Year in Review

WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL
Europe Regional Network
Annual Report 2013
About the WorldGBC Europe Regional Network

The World Green Building Council connects a global coalition of more than 100 national Green Building Councils and their 27,000 member organisations with a single mission: to transform the building industry and ensure that the places we live, learn, work and play are good for the health of people, the strength of our economy and the future of the planet. Green Building Councils are not-for-profits that work locally to define and drive industry best practice, help governments shape policy, and build a culture of cross-sector collaboration. Our Europe Regional Network consists of more than 30 national Green Building Councils and works in collaboration with more than 4,500 member companies across Europe, which represent the full breadth of stakeholders in the buildings industry.
Looking back on the year

Paul King
Chairman, WorldGBC’s Europe Regional Network CEO, UK-GBC

A quick glance though our statistics highlights how rapidly the Europe Regional Network of the World Green Building Council is growing, and increasing its capacity to help transform the sustainability of Europe’s built environment. Green Building Council activities in 38 countries, employing nearly 200 full-time staff and supported by over 600 volunteers is just the tip of the iceberg. At the heart of the Green Building Council movement is a burgeoning community of people embedded throughout the industry’s value chain and building lifecycle. The Network represents 4,500 member companies, employing hundreds of thousands of built environment professionals in positions to make decisions – from boardroom to building site – to ensure that sustainability is considered at every step. In addition, over the last year alone, over 6,000 of those people have received training and education from their Green Building Councils, helping to ensure that those decisions are as informed as possible.

The Green Building Councils of Europe are all unique, having grown up in the particular national and local contexts of this diverse region. Each bear the hallmarks of their different cultures, traditions and climatic conditions. But increasingly we are developing a common language, and sharing lessons learned, to raise the sustainability bar across the continent. This year we have seen more collaboration than ever before – to deliver an education platform informed by and available to all European countries, compelling events designed to inform the development of EU policy and industry action, and consistent communication of our messages around ‘What is green building and why does it matter?’, which have been spread far and wide by our member companies to their employees, supply chains and customers.

Our first ever regional Leadership Awards have highlighted the achievements of some of our leading companies, public authorities and development projects. The breadth and depth of nominations showed us how much recognition by the World Green Building Council means; a healthy race to the top that we will continue to encourage and build on next year. Looking ahead we will also be doing much more to work with our partners across the region to forge a progressive consensus about how the industry can step up, inform and deliver this crucial agenda. We will be supporting EU ambitions for a major up-scaling of energy efficient renovation, helping inform a new wave of EU sustainable buildings policy, and ensuring that we are building a future that is truly sustainable, to meet the needs of people in a resource-constrained future.

These are challenging but exciting times. Thank you for your support – we can only do this together.
Strengthening our message

As this report testifies, during 2013 we have worked hard to convey our message to industry, policy-makers and the public, and to raise awareness about the importance of green buildings. Although the concept of green building is no longer a new one to most professionals across the region, different terms and definitions exist so it is important that we work towards a more common understanding.

Our 2013 publication “What is green building and why does it matter?” set out to make the many aspects of green building more accessible and understandable. It emphasizes that building green is much more than energy efficiency alone, and that a number of factors must be considered together to help improve a buildings sustainability. Being able to communicate and measure our goals simply is a key challenge, and we plan to continue assessing and strengthening the ways we do this.

See how our Regional Partner Knauf Insulation’s Sustainability Report 2013 (p33) used the Network’s publication to communicate and measure their contribution to green building.

Common Education Platform

In our efforts to support GBCs in delivering training and education locally and helping to harmonize green building knowledge across the region we have developed training materials for 8 different green building related topics available for use by all member GBCs.

Educating the buildings community plays a key role in delivering sustainable building ambition. Not only are GBCs in our network delivering training to over 6,000 people annually, but we are exploring new ways to collaborate regionally to scale-up this important activity. Work on this Common Education Platform is due to continue in 2014.
This year we successfully launched our first ever regional leadership awards, demonstrating leadership and promoting best practice across the region. Our awards program celebrates great achievements but also strengthens the flow of information between the companies and organisations within our network so that together we can seek better solutions by learning from tested practices and technologies.

