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**KNAUF**INSULATION

# SUSTAINABLE BUILDING SHOWCASE

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## FUTURE LEGISLATION HOPES

"Our hope is that research gathered from our pilot project will contribute to creating the foundations for new European legislation on sustainable buildings. Level(s) is an unmissable opportunity and I would encourage everyone to get involved in this paradigm shift of the industry."

Vincent Briard, our Sustainability and Product Regulatory Affairs Director

Our new Knauf Insulation Experience Center is playing a key role in a new era of sustainable buildings in Europe.

Our new Knauf Insulation Experience Center in Slovenia was designed from the beginning to demonstrate our pioneering approach to the future of sustainable building.

Using our company's most innovative solutions – from Urbanscape® Green Roof to Heraklith Wood Wool, Knauf Gypsum, Knauf AMF products and other partners – we challenged ourselves to create the first new built green building in Slovenia to be fully certified by DGNB.

At the same time we took up the unmissable opportunity to contribute research to the European Commission's ground-breaking Level(s) sustainable buildings assessment framework – an initiative that many stakeholders, including Knauf Insulation, hope will pave the way for future Europe-wide building legislation.

This initiative from the European Commission is significant because it aims to 'mainstream' building sustainability by unlocking the data needed to understand the environmental, social and economic impact of buildings across their entire life cycle and provide that information in a universally accessible form.

At present only 1% of buildings in Europe are sustainability assessed and those involved in Level(s) project want this process to become an integral part of the mass market.

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

In Europe buildings produce 36% of CO<sub>2</sub>, consume half of all extracted materials, use 40% of Europe's energy and generate a third of all waste. Level(s) could pave the way for setting-up national minimum requirements for sustainable buildings. At Knauf Insulation we believe it is vital to contribute to this initiative and share what we have learned.

In 2018 we held a high-level workshop in Slovenia and invited sustainable building experts and members from the European Commission, Green Building Council Slovenia, ERN World Green Building Council, the DGNB Green Building Rating System, Slovenian policy makers and specialists that work on the centre.

There was a lot of knowledge to share. More than a hundred people attended.

**BEYOND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

"Buildings such as the Knauf Insulation Experience Center help start a meaningful conversation with policy-makers, planners and architects about what a sustainable building can be. It demonstrates in reality, for instance, that taking a full life cycle approach is not expensive because, ultimately, the long-term benefits far outweigh the initial expense."

Anna Braune, Director of Research and Development of the German Sustainable Building Council, DGNB

**POTENTIAL FOR NEW NATIONAL REGULATION**

"We are delighted to observe this Knauf Insulation pilot project from initial design to final completion. This project represents a reality check for the application of new sustainability requirements in our country."

Saša Galonja, Head of Construction Division Spatial Planning, Construction and Housing Directorate at the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

**VITAL LIFE CYCLE INSIGHT**

"The environmental impact of a building is not just during its use phase. An understanding of the full life cycle of every building stage is vital. