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PRESS RELEASE

New EU-Initiative for strategic cooperation in the Building Sector

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA ON SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF BUILDINGS

ERABUILD is a new initiative aiming at supporting the European Research Area (ERA) in the field of sustainable construction and operation of buildings. Eight Member States participate in this initiative with the purpose of developing a basis for a European approach to the sector. During the course of the 3-year project, a network of national funding organisations will compare and analyse their current programmes to identify common issues and best practices and to explore transnational cooperation potential. The ERABUILD activities provide opportunities for a European level agenda for construction research and further harmonisation of the construction markets. The project operates within strong national contexts,

The building and construction industry is a major sector of Europe's economy. It not only consumes large quantities of resources and produces equal amounts of (toxic) waste; it also has a direct impact on social infrastructures with regard to health, living conditions and employment. To cover this broad and complex field, ERABUILD will review the current programmes on their balance between three different forms of impact: environmental (planet), societal (people) and economical (profit). This strategic cooperation will lead to improvement in all three factors.

Participating countries are: Finland (coordinator), Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The involved national programmes have a total volume of 60m€ per annum. Although they derive from different policies, such as reduction of CO2 or increase of competitiveness, they share a common focus on tools and methods that enable (cost) effective sustainability, such as ICT. These tools and methods will be starting points to create links between the national programmes and to identify and test opportunities for cooperation in international projects with national funding.

ERABUILD started in September '04 and is moving ahead in a high pace. In order to inform the Network and direct stakeholders about progress and results, ERABUILD will maintain a website and issue a regular newsletter. Professionals who want to keep up-to-date are invited to register at www.erabuild.net.

More information:

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PARTNERS & PROGRAMMES

FINLAND

Tekes, National Technology Agency

- SARA - Value Networking in Construction
- CUBE - The Building Services Technology Programme

AUSTRIA

Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology
ÖGUT – Austrian Society for Development and Technology
Austrian Industrial Research Promotion

- BUILDING OF TOMORROW

DENMARK

EBST – National Agency for Enterprise and Housing

- DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION

FRANCE

Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing
Centre Scientifique et Technique de Bâtiment

- SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

GERMANY

BMBF - German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
TÜV Akademie Rheinland GmbH

- BUILDING AND HOUSING IN DE 21th CENTURY

SWEDEN

Formas – Research Council for Environment, Agricultural and Spatial Planning
BIC – Construction Innovation Centre

- SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

THE NETHERLANDS

VROM - Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment
SenterNovem, Dutch Agency for Sustainability and Innovation

- COMPASS

THE UNITED KINGDOM

DTI - Ministry of Trade and Industry

- AVANTI – Collaborative Working using ICT

www.erabuild.net