



# Resource Efficiency Opportunities in the Building Sector

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# Resource consumption

- **Construction and use of buildings in the EU amounts for about:**
  - **1/2** of extracted materials
  - **1/2** of energy consumption
  - **1/3** of water consumption
  - **1/3** of waste generated

# Communication - overall aim

- Promote a more **efficient use of resources** in the construction and renovation of commercial, residential and public buildings
- **Reduce the overall environmental impact** throughout the life-cycle of buildings



# Barriers

- No common European understanding about "green" buildings
- Lack of **reliable, comparable and affordable data**, methods and tools
- Absence of guidance on how to **incorporate environmental considerations** in purchasing decisions

# Objective

- Influence decision-making along the life-cycle of buildings by **providing relevant and comparable information** regarding environmental performance

⇒ Assessment framework with **core indicators= "common language"**

# Features of assessment framework

- **Flexible** – to be integrated in existing assessment schemes or used on its own
- **Simple**– to provide limited, easily understandable but relevant and comparable data, also translating technical indicators into financial info, to encourage mainstream market to move towards better practice
- **Free** – to be used in decision-making by different actors and in policy-setting at various levels
- **Efficient** – increase the number of buildings assessed for their environmental performance, today < 1 %!

# Framework – aspects to consider

- Total energy use
- Material use
- Water consumption determined by building design

**Indoor  
comfort**

- Durability of construction products
- Recyclability and reusability of construction materials

**Use intensity of (mostly public) buildings, using the same building for different purposes during the day/week.**

**Management of construction and demolition waste**

# Benefits with framework

- **Common language, transparency**
- **Build-up of reliable and comparable data**
- Effective transfer of better and best practices
- Expand into more countries and markets
- Making the business case starts with good data
- Improve professional knowledge, advice to clients and informed decision-making on supply and demand side
- Provide public authorities with relevant data to support policy



# Development process

- **Two-three year timeline** for development of first set of indicators
- **Top-down** as well as **bottom-up** approach
- **Build on existing work** – technical standards, certification schemes, research projects, developments at international level
- **Co-operation** with stakeholders and Member States, different forms of consultation, necessary for quality and acceptance