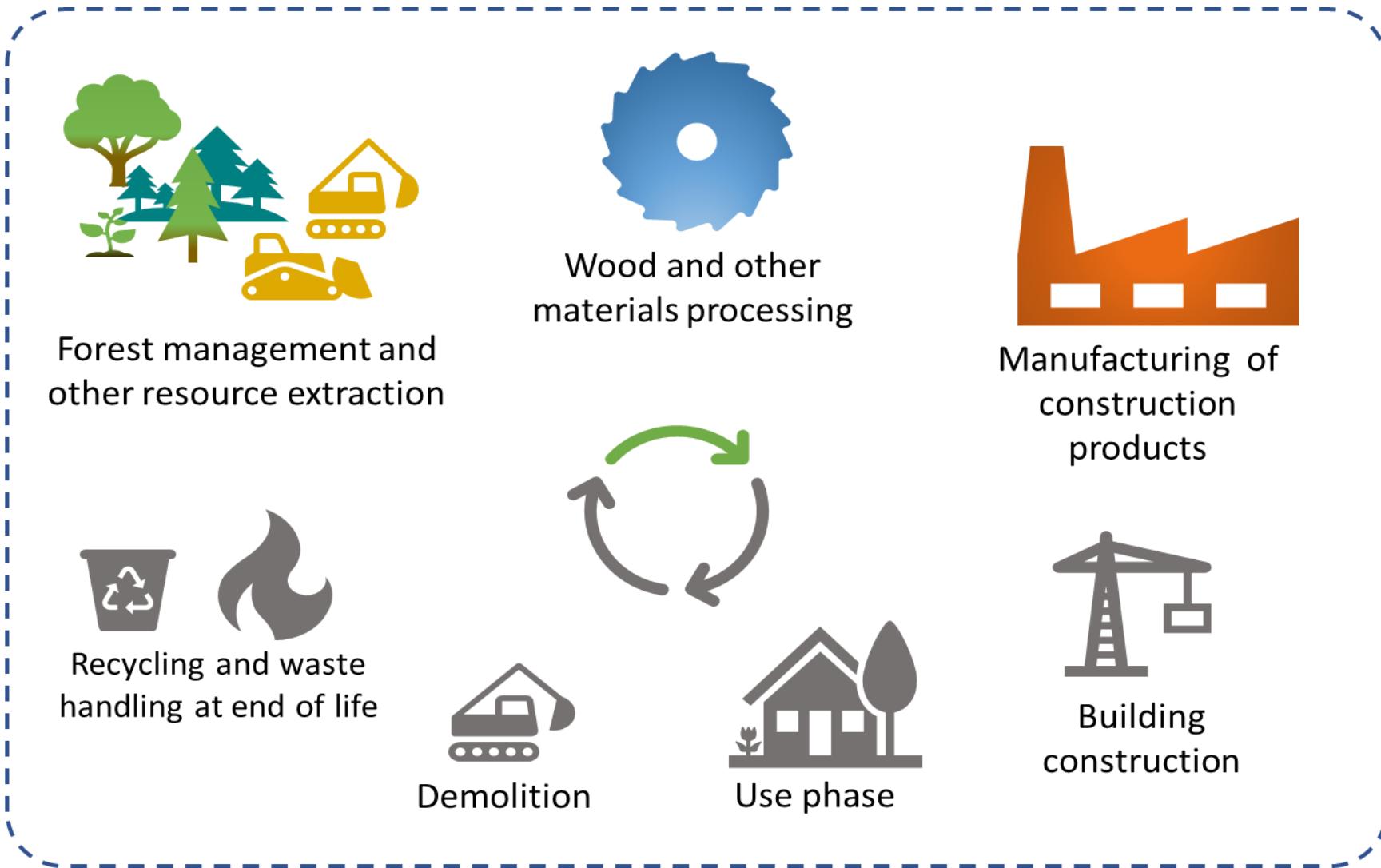


A3 and A4

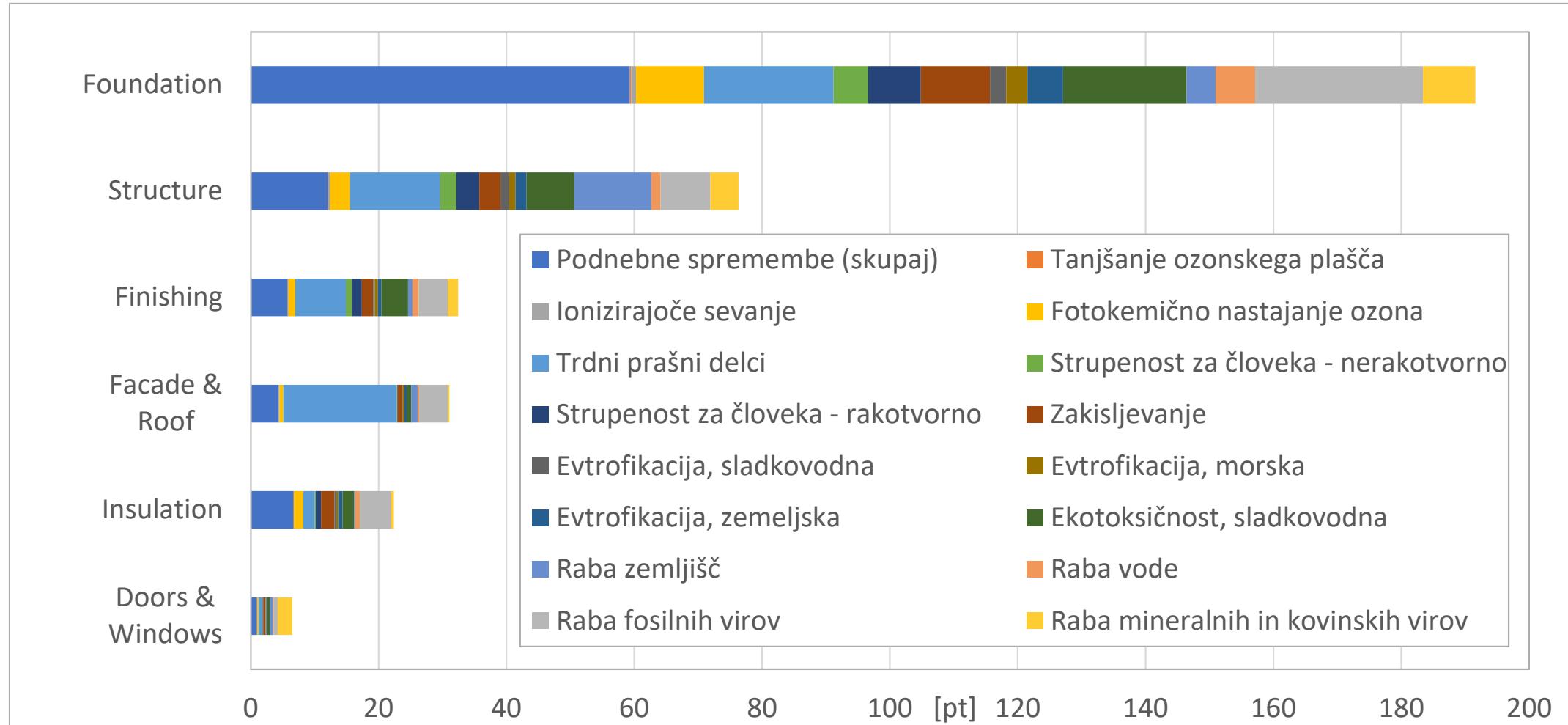


B

# LCA – cradle to gate



# LCA – cradle to gate

