



Technical assistance: Local authorities needs and upcoming policy



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The BUILD UPON² Project

We are in a state of climate emergency. We must act now to reach net zero carbon by 2050 - and cities can lead the way. To get there, cities must unlock the huge potential of their buildings - and building renovation in particular.

Deep building renovation has far-reaching benefits for society as increasing indoor comfort and air quality avoids illnesses and premature deaths associated with living in cold and damp homes. This in turn reduces pressure on healthcare and social services.

The EU Horizon 2020 funded BUILD UPON² project will empower cities across Europe to join forces with national governments and industry to decarbonise their existing building stock by 2050. BUILD UPON² will strengthen the local effectiveness and implementation of the national building renovation strategies required by the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).

www.worldgbc.org/build-upon

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1. Introduction

The Build Upon² project is a Horizon2020 funded project, set out to develop a framework (the Framework) for measuring the multiple impacts of renovation to help European municipalities decarbonise their building stock, in line with European targets. However, a gap remains between the concept of the Framework and a city's ability to implement it, a common issue when it comes to making energy efficiency happen on the ground. While support (largely related to project development) and financing opportunities continue to increase for building renovations (especially in new recovery instruments (the Recovery and Resilience Fund), Invest EU (under the Multi-annual Financial Framework), and Fit for 55 (the policy package containing 14 legislative proposals to revise the entire EU 2030 climate and energy framework), an understanding and ability to utilise such resources is still needed to realise the full potential of energy efficiency in the EU, in particular at the local level.

Technical assistance is an under-utilised tool to close this gap, with the ability to

link resources with projects and facilitate the implementation of energy efficiency renovations. Matching available financial resources with the projects is essential and currently lacking. This report focuses on technical assistance for energy efficiency in buildings, specifically looking at the needs identified by the Build Upon² project pilot cities and the resources available at the European level. Recent policy packages and initiatives, including the Green Deal, Renovation Wave, and the EU investment package, have highlighted the importance of building renovation in meeting European climate targets, as well as leading to a green and just recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. The Build Upon² Framework is one tool to help cities realise their renovation goals, and technical assistance can help them to implement the Framework. Effectively combining technical assistance to help local authorities implement the Framework would significantly help increase building renovation and make the case for more effective policy in Europe.

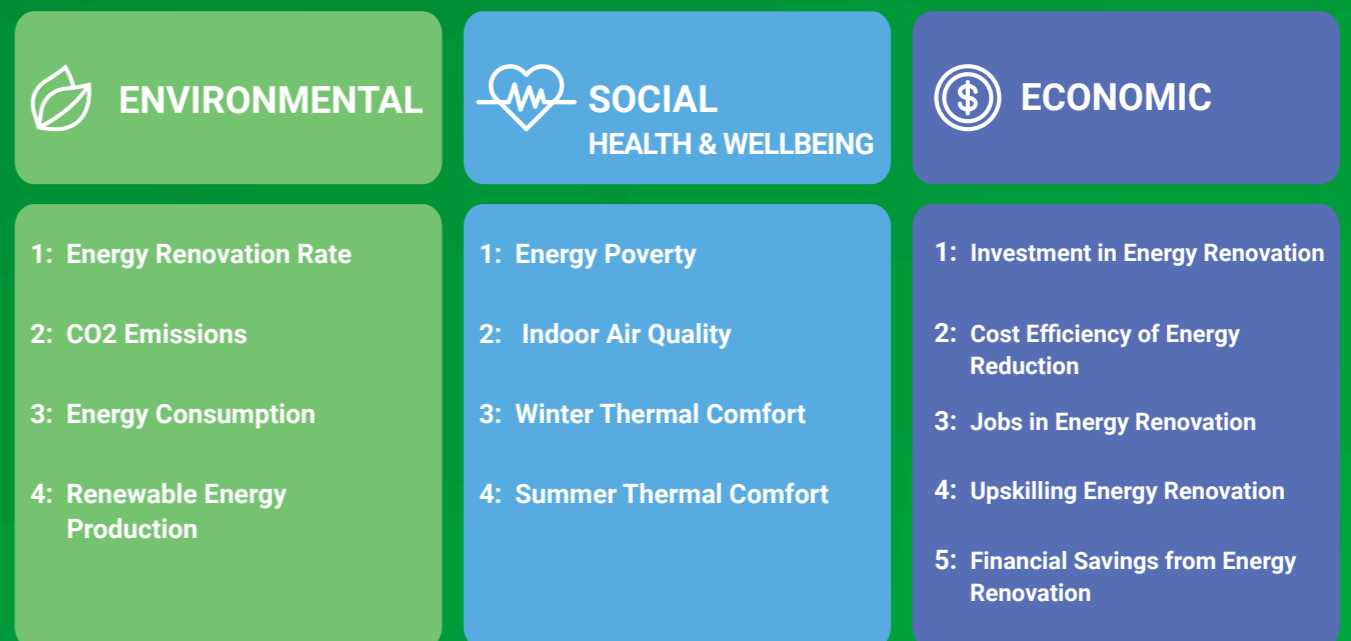
1.1 Background

The Build Upon² project has developed a multi-level renovation impact framework to help European cities decarbonise their building stock. The Framework - trialed by over 30 cities across Europe - helps local governments measure the full benefits of building retrofits, including environmental (carbon savings), social (energy poverty alleviation), and economic (job and financial savings) impacts.

To test the usability and functionality of the Framework, several cities and municipalities were engaged throughout the project as

pilot cities, giving direct input and feedback during the Framework development and prototyping its implementation: Velika Gorica (Croatia), Budaörs (Hungary), Dublin (Ireland), Padova (Italy), Rybnik (Poland), Valladolid (Spain), Eskişehir (Turkey) and Leeds (United Kingdom). In addition, follower-cities were also engaged to discuss and trial the Framework on a less intensive basis to highlight potential training and capacity building needs.

 [Here](#) is the link to the full framework.



1.2 Objective

The objective of this paper is to analyse where synergies and opportunities exist to connect the identified needs of local authorities for implementation of the BU2 Framework, and

what technical assistance resources are available from the European Commission and could thus be used to implement the BU2 Framework.

1.3 Relation to other activities in the project

This report uses the findings from other research conducted under the BU2 Project including specifically Identifying training needs of local authorities, Capacity Building in Follower Authorities and Using results of testing phase to develop Policy Recommendations for Local and National

Government and Publication of Policy Recommendations for Local and National Governments.

In addition, the paper relies on desk research and interviews regarding European policy and financing programmes.

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¹Primarily WP 4 – Testing and Applying the Framework findings, including specifically Task 4.2 Identifying training needs of local authorities, Task 4.3 Capacity Building in Follower Authorities and T4.4 Using results of testing phase to develop Policy Recommendations for Local and National Government and D4.5 Publication of Policy Recommendations for Local and National Governments.



2. Review of pilot workshops

Throughout the duration of the project, two series of pilot workshops were held with the eight pilot cities (two per city). The first series of workshops were held between September and December 2020, the second held in Spring 2021.

Below are the summarized findings from D4.4 Final report on cities' feedback on the application of selected indicators and monitoring procedures which inform the recommendations of this paper.

2.1

Pilot workshops phase 1

The aim of the first workshop series was to test the final version of the Framework at the local level.

Overall, the Framework was found useful by local authorities – the main summary points are reflected below:

Overall, the main barriers detected in the first series of pilot city workshops reflect several of the main barriers to energy

renovation commonly identified by energy efficiency researchers and practitioners.²

²https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/geee/pub/Overcoming_barriers-energy_efficiency-FINAL.pdf



Resources

The Framework is a useful tool to foster peer-to-peer exchange and facilitate interaction between municipal departments. However, since the Framework, and its associated indicators, is highly ambitious, significant resources and time are needed to properly implement it at the local level.



Data availability

Currently, most pilot cities can collect sufficient data on environmental indicators for municipal buildings. However, data for social and economic indicators and, in general, for private and tertiary buildings is scarce and hard to obtain. Therefore, finding useful data or current methods for collecting sufficient data to complete the Framework remains a barrier.



Monitoring and verification

Most cities did not have an adequate monitoring system in place or had systems that prioritized a different set of indicators. Furthermore, they lacked the administrative capacity to implement such a system. However, there were linkages to the European Covenant of Mayors Reporting Framework that could be utilized to alleviate this burden.

All pilot cities are Covenant of Mayors signatories, and several are involved in other pan-European initiatives and projects such as EUCF, the Agenda 2030 SDGs. Therefore, one of the findings indicated that there is big opportunity to link the implementation of the Framework to the processes of other such initiatives, including ISO 50002 systems or the SECAP reporting (for example).

Additionally, it was noted it is important to link to existing national level reporting system that are already in place.



Qualified staff

Each pilot city has a different organizational structure, as well as different administrative capacity due to population and structure, however all cities identified the need for qualified staff who can implement the Framework. Specifically, cities identified three needs:

- a. The need for additional staff resources or dedicated cross-sectoral departments within city councils,
- b. The need for training on data management for public or private buildings, and
- c. The need for training on data management at city or project level, especially regarding Energy Performance Certificate data.

2.2

Pilot city workshops phase 2

The second round of workshops aimed to empower pilot cities to further use and adopt the Framework.

This was done according to the Level of Readiness (LoR) of the pilot cities:

Level of Readiness 1

Discuss a progressive strategy/roadmap to implement the Framework at city level.

Level of Readiness 2

Pilot the Framework on real projects, including data collection for the indicators proposed and establish a monitoring system.

Combining Level of Readiness 1 and 2

Some cities combined LoR 1 + 2, discussing both strategy/action plans and project-level data analysis.

Overall, the 8 pilot cities have various Level of Readiness beyond levels 1 and 2, and all have established different sustainability measures regarding their municipal building stock. The cities have a variety of different climate priorities and action plans, from overhauling systemic

measures such as share of renewables, whereas some are prioritizing social housing retrofits and smart readiness. This adds an additional challenge to addressing and summarizing the status of Framework implementation across pilot cities.

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3. Local level needs

Based on the cities' feedback about the application of indicators and monitoring procedures developed under the project, this section outlines the key findings regarding the needs of local level authorities to implement the Framework

to facilitate renovation measures (and track their socio-economic benefit). The needs directly reflect (and essentially repeat) the findings from section 2 (of this report): review of pilot workshops.

1 Data availability and management

Data availability, retrieval, and management is often cited as a key issue in general for energy efficiency implementation in buildings. As data collection is at the core of the Framework, data and data management were largely discussed at the pilot city workshops. Beyond collection of data, a major issue is

data governance, which public authorities have access, and who is responsible for the data management. Therefore, as a start, more clarity is needed in terms of who is responsible for data management between government departments. Then issues of availability and collection can be better identified and addressed.

2 Lack of resources and tailored funding

The Framework is an ambitious and technical initiative and therefore requires

extra resources in order to implement, both in terms of staff and in terms of finances

(such as data collection and management). Lack of resources is an issue overall with broader municipal renovation projects, but the pilot workshops highlighted the need for dedicated resources (financing and time/people to apply for financing) specifically for the implementation of the Framework. Furthermore, the workshops highlighted the need for resources to hire and train staff, discussed below.

Overall, pilot cities noted that constraints on municipal budgets led to overall staff shortages, leading to high individual workloads. Beyond the Framework, this makes it especially challenging for local authorities to find the time/capacity to

apply for existing funding programmes since the application process is considered complex, time consuming, and often unsuccessful, posing a significant barrier to pursuing such opportunities.

Regarding existing funding, several cities mention that current funding programmes do not align with their needs regarding municipal renovation strategies. Notably, the programmes do not cover the administrative costs (hiring trained professional or capacity building) to administer the programmes.

3 Staff training and internal organization

Regarding the first two challenges, a major issue is hiring and training qualified staff. Point 2, Lack of resources and tailored funding, directly feeds into the need for additional staff who can track and apply for TA programmes. Point 1, Data availability and management, highlights the need to have skilled staff able to handle and collect the relevant data.

Beyond individual staffing needs, organisationally, there are some challenges in the way of implementing the Framework: often it is unclear which departments are responsible for certain data and policy plans, as it also resulted from the mapping conducted across the 8 pilot city countries to identify who is responsible for creating national climate plans, to clarify how and who is responsible for creating national climate plans.

4 Lack of awareness

Several of the BUILD UPON² cities pointed out lack of awareness amongst city level authorities regarding the potential impact

and benefits to building renovation (outside of building/energy specialists).

4. Technical assistance overview

Currently there are many active technical assistance programmes offered to the EU Member States (MS) by the European Commission. The kind of assistance provided varies from programme to programme (i.e., legal support, financial guidance, funding, application support, etc). The terms technical assistance (TA) and project development assistance (PDA) are most widely used, although one clear definition does not exist at the

European level. Clarity is needed among TA programmes in defining what exact type of assistance is being offered, to whom, and how.

When applicable, specific terms will be used, including financial assistance, financial support, project development, legal support, or administrative, to differentiate between the different options.

Since there are several forms of technical assistance, and a generally agreed definition for technical assistance for

energy efficiency does not exist on the European level, the broad definition for TA used in this paper is:

Advisory support for the identification, preparation, development, structuring, procuring and implementation of investment projects, or enhance the capacity of promoters and financial intermediaries to implement financing and investment operations. Its support may cover any stage of the life cycle of a project or financing of a supported entity, as appropriate. – (European Commission, 2018)³

4.1

Current European TA programmes

As previously stated, there are many different TA programmes on offer from the European Commission, making available a range of services (financing, project development assistance, legal council, etc). The Multi-annual Financial Framework and NextGenerationEU are two of the primary sources for

funding TA programmes (under the EU 2021-2027 budget). To gain a deeper understanding, an overview of the most relevant TA programmes for projects on energy efficiency in buildings include (in not particular order):⁴

Overview of several key European technical assistance programmes

Programme name	Description/objective	Managed by
<u>Cohesion policy programmes</u>	<p>The Cohesion Fund supports environmental and transport infrastructure projects for Member States with a gross national income per capita below 90%. Overall, 37% of the Fund allocation is required to go toward climate objectives.</p> <p>A small portion of funds (between 0.35% and 4%) can be allocated for technical assistance, as it is up to the programmes MS authority to launch the call for proposal and allocate funding (and therefore not uniform throughout MS).</p>	Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG Regio). However, the programmes funded through the Cohesion Fund are largely managed by the Member States themselves.
<u>The Joint Assistance to Support Project in European Regions (JASPERS)</u>	<p>JASPERS aims to help administer the EUR 350 billion of <u>European structural and investment funds (ESIF)</u> - including the Cohesion fund, the Connecting Europe Facility, and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.</p> <p>JASPERS provides support for public authorities (primarily from new Member States and acceding countries) on strategic planning, preparing projects and improving the capacity of administrators (however, does not cover pilot actions).</p>	A joint initiative between the European Commission (DG REGIO), the EIB, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
<u>FI-Compass Platform</u>	The FI Compass Platform is another tool to help administer the ESIF. Similar to JASPERS, FI Compass offers information and tools to help authorities and financial intermediaries access the ESIF funds and application process.	Run by the European Commission, in partnership with the EIB.
<u>The European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) programme</u>	<p>ELENA offers technical assistance for several project categories (for institutional players, not individuals), including, energy efficiency, residential renovation, and urban transport projects over €30 million.</p> <p>Currently ELENA funds are project focused and not structural or for training purposes.</p>	Administered by the European Investment Bank and the European Commission, soon under the umbrella of the InvestEU Advisory Hub.

³ https://europa.eu/investeu/system/files/2021-07/final_contribution_agreement_template_en.pdf

⁴ Utilising European technical assistance for municipal retrofits [Webinar], BPIE, BuildUpon Project, <https://www.bpie.eu/event/webinar-utilising-european-technical-assistance-for-municipal-retrofits/>

Programme name	Description/objective	Managed by
<u>The European City Facility (EUCF)</u>	<p>Originally established under Horizon2020, the EUCF aims to support municipalities and local authorities to develop investment concepts to implement actions laid out in their climate and energy action plans.</p> <p>EUCF awards €60,000 to cities to enable them to carry out such projects, or potentially hire a specialist to focus on administering and organizing relevant programmes.</p>	The European Commission (CINEA).
<u>The LIFE programme</u>	<p>With a budget of €5.4 billion between 2021 and 2027, the LIFE programme supports a range of environmental programmes including (1) nature and biodiversity, (2) circular economy and quality of life, (3) climate change mitigation and adaptation, and (4) the clean energy transition.</p> <p>LIFE offers several different types of support, among them technical assistance for projects, including assistance accessing other EC financial instruments.</p>	The European Commission (CINEA).
<u>InvestEU advisory Hub</u>	<p>Within the overall InvestEU is the Advisory Hub to provide technical assistance for project development and preparation in the EU. The aim of the Advisory Hub is to consolidate the many European resources related to technical assistance.</p> <p>The Advisory Hub will include (amongst other programmes): the current European Investment Advisory Hub, European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA), and the Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPERS).</p>	The European Commission (DG ECFIN)
<u>European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEEF) TA facility</u>	<p>The European Energy Efficiency Fund TA Facility supports public beneficiaries (including municipalities) to develop bankable energy efficiency, small-scale renewable and urban transport projects.</p> <p>Staff costs, feasibility studies, and legal support are all eligible under the EEEF TA facility.</p>	Public-private partnership between the EIB, EC and private institutional investors.

Programme name	Description/objective	Managed by
<u>The Technical Support Instrument (TSI)</u>	<p>The TSI offers technical expertise to MS to design and implement reform. Originally intended to help mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, the TSI also has a strong focus on supporting implementation of the Renovation Wave, and assisting MS implement their national recovery and resilience plans under the RRF.</p> <p>Municipalities can assess TSI support via their national authorities.</p>	The European Commission (DG REFORM).

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

The European Structure and Investment Funds (ESIF) consists of 5 main funds jointly managed by the European Commission and EU Member States. The aim of the funds is to invest in job creation and support a sustainable and healthy economy and environment. The 5 main focus areas include: (1) research and innovation, (2) digital technologies, (3) supporting the low-carbon economy, (4) sustainable management of natural resources, and (5) small businesses. The five funds are:

European regional development fund (ERDF) Promotes balanced development in the different regions of the EU.

European social fund (ESF) Supports employment-related projects throughout Europe and invests in Europe's human capital – its workers, its young people and all those seeking a job.

Cohesion fund (CF) Funds transport and environment projects in countries where the gross national income (GNI) per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU average. In 2014-20, these are Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) Focuses on resolving the particular challenges facing EU's rural areas.

European maritime and fisheries fund (EMFF) Helps fishermen to adopt sustainable fishing practices and coastal communities to diversify their economies, improving quality of life along European coasts.



5. Renovation Wave, Green Deal, and the Recovery Package

Technical assistance is particularly relevant considering the ambitions of the Green Deal, the Renovation Wave and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (explained in more detail in Table 1).

While all three mention the need for technical assistance, there is currently no information on what amount or percentage of money is necessary or made available.

Therefore, it will fall to the Member State to determine the level of assistance needed, and how to allocate it. This lack of central advice or an overall determination of the level of TA needed to help MS further exemplifies the need for clarity on what the role of TA is in terms of contributing to the overall energy & climate ambitions, how much is available and how accessible these resources are, in particular to local authorities.

Table 1: Overview of current European policy and economic measures supporting building renovation

