



NEWSLETTER 1 - June 2010

Sustainability Performance Assessment and Benchmarking of Buildings



WELCOME to the first Newsletter of **SuPerBuildings**, a research project, funded by the European Commission, under the FP7 cooperation programme, that will support development of the next generation of sustainable building assessments systems. The project commenced at the beginning of this year, the starting point being to examine the state of the art in standardisation and current assessment systems. The objective is to move these forward by the selection and where necessary development of indicators for buildings that will provide a reliable basis and validity of the assessment of a building's sustainability.

The work is being undertaken by a consortium of leading organisations with experts in building assessment and sustainability from across Europe. The work is founded on the knowledge and experience developed in national projects, the development of building rating systems (such as BREEAM, DGNB and HQE), and in international projects, networks and standardisation groups such as CEN TC 350, ISO TC59 SC17, SB Alliance, UNEP SBCI, CRISP, PRESCO, LENSE, PERFECTION and TISSUE.

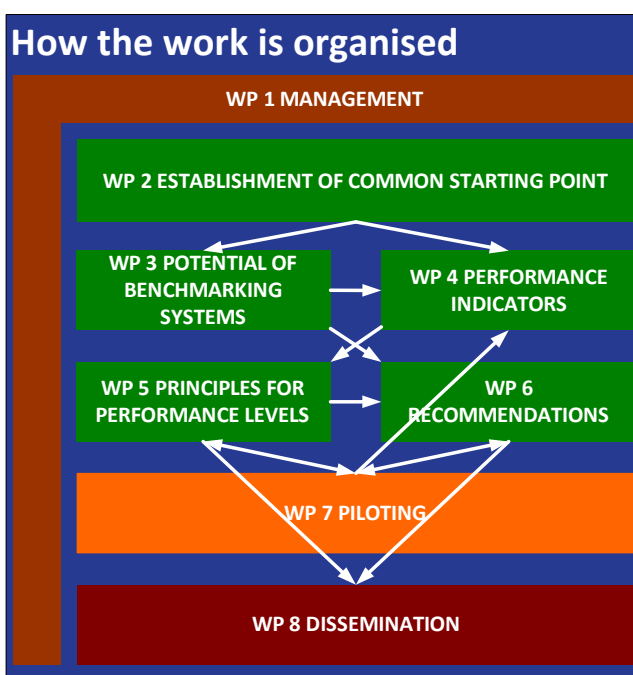
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

SuPerBuildings will produce:

- a set of key indicators for the sustainability assessment of buildings.
- detailed methods and an improved understanding of the assessment of the key indicators which will ensure reliable and comparable measurement.
- performance levels for the selected key indicators
- recommendations regarding the structure of sustainability assessment systems
- recommendations for the integration of sustainability assessments with building information models.
- recommendations for the use of assessment and benchmarking systems as instruments that can help in steering regulatory approaches and considerations for economic incentives.
- disseminate the results

The planned duration of the project is 36 months.

The **SuPerBuildings** project, which is coordinated by VTT, will develop indicators and assessment methods but will not itself develop a new assessment system to compete with schemes and labels that already exist. The research will provide new information and knowledge about indicators and assessment and benchmarking methods, which will be available to the developers and providers of assessment and benchmarking systems, for standardisation bodies and other initiatives, and thus to support the improvement and harmonisation of existing and future systems in Europe.



SuPerBuildings is being carried out in parallel and in co-operation with **Open House** (<http://www.openhouse-fp7.eu/>) Both projects will develop new information about sustainable building indicators. While **SuPerBuildings** focuses on the research and development of indicators and their reliability, comparability and validity, the focus for **Open House** is to develop and test an assessment methodology through a range of case studies.



FIRST RESULTS

The project has started its work producing a summary of the existing building rating systems and conclusions about the needs of development of sustainability indicators and measurement methods. The details can be found on the [SuPerBuildings](http://cic.vtt.fi/superbuildings) web-site <http://cic.vtt.fi/superbuildings>

The SuPerBuildings CONSORTIUM

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The NETWORK GROUP

The project is establishing a **Network Group** of organisations interested in sustainable building benchmarking, and that will volunteer to be involved. Members of the **Network Group** are invited to help guide the project as it develops, and support the dissemination of project results. They will also be given the opportunity to evaluate, comment and help pilot the indicators. Already around 40 organisations have expressed an interest in being part of the **Network Group** and it hoped that this can be expanded to around 70 participants. The Network will include interested parties from a range of stakeholders that represent construction professionals, regulators and local authorities: policy makers, private companies in construction and the real estate sector, designers, consultants who benchmark sustainable buildings, and others that have an interest in building assessment.

The **Network Group** will automatically receive copies of the **SuPerBuildings Newsletter** and other project deliverables, as well as being invited to an interim workshop and final conference that will be organised together with the **Open House** project. The first workshop will introduce the preliminary results.

If you would like to be part of the **Network Group**, and receive more information about how you can get involved in **SuPerBuildings** contact us via email: SuPerBuildings@bre.co.uk.

