

Conference

# Digitalisation of strategies for the decarbonisation of the residential building stock

2 June 2022

Teatre Unió, Sant Cugat del Vallès

<https://retabit.es/es/1a-jornada-retabit-2/>

Video of the session:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmEg\\_Ph9qwl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmEg_Ph9qwl)

On 2 June 2022, the first conference organised within the framework of the Retabit project to discuss the needs of the actors involved in the development of building renovation plans. was held at the Teatre Unió in Sant Cugat del Vallès.

The conference brought together representatives of the Institut Català de l'Energia (ICAEN), the Diputació de Barcelona (DiBA), the municipalities of Sant Cugat del Vallès and Rubí, as well as members of the Institut Valencià de l'Edificació (IVE) and the research teams of ARC La Salle and the Institut de Recerca en Energia de Catalunya (IREC), which participate in the Retabit project.

On behalf of **ARC La Salle**, the research group coordinating **Retabit**, Leandro Madrazo presented the project and its objectives. Building renovation has become a central issue in the European strategy to achieve climate neutrality by 2055 (Green Deal, Fit for 55, Renovation Wave). Increasing the annual renovation rate currently by 1% on average in Europe is key to achieving this target. In order to develop large-scale renovation programmes, stakeholders from both the public and private sectors need information to select areas and buildings for intervention, and to assess their impact. Retabit is developing a data-driven services platform to provide them with this information, over time. In order to create the platform, it is important to hold meetings such as this one, which provide first-hand knowledge of the needs of the actors involved in building retrofitting programmes.

The session programme was moderated by Jordi Pascual, researcher at IREC.

**Ainhoa Mata, from the Institut Català de l'Energia (ICAEN)**, presented the new European directives on energy efficiency in the building sector and the procedures used by ICAEN to collect and share information on energy certificates. One of the objectives of the certificates is that citizens can know the state of the buildings. In addition, private companies can access data to understand the needs of buildings and their inhabitants. Ainhoa presented the activities that are being carried out to promote the energy renovation of buildings and highlighted the social, economic and regulatory barriers that hinder their implementation. She also presented some of the solutions proposed by ICAEN to increase the rate of refurbished buildings: empowering citizens, one-stop-shop, tax exemptions and fostering communication between administrations.

**Anna Garcia, from the Diputació de Barcelona (DiBA)**, presented the challenges and needs of the housing policies carried out by this organisation. The housing office supports housing and urban planning services and promotes building rehabilitation and urban regeneration activities in order to create a network of local services for local councils. Its main challenge is to identify the areas of intervention with the greatest need for rehabilitation, taking into account environmental, social and economic factors. Anna stressed the need for accessible information in the right format to be able to assess the characteristics of the housing stock in order to be able to take appropriate measures.

**Marta Oliver, from Sant Cugat del Vallès city council,** showed the work the municipality is carrying out to improve energy efficiency and achieve sustainability targets. The municipality supports tax reductions for energy efficient housing, favours renewable installations and shared installations. However, the municipality alone cannot drive the change that is needed; collaboration with society is necessary. That is why the climate emergency plan (2019-2023) was created with the participation of citizens. Marta presented the European projects in which the municipality participates, CESBA MED and Save the Homes, dedicated to urban sustainability and housing rehabilitation.

**Álvaro Sicilia, from the ARC La Salle research group,** presented the OpenSantCugat platform, developed through a collaboration agreement with the city council. The platform integrates data generated by municipal services with open data provided by public administrations with the aim of facilitating the management and access to data for council technicians, citizens and companies.

**Ana Sanchís, from the Institut Valencià de l'Edificació,** showed the tools they are developing for energy renovation in the framework of the European projects Save the Homes and re-MODULEES. There are barriers to energy renovation: people are reluctant, the market is fragmented, there is a lack of trust and information. To alleviate the lack of information, Renoveu has been created, which allows the approximate calculation of the energy consumption of any building in the Valencian Community and facilitates improvement measures to save energy and increase comfort. Ana also presented the tool being developed in the re-MODULEES project, which will go beyond Renoveu, offering thematic maps and ROI analysis. The ultimate goal is for these tools to be part of the one-stop-shop services, where citizens and businesses can go for guidance.

**Josep Vives, from Rubí City Council,** presented the Rubí Brilla 2030 master plan, whose objectives are the reduction of greenhouse gases, the increase of energy efficiency and the production of energy from renewable sources. Josep shared his experiences on the collection and use of consumption data in Rubí households and reflected on the role of administrations and distribution companies in the management of citizens' data. In terms of the technological challenges facing administrations, he highlighted the need for technicians who can extract knowledge from data. This means investing more in people and less in technology.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion with the participants. Some of the issues that were addressed were the following:

- The need to organise regular meetings with rehabilitation stakeholders (public and private) and citizens.
- The importance of having accurate and relevant information on grants and subsidies through tools to identify areas of action taking into account social, economic and environmental factors and their interrelation.
- Although open data platforms are being used (SITMUN, in the DIBA; ICAEN energy certificates), there is still a need for data integration, e.g. to link cadastre data with energy certificates and technical building inspections.
- The platforms to be developed must be interoperable and scalable, adaptable to the needs of the various administrations and the private sector. They must remain operational over time in order to be able to carry out comparative analyses of the improvements made to the building stock over time. Data are the basis of the platforms; they must be reliable and accessible, also over time.
- Potential users of building renovation information systems include those who act as mediators between administrations and citizens: installers of equipment to improve efficiency, companies involved in renovation.
- Citizens' interest in energy renovation of buildings and dwellings is low. To engage them, it is necessary to address issues of direct concern to them, such as comfort and health. In addition, municipalities and county councils should collaborate more in order to speed up procedures for citizens.