

**Towards Pan-European Software for Building Energy Performance?**  
**Invitation to a workshop organised by CENSE**  
 29th of June / 11h00 to 16h30 - CEN Meeting Centre / Brussels

**Context**

The energy performance of buildings is a key energy policy concern for Europe (Commission, Member States), addressed by several Directives, notably the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). Buildings are responsible of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the total energy use in Europe, and the long term potential exists to cut consumption by half. To achieve the ambitious goals set up by the Commission, reliable calculation tools are needed to predict with a reasonable accuracy the performances of buildings to both satisfy minimum performance requirements for new and refurbished buildings and to provide energy rating certificate and recommendations for improvements generally. In France for example, 2 Million certificates are needed each year, so the scale of application is large.

The Directive defines general requirements for these processes, but details of transpositions of the Directive – including calculation procedures - are left to the Member States authorities. Despite of the availability of European Standards, developed to harmonise national transposition and although the small market size of some European countries would not seem to justify the development of national software tools, especially for more complex buildings, most are in the process of doing so.

As a result, there is a patchwork of overlapping national methods, frameworks and conventions. The consequences are difficulties to reach the targets of the Directive. This patchwork handicaps the dissemination of good practice and know-how, the circulation of products and services, the comparison of experiences.

Software companies could have interest developing software for the European Market that can be used within all national regulatory systems (e.g. compliance with the energy performance requirement, calculate energy performance certificates) and be linked to already existing design tools.

Although it might take some time to achieve, there could be benefits in having a Europe-wide framework for such calculation methods, and the accompanying conventions and quality assurance procedures. Of course, each country would set up the level of requirements, national input data and boundary conditions, but the methodology could be the same throughout Europe. Benefits could include more effective inter-state working, and more focussed development and feedback from practical experience.

**Objectives of the workshop**

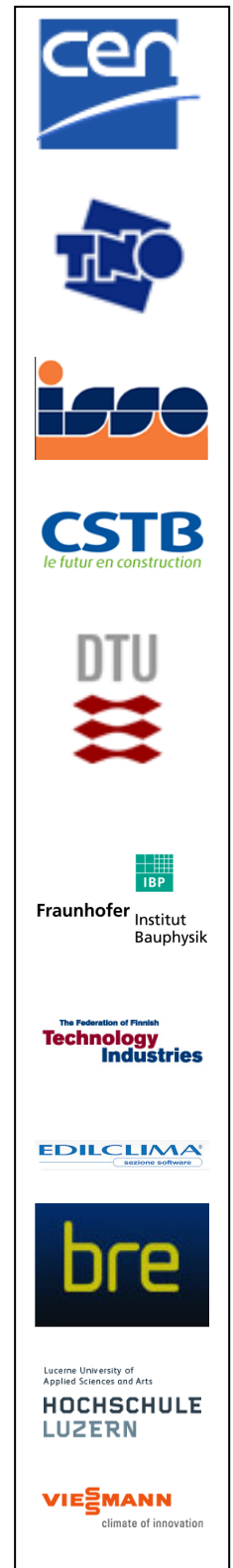
The purpose of this workshop is to explore these issues further, in the context of:

- software companies considering the regulatory market as an extension to existing design tools or e.g. as part of building stock maintenance tools,
- Member States, especially those who have not yet fully implemented the EPBD.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- to **inform** about the present legal situation and the use of such software in Europe
- to **exchange** views and opinions (interest on a common European method, linking regulation and design)
- to **discuss** and **identify common actions** to push forward the development and application of a European energy calculation.

The main objective is to identify if there is an interest of a unified framework and, if this is the case, how to organise to reach this target.



## Agenda of the workshop

### **Opening the workshop**

Gordon SUTHERLAND

Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) – European Commission,  
Project Officer

### **Information**

- Directives (EPBD, Energy Service Directive, Energy using Product Directive)  
Review of what the EPBD calls for in the way of calculation procedures
- Standardisation (CEN mandate 343; ISO)  
Structure of CEN standards
- Member States regulations  
Overview of the different ways how Member States interpreted EPBD requirements on calculation procedures, technically and organisationally (multiple acceptable methods, accreditation)

Johann ZIRNGIBL CSTB, France, Convenor CEN/TC 228/WG4, ISO/TC 205/WG9

Jaap HOGELING ISSO, Netherlands, Chair CEN/BT/TC 371

Roger HITCHIN CENSE project, United Kingdom

Laurent SOCAL CENSE project, Italy

### **Documentation:**

- The use of CEN standards to support the EPBD in the Member States  
CENSE Info Paper P90 ([www.iee-cense.eu](http://www.iee-cense.eu))
- Implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive:  
Country reports 2008 ([www.buildingsplatform.eu](http://www.buildingsplatform.eu))
- How to integrate CEN standards in national building regulations?  
The use of EN 15603. CENSE Info Paper P87 ([www.iee-cense.eu](http://www.iee-cense.eu))

### **Exchanging experiences, views and opinions**

Fears (concentration of companies), possibilities (EU software), market transparency

Discussion of pros and cons of a unified framework

Which tool (simplified – detailed), tool integration, interoperability

Free issue software and commercial interfaces, open source codes

Performance benchmarking of software, early avoidance of future market barriers

### **Discuss and identify common actions**

How to participate to standards development

Creating a European Network?

### **Language of the event:** English

### **Organiser – IEE CENSE project**

The aim of the project IEE-CENSE (October 2007 - March 2010) is to increase the awareness and effective use of the European (CEN) standards related to the EPBD in the EU Member States.

Main activities in the IEE CENSE project:

- To widely communicate the role, status and content of these standards; to provide guidance on the implementation.
- To collect comments and good practice examples from Member States aiming to remove barriers, to collect and secure results from relevant SAVE and FP6 projects.
- To prepare recommendations to CEN

### **CEN BT TF371 Project Committee on the EPBD**

CEN BT TF371 coordinates the work to realise a coherent set of CEN standards supporting the implementation of the EPBD in the EU member States. CEN standards are describing calculation procedures to be converted to operational software tools. CEN supports the organisation of this workshop on the Software use and development.



Fraunhofer Institut Bauphysik



Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts  
HOCHSCHULE  
LUZERN



## **Participation in the workshop - Important !**

The participation is free of charge. However due to limited space, access is by invitation only. The number of participants is limited and in principle priority is given to first responding persons.

After having answered by mail to this invitation to **both**  
[johann.zirngibl@cstb.fr](mailto:johann.zirngibl@cstb.fr) and [claudio.francois@cstb.fr](mailto:claudio.francois@cstb.fr)  
you will receive a mail confirming your participation.