Showcasing the diversity of our network, we sought leadership in buildings, public policy and business practice. We received **30 nominations from 13 different countries**, and held the awards in partnership with **3 prestigious European organizations**.

We congratulate these three winners, that clearly demonstrate why green business is good for our planet, our people and our industry – that it is simply good business!

**WINNER**
Leadership in Building Design and Performance
City Green Court, Prague, Czech Republic

**WINNER**
Leadership in City Level Green Building Policy
Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

**WINNER**
Business Leadership Sustainability
British Land, UK

**WINNER**
Leadership in Building Design and Performance
City Green Court,
Prague, Czech Republic
Helping inform and shape public policy for a sustainable built environment is an increasingly important part of GBCs’ activities. Our Network’s expert Policy Task Force have been more active than ever this year in helping shape and inform EU policy dialogue.

Position Papers and Consultation Response

- ERN response to EC Sustainable Buildings Consultation
- Supporting the EU Emissions Trading System and use of revenues for building renovation
- ERN response to Green Paper on 2030 framework for climate and energy policies
- ERN response to EC VAT consultation

Convening industry and government

National Renovations Strategies

Held in association with the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU, our April Brussels event on long-term national renovation strategies was the very first time governments had come together and discussed their plans for the strategies. Many GBCs are now actively leading work on this agenda at national level.

The Network continues to partner with key political voices and organisations such as Renovate Europe and the Building Performance Institute Europe to raise awareness and help governments and stakeholders meet this challenge.

Read the full event summary...
One of the Network’s core strengths is its ability to connect GBCs with policy best practice and experts across the region, whatever issue they are helping their community or government overcome at home.

During 2013 the ERN’s senior policy advisor has been visiting GBCs to coordinate policy seminars and events, as well as member workshops and meetings with government.

If your GBC is looking for support with its policy work in 2014, email jdrinkwater@worldgbc.org

Innovation in Construction Conference

The Europe Regional Network played a prominent role in the European Commission’s 2013 ‘Innovation in Construction’ conference, part of the work being done under the Commission’s ‘Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises’.

The conference brought together policy-makers, industry and academia to explore how innovation can help the construction industry achieve greater sustainable competitiveness.
EU Sustainable Energy Week

Network representatives took part in a number of events during 2013’s ‘EU Sustainable Energy Week’.

Sweden GBC’s CEO Bengt Wånggren led debate at the Concerted Action Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) stakeholders meeting on behalf of the Network. The meeting launched a major 2013 report on EPBD implementation across the region.

GBC Open Office Tours

There’s no better way to help GBCs develop and stay strong than to learn first hand how other GBCs operate nationally – what programs they have put in place, what tools and resources they find useful, what challenges they’ve experienced.

With this in mind we’ve launched the GBC Open Office Tour series where local GBC staff hold a workshop for visiting GBCs on various aspects of their management and operations. This year the Open Office was hosted by UKGBC in March and Sweden GBC in September.

A big thanks to the UKGBC and Sweden GBC who also hosted the Europe Network meetings this year in March and September respectively.
To strengthen communications within our network both internally and externally, this year we dedicated time to developing brand new webpages dedicated to the Europe Regional Network.

Very recently we launched a new Policy Blog that GBC policy staff can use to share their insights of the latest regional developments and news. Our first blog was retweeted over 100 times!

We also started an @WorldGBC_Europe Twitter account to keep people informed about all the latest green building news. We’re at 500 followers and climbing.

A number of European case studies formed part of WorldGBC’s recent report ‘A New Era in Building Partnerships’. Each case study demonstrates the key role GBCs and their members are playing in collaborative multi-stakeholder platforms.

‘Key Principles for Collaborative Policy-Making’ are set out in the report, to inspire and guide others bringing stakeholders together to build stronger, greener public-policy.
Partnerships

Collaboration is the keystone of the GBC movement. We understand that we can’t succeed alone and with so much excellent work being done in this sphere we don’t need to!