Initiative	Description
Green Deal Strategic Communication	The European Green Deal, published in 2019 by the European Commission, is a roadmap to drive the European Union to a sustainable, climate-neutral economy by 2050. The EU Green Deal essentially is the next step of the Energy Union. The overall target of the European Green Deal is to reduce emissions across all sectors by 55% by 2030 (an objective which was subsequently enshrined into legislation with the Climate Law in 2021). The Green Deal covers many sectors, affecting almost all aspects of European life. However, specific emphasis is put on “a just transition to a zero-carbon building stock,” which includes the Renovation Wave and associated initiatives.
Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) European Directive	The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) serves as the primary legislation guiding building construction and renovation in the EU to enhance building performance and efficiency to achieve the 2030/2050 energy targets. In addition, the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) includes relevant provisions on annual renovation rate of central government buildings, and on energy saving obligation schemes which in practice tackle primarily energy efficiency improvements in buildings.
Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) European Directive Communication	The Energy Efficiency Directive sets the overarching legal framework for energy efficiency policy in the EU. It came into force in 2012 establishing measures to achieve the 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Its 2018 revision extends the lifespan of one of its core provisions, the “energy savings obligation”, beyond 2020 and sets a 32.5% energy efficiency target for 2030. New targets for the EED were proposed in July 2021 in the framework of “Fit for 55”.
Renovation Wave (RW) Strategic Communication	The Renovation Wave, published as part of the Green Deal, is a strategic communication of the European Commission highlighting the key areas of intervention to boost the renovation of buildings in 2021-2024. Of specific importance, the Renovation Wave calls for an increased annual renovation rate of 2% by 2030, up from the current rate of 1%. Additionally, the Renovation Wave suggests more effective use of energy performance certificates via the development of a digital building logbook and smart readiness indicator. The Renovation Wave also highlights the importance of reducing total carbon impact in the buildings sector, calling to develop a 2050 roadmap for reducing whole lifecycle carbon in buildings.

Initiative	Description
Multiannual Financial Framework Budget	The Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) is the framework outlining the 7-year budget for the European Union. The current MFF runs from 2021-2027 and includes provisions for a short-term economic recovery, while supporting a green and digital future for the EU. The budget of €1.074 trillion is combined with €750 billion from the temporary recovery instrument, NextGenerationEU, for a total of €1,824.3 billion.
Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Budget (extension to the MFF)	With €672.5 billion in loans and grants available to support reforms and investments undertaken in EU countries, the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is the centrepiece of NextGenerationEU. This facility aims to support climate targets (37% must go toward climate goals), while ultimately promoting economic recovery. The aim is to mitigate the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient, and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions. Renovation is one of the eight flagships of the RRF, where the Commission highlights that it leads to job creation, savings on energy bills, and ultimately indispensable as a tool to support the economic recovery.

The above initiatives, communications, and budgets either directly state the need for technical assistance (i.e., section 3.3 of the Renovation Wave, stating TA will be “key” for quality renovations), or support TA programmes (i.e., such as the RRF supporting the TSI). Several instruments and funding streams have resulted from these initiatives, and to support renovation initiatives. Although it is not always obvious where there are links, understanding the available programmes and newly funding available could lead to opportunities to access or apply for technical assistance support.

For example, the Technical Support Instrument currently has a large budget (EUR 864 million for the period of 2021-2027). One of its direct goals is the support of the implementation of MS recovery and resilience plans. Local level authorities can work with national authorities to apply for TSI support to help align and implement strategies outlined in their national RRP, specifically to carry out programmes related to renovation. How this can be done in the case of BU2 is discussed below.

6. Recommendations

Given the primary identified needs of the pilot cities (section 5), the following recommendations explain potential links and guidelines for technical assistance, both in terms of current programmes available for pilot cities to engage with and how, as well as

recommendations for providers at the European level on how they could better connect with municipalities. While there is no perfect solution, programmes can be tailored to fit specific needs, as illustrated below.

6.1 Guidance for local and national public authorities

While several of the local level needs can be addressed by changes at the European level, there are several important recommendations for public authorities to consider regarding technical assistance and implementation of the Framework.

In additions to the findings of this paper Publication of Policy Recommendations for Local and National Government also lays several recommendations for public authorities, included below:

- Seek technical assistance programmes (i.e., JASPERS and the FI-Compass - as noted on their websites) to help with information sharing campaigns and scale up marketing and dissemination efforts.
- Utilise TA to create one-stop-shops as an ideal way to administer and direct technical assistance and help with information sharing campaigns beyond public authorities.
- Establish a national or local “liaison” or dedicated staff member (or better, dedicated department) for tracking technical assistance opportunities and apply for other EU funds (for example, using funds available via EUCF or EEEF to cover staff costs).
- Considering the challenges associated with internal structural organization and staffing – with the creation of climate action plans, SECAPs, and the RRP (amongst other important strategic planning), local and MS level authorities should consider the TSI to institute structural reform and account for necessary staff to administer projects, particularly TA for energy efficiency or the Framework.
- Beyond the local level, public authorities can work with/lobby their national governments to apply for TSI funding to streamline implementation of climate plans or apply for cohesion funds and establish TA programmes nationally.
- Mix and match funding, in the event one TA stream does not fully cover a project cost (i.e., Staff costs) look for and apply to multiple programmes.

