

Bridging the gap

linking local level needs
with Technical Assistance in the EU



LOCAL LEVEL NEEDS

Key challenges to the implementation of the BuildUpon² Framework

Data availability and management



Data availability, retrieval, and management is often cited as a key issue in general for energy efficiency implementation. As data collection is at the core of the BU² Framework, data and data management remains one of the top challenges for its successful implementation.

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).

Staff training and internal organization



Hiring and training qualified staff to implement the Framework, but also with an understanding of European funding opportunities, data management, or technical buildings expertise is incredibly difficult and extremely needed to overall increase building efficiency at the local level.

Lack of awareness



Lack of awareness amongst city level authorities regarding the potential impact and benefits to building renovation (outside of building/energy specialists).

CURRENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES¹

- ▶ Cohesion Policy programmes
- ▶ The Joint Assistance to Support Project in European Regions (JASPERS)
- ▶ FI-Compass Platform
- ▶ The European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) programme
- ▶ The European City Facility (EUCF)
- ▶ The LIFE programme InvestEU Advisory Hub
- ▶ European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEF) TA facility
- ▶ Technical Support Instrument (TSI)

¹ This is not an exhaustive list, but includes an overview of several of the relevant TA programmes offered at the EU level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For local and national public authorities

- ▶ Seek technical assistance programmes to help with information sharing campaigns.
- ▶ Utilise technical assistance to create one-stop-shops as an ideal way to administer technical assistance and help with information sharing campaigns.
- ▶ Establish a national or local "liaison" or dedicated staff member for tracking technical assistance opportunities and apply for other EU funds.
- ▶ Local and MS level authorities should consider the Technical Support Instrument to institute structural reform and account for necessary staff to administer projects.
- ▶ Beyond the local level, public authorities can work with their national governments to apply for Technical Support Instrument funding to streamline implementation of climate plans or apply for cohesion funds and establish technical assistance programmes nationally.
- ▶ Mix and match funding.

For existing European programmes

- ▶ Make clear what the eligibility requirements are per programme. Additionally, since many programmes are undergoing changes and restructuring, include the previous programme name as well as clearly state any changes in coverage.
- ▶ Clarify exactly what measures are covered by programme funding and if staff and administrative resources are included.
- ▶ The Advisory Hub should include guidance on how to combine funds so that project development assistance can be combined with covering staff costs, as well as financing the technical solutions.
- ▶ The European Commission should issue guidance on aligning all required national plans, including best practices for integrating technical assistance.
- ▶ European level programmes should engage more directly and proactively with local level authorities via strong promotional campaigns, or encourage Member States to, so it is clear what resources are available for local public authorities.
- ▶ Create a database of best practices categorized by type of technical assistance.
- ▶ Establish a clear, European wide definition of technical assistance.

PARTNERS



CONTACT

BPIE

Rue de la Science 23
1040 Bruxelles
Belgium



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 840926