This year we’ve focused on building new partnerships with organizations who share our vision.

EUROPE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD PARTNERS:

EVENTS PARTNERSHIPS:

KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIPS:

ERN Steering Committee

Paul King
Chair of WorldGBC’s Europe Regional Network
CEO, UK-GBC

Ana Cunha Cribellier
Chair of ERN Policy Taskforce
Chair of International Knowledge and Lobbying Commission, France GBC

Bengt Wanggren
CEO, Sweden GBC

Duygu Erten
President, Turkish GBC

Emilio M. Mitre
Director of International Affairs, GBC Espana

Johannes Kreissig
Executive Director, DGNB

Rafal Schurma
President, PLGBC

Stefan van Uffelen
CEO, Dutch GBC

Steven Borncamp
Chair of ERN Education Taskforce
President, Romania GBC
Network members

ESTABLISHED

Dutch Green Building Council
www.dgbc.nl
secretariaat@dgbc.nl

France Green Building Council
www.francegbc.fr
contact@francegbc.fr

German Sustainable Building Council
www.dgnb.de/en/
info@dgnb.de

Israel Green Building Council
www.ilgbc.org
hilla@ilgbc.org

Polish Green Building Council
www.plgbc.org
info@plgbc.org

Romania Green Building Council
www.rogbc.org
info@rogbc.org

Green Building Council España
www.gbce.es
info@gbce.es

Sweden Green Building Council
www.sgbc.se
Bengt.wanggren@sgbc.se

Turkey Green Building Council
www.cedbik.org
derten@cedbik.org

UK Green Building Council
www.ukgbc.org
info@ukgbc.org

EMERGING

Austria Sustainable Building Council
www.ogni.at
franz.waglhuber@ogni.at

Bulgarian Green Building Council
www.bgbc.bg
office@bgbc.bg

Croatia Green Building Council
www.gbccroatia.org
info@gbccroatia.org

Green Building Council Finland
www.figbc.fi
info@figbc.fi

Serbia Green Building Council
www.serbiagbc.org
info@serbiagbc.org

Swiss Sustainable Building Council
www.sgni.ch
dhnn@zhaw.ch

Hungary Green Building Council
www.hugbc.org
info@hugbc.org

Green Building Council España
www.gbce.es
info@gbce.es

Green Building Council Italia
www.gbcitalia.org
info@gbcitalia.org

Russia Green Building Council
www.rugbc.org
office@rugbc.org

Serbia Green Building Council
www.serbiagbc.org
info@serbiagbc.org

Swiss Sustainable Building Council
www.sgni.ch
dhnn@zhaw.ch
Network members

PROSPECTIVE

Czech Green Building Council
www.czgbc.org
Petr.vogel@czgbc.org

Green Building Council Georgia
gbcgeorgia@gmail.com

Hellenic Green Building Council
www.elgbc.gr
info@elgbc.gr

Irish Green Building Council
www.igbc.ie
info@igbc.ie

Latvia Green Building Council
www.ibp.lv
info@ibp.lv

Montenegro Green Building Council
www.gbc.me
marketing@gbc.me

Slovak Green Building Council
www.skgbc.org
skgbc@skgbc.org

Green Building Council Slovenia
www.gbc-slovenia.si
info@gbc-slovenia.si

Ukraine Green Building Council
s.shulga@delta.at

ASSOCIATED GROUPS IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Lithuania

Denmark

Luxembourg

Estonia

Norway

Iceland

Portugal

Kazakhstan

Malta
Special thanks to our Regional Partners, who have made much of this work possible. We are proud to work alongside organisations that are really leading the green building movement.

E.ON
www.eon.com
E.ON – 2012 Sustainability Report

Knauf Insulation
www.knaufinsulation.com
Knauf Insulation - Sustainability Report 2013

Saint-Gobain
www.saint-gobain.com
Saint-Gobain – Sustainable Development Report 2012

Skanska
www.skanska.com
Skanska – Sustainability Report 2012

United Technologies Corporation
www.utc.com
UTC – 2015 Sustainability Goals