

<b>Title of the measure:</b>	TER-BEL23 <b>Brussels – Act structurally on the supply by stimulating the sustainable and circular building sector (tertiary sector)</b>
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## **General description**

This is a measure of the Region of Brussels-Capital.

### *REGIONAL PROGRAM IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY*

The PREC or Regional Program in Circular Economy (2016 - 2020) was created in line with what had been set up within the framework of the Employment-Environment Alliance (EEA) by moving from the sustainable theme to the economy theme circular. The PREC has three general objectives:

- Transform environmental objectives into economic opportunities.
- Anchoring the economy in Brussels in order to (wherever possible) produce locally, reduce travel, optimize land use and create added value for Brussels residents.
- Contribute to creating employment.

The PREC comprises 111 measures divided into 4 strategic sections: cross-cutting measures, sectoral measures, territorial measures and governance measures. The PREC details for each measure the pilot actor, the deadline, the beacons and the objectives as well as the mobilized partners.

Each measure having a budgetary impact has been budgeted. In total, a budget of €12,839,500 was mobilized in 2016 for these measures.

### *EUROPEAN PROJECT BAMB (BUILDINGS AS MATERIAL BANKS)*

The European project BAMB (Buildings as Material Banks) is a project directly linked to the PREC, it aims to design buildings as a "material banks". Developed within the Horizon 2020 framework program of the European Union, its objective is to contribute to the transition towards a society and a green economy through eco-innovation.

The aim is to optimize the use of resources and more specifically materials throughout the life cycle of buildings, whether in renovation or new construction, in a circular economy vision. The project started on 1 September 2015 for an initial duration of 3 years but extended by 6 months in 2016. It involves 16 partners in 8 different European countries. Brussels Environment is the coordinator.

More concretely, the BAMB project focuses on:

- material passports and reversible building design;
- the test on 6 pilot projects, 2 of which are located in the Brussels Region;
- the identification of elements that can facilitate the application on a larger scale and the exploitation of results (standard business models and regulations, building information modeling, etc.).

The ambition of the pilot projects is very high. It varies, of course, from one project to another, but in any case, it means reducing by at least 70% the production of waste and reducing the use of resources by at least 50%.

### *CREATING A PLATFORM BETWEEN ACTORS IN THE AREA OF SUSTAINABLE BUILDING (ECOBUILD CLUSTER)*

The Brussels Government has opted to support the ecobuilding sector by creating a platform to encourage synergies between various actors in the sector. If the aim is to encourage the building sector to become more involved in this sustainable project, the **Cluster Ecobuild<sup>1</sup>**, also sets out to support and give structure to economic development in this sector which offers high potential in terms of growth and jobs which are not at risk of relocation. The professionals involved thus have privileged access to a contact person and support for their development. They have access to greater visibility and to collective benefits resulting from the synergy with other businesses in the sector, cooperation with research centres and closer contact with public bodies.

### *SUPPORTING INNOVATION*

The support for innovation in the environmental field is also reflected in the actions included in the FEDER program of the Structural Funds 2007-2013. The *Greenbizz Incubator* is an example that aims to support companies starting their activities in the sectors of eco-construction, renewable energies and eco-products, the economic sector of the environment in the urban environment, by providing them with office spaces and prototyping.

### *CREATING SPECIALISED TRAINING ON BUILDING DESIGN ON EXECUTION*

This strand is divided into three parts:

- a) Training for professionals in design and management;
  - b) Training on the execution of works;
  - c) Seminars and actions on specific subjects.
- a) To train professionals in design and management (architects, consultancy offices, building managers, etc.), the Region has established several courses (energy consultant in the housing sector, energy officer in the tertiary sector)..
- b) For the execution of works, the Region has also entrusted the Brussels Professional Reference Centre for the construction sector to launch eco-building training with the following objectives:
- to improve the training on offer through the development of innovative and job-creating modules;
  - to provide an interface between partners in the areas of employment, training and education and the Brussels professional sector;
  - to encourage employment by ensuring that the training on offer is well matched with the needs of businesses;
  - to monitor technological developments so as to anticipate training needs.

The following results are expected:

- the development of the trades associated with ecobuilding and renewable energy;
  - an increase in the employability of unskilled workers who are furthest removed from the labour market.
- c) Seminars and actions on specific subjects ensure that professionals are kept informed and are able to network.
- **Sustainable Building seminars** are targeted at decision-makers, those with

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ecobuild.brussels/>

technical responsibilities and professionals in the fields of energy and building.

### *GIVING EXPERT ADVICE /SUSTAINABLE BUILDING FACILITATOR*

The BCR offers a series of free consultancy services to professionals operating in the Brussels Region building sector (public sector, commercial and non-commercial organisations, building management, etc.) and wishing to reduce energy consumption and/or integrate all of the “sustainable” criteria into the management and realisation of buildings:

- energy
- materials
- water
- planning
- health and comfort.

These services and the opinions given are neutral and independent of any commercial activity.

To foster the transversal links that exist between all of the issues relating to energy and eco-building, with regard to both renovation and new building, the services on offers were reorganised in 2011. The single “Sustainable Building Facilitator” unit provides a help desk and general guidance on all issues relating to the management, renovation or construction of a building with a view to its sustainability.

A front office of generalists will be backed by specialists to answer the most specific questions relating to the following: the tertiary sector, collective housing, ecobuilding, renewable energy, cogeneration, EPB and passive buildings.

### ***Impact evaluation***

No specific quantitative impact evaluation is available for this measure. The impact is included in that of the other building measures.

### ***References***

Quatrième Plan d’Action en Efficacité Energétique du Gouvernement de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale (annex to the *Belgian Energy Efficiency Action Plan according to the Directives 2006/32/EC and 2012/27/EU article 24.2 Annex XIV part 2*, April 2017, [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/eed/neep\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/eed/neep_en.htm)).

Note: This measure was previously measure B6 for the Brussels-Capital Region in the Second NEEAP.