

PROJECT 2

INSIDE LONGLIFE

Facts and figures

Some €2.4 million is being invested in the Longlife project which began in early 2009 and is set to run until the end of 2011.

Setting the standard for buildings of the future

With residential buildings responsible for 40% of Europe's produced energy and CO₂ emissions, the potential for energy saving is huge. The Longlife project, which is supported by the Baltic Sea Region Programme (BSRP), has stepped in to see how the combined efforts of Denmark, Lithuania, Poland and Germany can make a difference.

The BSRP promotes regional development through transnational cooperation. Eleven countries around the Baltic Sea work together to find joint solutions to common problems. We caught up with Longlife project communication director, Ms Maria-Ilona Kiefel to find out about their progress over the last six months.

How has the project evolved since we last spoke?

After much analysis and comparison, benchmarks for a Longlife building were developed. The partners are now preparing a common prototype residential building to be made up of building blocks. These will be placed in a catalogue database, which forms the complete prototype. In this way, partners from each country can build pilot projects suitable to their local area.

What do you see as being the direct benefits of this harmonisation?

By harmonising construction standards in the Baltic Sea Region, a common BSR market can become a reality. The standards will help to minimise operational costs in the lifecycle of our buildings. Longlife is also now in contact with other projects working towards the same goal of energy efficiency. We are transforming these contacts into an energy cluster in the BSR.

That sounds ideal, have you had to overcome any setbacks along the way?

Unfortunately, yes, as we lost certain associates through the economic crisis. The reorganisation that this then entailed was substantial. Thankfully, the remaining partners' motivation really held it all together. We also came across organisations interested in working alongside the national teams. Our tightly knit partnerships and close cooperation helped us to meet our targets.

What key lessons would you say you've learned about running a regional policy project?

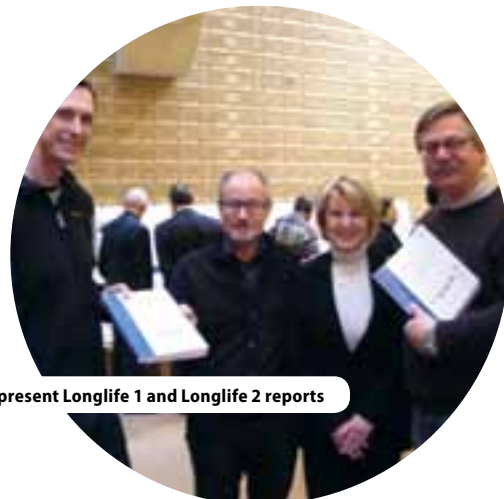
I've learned that it is possible to put together a transnational network which presents limited risk to the participating partners, in spite of hiccups along the way. On the downside, I would say that small partners might find it difficult to run such a project, as they are unlikely to have enough circulating assets.

What are Longlife's remaining developments?

We are now preparing the Longlife prototype, the results of which will be presented at our final conference in November 2011 in Potsdam Germany. Of course, we'll be inviting other energy cluster projects to increase the likelihood of further collaboration in the Baltic Sea Region.

FIND OUT MORE

www.longlife-world.eu/project_en.html



Project participants present Longlife 1 and Longlife 2 reports