

# Buildings for the Future in 2022



photo: EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN SLOVAKIA

## / What we Accomplished / Snapshot of Our 2022 Activities / Our 2023 Priorities

FOUNDING MEMBERS—



REGULAR MEMBERS—



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS—



SLOVENSKÁ TECHNICKÁ  
UNIVERZITA V BRATISLAVE  
FAKULTA ARCHITEKTÚRY A DIZAJNU





# What we Accomplished

The war in Ukraine and energy crises dominated the European political agenda in 2022. The pressure of high energy prices made the government realize the need to save energy in public buildings. The Prime Minister, Eduard Heger, has issued 'Decalogue' for public building managers, and the government has agreed on the goal of saving 15% of energy in public buildings. The implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) has commenced and first calls for building renovations were launched. At the same time the government started with the preparation of the new REPowerEU chapter. The main goal is to reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels and it is supported by three specific objectives: improved energy efficiency, diversification of fuel supplies and reducing the need for fossil fuels through Europe's accelerated transition to clean energy.

## Buildings for the Future Taking the Lead

Our platform represents 9 member associations and more than 900 entities active in the energy efficiency and construction sectors. We are thus a significant voice for the building sector and relevant partner for the state stakeholders in design of public policies. We work according to principles of transparency, anti-corruption, technological and product neutrality and imposing the best available practices and solutions.

# Key principles we adhere to are expertise, focus on facts, solutions, and transparency.

## High Level Expertise and Political Impartiality

We place high emphasis on expertise, professionalism, and political impartiality. Thanks to such an approach many of our projects have gained support from the President of the Slovak Republic, the head of the Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia, and partners from relevant ministries and other central bodies of state administration, or scientific and academic institutions.

## Communication with the Focus on Facts

Our long years of work has made us a reliable and respected organization, and reliable information source for journalists from opinion-forming and professional media who approach us regularly. We create opportunities for regular and open inter-sectoral communication. We believe that open communication is fundamental for good quality policy making.

## Offering Solutions

We offer concrete solutions based on practical experience, as well as on actual scientific and research knowledge. Within our expert work and communication, we use experience not only from Slovakia, but also from abroad, thanks to our good contacts and work at the international level. Here we are trying to pay attention mainly to 'knowledge transfer' among countries, innovation presentations, and on the support of best available technologies and approaches utilization.

## Transparency

We comply with the current legislation, but following the example of developed countries, we go beyond what is required, when it comes to our transparency, as well as to the application of voluntary ethic and anti-corruption processes and rules. We adhere to the material and technological neutrality. We cooperate with partners at the EU-level and we subscribe to the pro-European direction of policies.



**photo:** SFPA—SLOVAK FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

# Our Top Successes in 2022

## 1/

### Energy Efficiency as the Solution to Energy Crises

A major share of natural gas is consumed in buildings in Slovakia. At the same time, buildings have the biggest potential to reduce this consumption. From the start of the war in Ukraine we have actively communicated that supporting energy efficiency measures is a fundamental pillar in the effort to reduce Europe's dependence on Russian gas. Therefore, we already in April called on Prime Minister Eduard Heger on behalf of representatives of the construction sector and emphasized that Slovakia needs a concrete plan for reducing dependence on Russian gas and increasing energy efficiency.

## 2/

### Investments from the Recovery and Resilience Plan and the New REPowerEU Chapter

REPowerEU—the energy plan of the European Commission—considers energy saving as the quick, affordable and cheapest solution. Besides that, it promotes development of renewable energy sources and resource diversification. The Slovak government has been working on selecting the measures to invest in, within the new REPowerEU chapter. Our platform has supported this process by preparing the proposal with 5 concrete reforms and investments. In addition, several RRP calls were launched, including those for building renovation and construction, with the total allocation of approximately 2,6 bn. Euro. Pilot calls for complex renovation of single-family houses were also launched.

## 3/

### Emphasis on Savings in Public Buildings

For a long time, we have emphasized that governments should serve as a good example in public building renovation. However, it has not been the case so far. The public sector lags behind the private one when it comes to their buildings' renovations. If our country wants to achieve the ambitious climate change objectives, and get rid of fossil fuel dependency, RRP investments need to be allocated with more flexibility to more ambitious public building renovations. The Office of the Slovak President has announced the so called Green Presidential Seal, with which President Zuzana Čaputová wants to acknowledge ambitious public building renovations. The Prime Minister, Eduard Heger, has issued 'Decalogue' for public building managers, and the government has agreed on the goal of saving 15% of energy in public buildings.