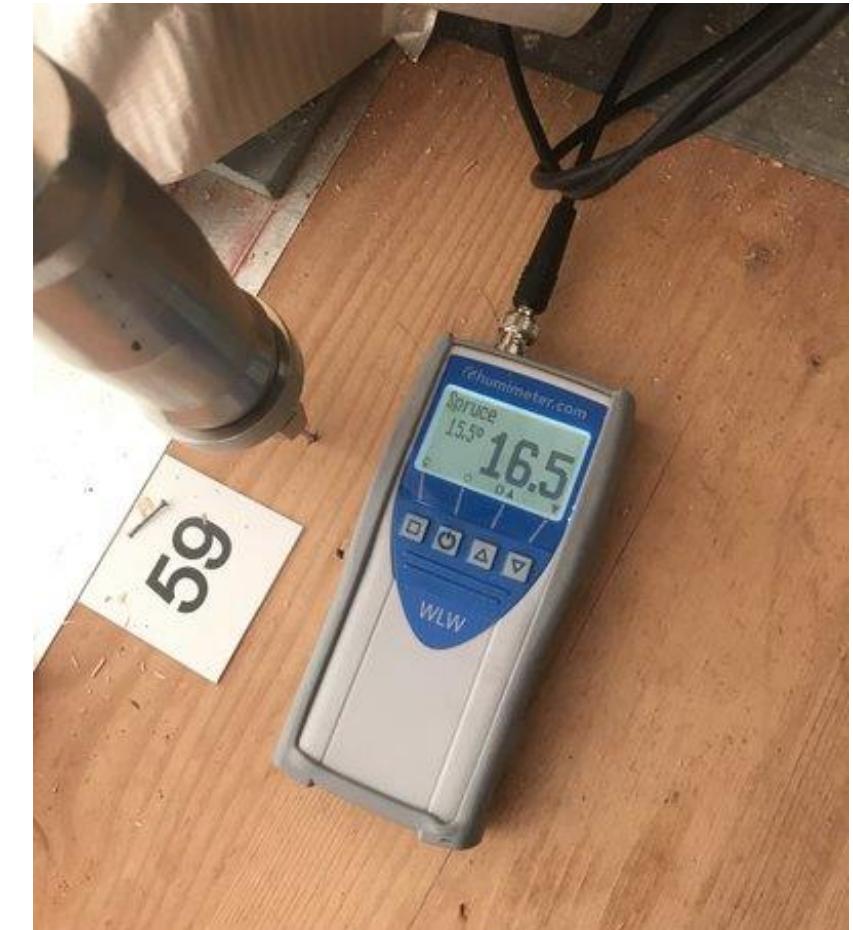
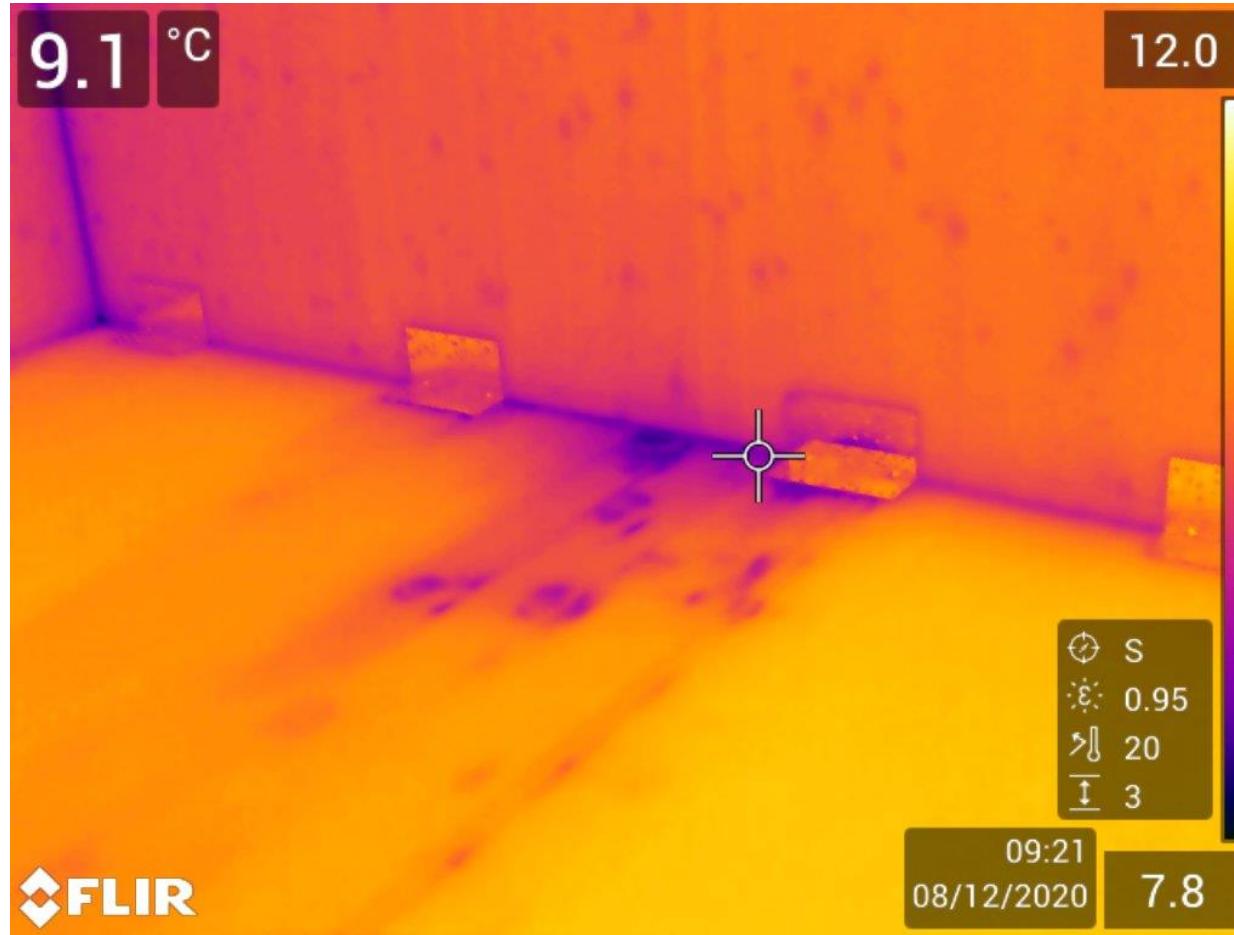


# Compensating for our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



Teambuilding event with municipality and national forest agency support – planting 3000 oak trees (local specie) which will store 2647 tons of carbon dioxide in 200 years.