6.2

Guidance for existing European Programmes

Currently, as the process of applying for technical assistance is often perceived as too burdensome and difficult, clarity is needed in many ways to help applicants, specifically in terms of eligibility (if local authorities are able to apply), as well as where the full set of information is to apply.

While many resources, especially financial, are available at the European level, there are several ways in which accessing, and utilising technical assistance could be further facilitated. Some of the primary, overarching recommendations for the administrators (EIB, EC, EBRD, etc.) for European programmes are listed below:

- Make abundantly clear what the eligibility requirements are per programme. For example, programme websites often say “available for public authorities” but it is unclear if this means authorities at the MS level, local level, or both can apply or qualify. Additionally, since many programmes are undergoing changes and restructuring, include the previous programme name as well as clearly state any changes in coverage. For example, updates on H2020 to Horizon Europe and new developments with LIFE.
- Clarify exactly what measures are covered by programme funding and if staff and administrative resources are included.
- The InvestEU Advisory Hub will serve as a directory of existing programmes. The Advisory Hub should also include guidance on how to combine funds so that, for example, project development assistance can be combined with covering staff costs, as well as financing the technical solutions.
- Given the increased funding available to MS through NextGenerationEU and the MFF, the EC should issue guidance on aligning all required national plans, including best practices for integrating TA. As done in the earlier stages of the BU2 project [How to include building renovation in your Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan](#).
- The EC should engage more directly and proactively in cooperation with EIB with local level authorities via strong promotional campaigns, or encourage MS to, so it is clear what resources are available for local public authorities.

- Create a database of best practices categorized by type of TA (project development assistance, administrative costs, technical measures, etc.), including a breakdown of measures carried out at the national or local levels.
- Establish a clear, European wide definition of TA, and separate ones to cover PDA, and financial assistance, so that it is clear what type of assistance is covered by each programme. (The current European Commission definition, for example used in this paper, currently lumps all forms of assistance together.)
- Require successful programme applicants to collect and share their data according to a certain standard of indicators (potentially directly in line with Framework indicators) to track impact.
- Include support measures for technical assistance directly in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive including [strengthening Article 10](#) (“financial incentives and market barriers”) to transform it into a true TA framework. Specifically, clarifying what financial and advisory support is available to public authorities and private actors, and facilitate access to

7. Conclusion

Building renovation is key to achieving EU and national climate targets. Fortunately, the importance of achieving a highly energy efficient and decarbonised building stock is becoming more widely understood. However, several gaps remain. Despite more financial resources becoming available for municipal renovations, challenges exist for public authorities in convincing policy makers and the public of the overall socio-economic benefits of renovation. The Build Upon2 Framework provides a multi-level renovation impact framework to help European cities decarbonise their building stock, and measure the full benefits of building retrofits, including environmental, social and economic impacts such as carbon savings, energy poverty alleviation and job creation.

However, like many resources, programmes and initiatives, a gap remains between projects and implementation. Technical assistance is one way to address this challenge and help cities implement the Framework to achieve renovation potential on a local level. This paper outlined some of the main challenges for local authorities in implementing the framework including, lack of data and data management, lack of resources and tailored funding, lack of trained staff, and lack of general awareness.

It is possible, and essential, to improve the delivery of TA programme support at the local level based on the above recommendations. Now is the right time to address these challenges through the revision of the EPBD and the creation and delivery of services like the InvestEU Advisory Hub.

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List of acronyms

ACRONYM	MEANING
BU2	BuildUpon²
CINEA	European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
EEEF	European Energy Efficiency Fund
ELENA	European Local Energy Assistance
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
EUCF	European Cities Facility
JASPERS	Joint Assistance to Support Project in European Regions
LoR	Level of Readiness
LTRS	Long-term renovation strategy
MFF	Multi-annual financial framework
MS	Member State
PDA	Project development assistance
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RRP	Recovery and Resilience Plan
RW	Renovation Wave
TA	Technical Assistance
TSI	Technical Support Instrument
WP	Work Package



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