## Snapshot of Our 2022 Activities

**We published 8 position papers and analyses.**

**We organized 2 expert round tables.**

**We organized 11 public events for 847 participants.**

**We completed dozens of working meetings.**

**We communicated our topics through almost 500 media outputs.**

**We reached out to thousands of new contacts via social networks.**

# Our Future Focus

## Our 2023 Priorities

### C4E Forum 2023 in Šamorín, Slovakia

The Slovak Republic will be hosting the prestigious European conference about energy efficiency. 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference C4E (Central and Eastern European Energy Efficiency Forum) will take place in Šamorín, Slovakia, from 23 to 26 May 2023. The event is organized by the Buildings for the Future Platform (B4F), in partnership with the Renovate Europe Campaign. The conference will address the topics of energy security.

*"We need to fundamentally re-evaluate our dependence on energy raw materials from Russia, we need to increase efforts to renovate buildings and save energy and heat, and last but not least, we need to innovate and modernize our energy industry. The C4E Forum 2023 conference, which we have the honour to co-organize, will be a good opportunity for dialogue, for identifying challenges, but also concrete solutions."*

*Katarina Nikodemova, Director of the  
Buildings for the Future*

### Agenda of Buildings to the Attention of Political Parties

For a long time, we have been working and advocating for buildings and energy efficiency to be on the agenda of the key political representatives. Parliamentary elections are planned in 2024 but there might be early elections already in 2023. In any case, we want to again push for the topics of good quality building renovations and construction

to become top political themes for the pre-election and the next election period, with the ambition to improve things.

### Functioning Support Programs for Ambitious Renovation Projects

Implementation of RRP, of the new European funds' calls, Operational Programme Slovakia, presents the opportunity to upgrade building renovations from the basic to the level of complex and ambitious renovations, with the quality worthy of the 21st century. Our goal with Eurofunds is that these are used to the greatest extent possible for buildings with an emphasis on efficiency (use of GES in combination with NFP), so they motivate to achieve the highest possible quality.

**In 2023 we celebrate our  
10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

### Good Quality and Ambitious Implementation of the EU Legislation

EC will pass the initiatives from the Fit for 55 package and from the Renovation Wave on to the Member states' level. For the building sector, the key will be the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings directive (EPBD). The aim of its revision is to increase both the renovation rate and energy savings. In the lights of the energy crises EPBD is a key directive for supporting the EU in achieving the decarbonized building fund.

# As Strong as Our Partners

In 2022, our activities were again supported by our long-term, as well as new partners. We have cooperated with the Slovak Climate Initiative, Visegrad Four countries, and with the international partners of the EU campaign **Renovate Europe**. Our platform represents 9 member associations, and we cooperate with 6 corporate partners.

As a member of the **Slovak Climate Initiative**, we establish further cooperation from the ranks of experts, political representatives and representatives of government institutions. We are trying to create opportunities to use the potential of the building sector to apply energy efficiency as one of the solutions to climate change and a means to meet climate goals.



*We thank the representatives of our member organizations and the members of the BPB Board of Directors for their support, guidance, valuable professional advice, practical experience and excellent cooperation.*

# Board of Directors

Peter **Robl**, *Chairman of the Board of Directors*

Pavol **Kukura**, *Slovak Council for Green Buildings*

Igor **Krajčovič**, *Association for the support of apartment building renovation*

Henrich **Piřko**, *Passive House Institute*

Daniel **Holler**, *SLOVENERGOokno—association of Slovak manufacturers and sellers of fillers for building holes and structures*

Alexander **Prizemin**, *Association of mineral insulation manufacturers*

Marcel **Lauko**, *Association of energy service providers*

Vladimír **Orovnický**, *Slovak Association for Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps*

Natália **řovkoplias**, *Citenergo*

Robert **řpaček**, *Slovak Technical University, Faculty of Architecture and Design*

## Contacts of the B4F team

Director, Katarína **Nikodemová**,  
[nikodemova@bpb.sk](mailto:nikodemova@bpb.sk)

Analyst, Richard **Paksi**, [paksi@bpb.sk](mailto:paksi@bpb.sk)

Event manager, Karina **Rosíková**,  
[rosikova@bpb.sk](mailto:rosikova@bpb.sk)



## Our Partners

**KNAUF**INSULATION

 **PSS**  
PRVÁ STAVEBNÁ  
SPORITELŇA

  
VÚB BANKA

**VELUX**®

*Danfoss*

**POLÁČEK&PARTNERS**

  
SAINT-GOBAIN

 European  
Climate  
Foundation

 Visegrad Fund

## Cooperation

 Slovak  
Climate  
Initiative

 ÚNIA MIEST  
SLOVENSKA

 **RENOVATE** EUROPE