# Wood moisture content measurements



# Main challenge(s) – wood moisture



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# Main challenge(s) – wood moisture





## Main challenge(s) – wood moisture

- Water and moisture issue preventions
- General precision necessary for timber constructions (contractors not used to it)
- Covid 19
- Increasing prices
- Long delivery times for certain elements (modified façade wood)
- Public procurement demands



Photo: Miran Kambič



InnoRenew CoE





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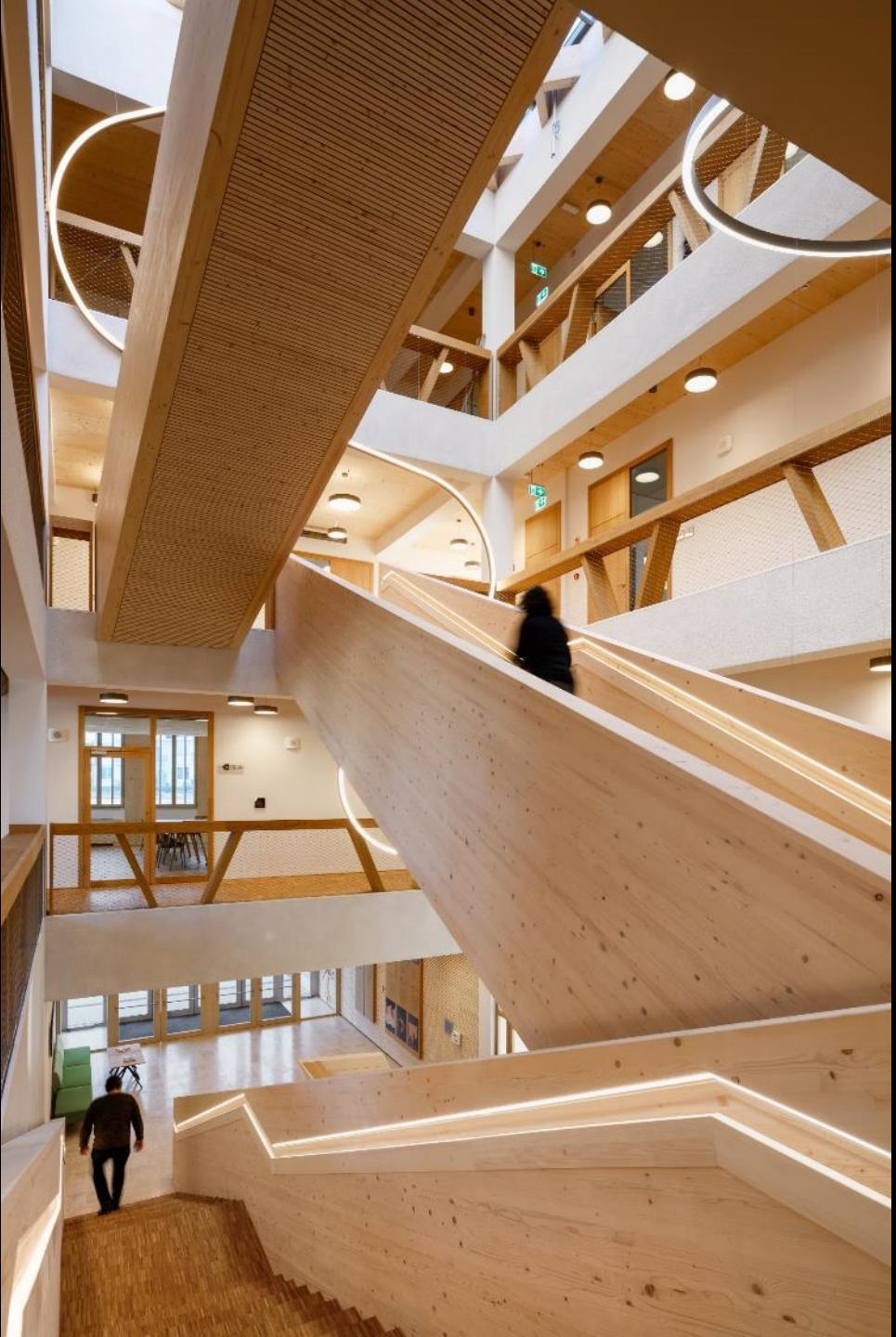


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InnoRenew CoE

[www.innorennew.eu](http://www.innorennew.eu)



# WOODRISE 2022

RENOVATION, RESTORATION & REHABILITATION  
OF URBAN BUILDINGS USING WOOD BASED TECHNOLOGIES

[woodrise2022.eu](http://woodrise2022.eu)   6-9<sup>th</sup> September 2022



**Shigeru Ban**  
Pritzker Prize (2014)



**Hans Joachim Schelnhuber**  
Father of the New European Bauhaus

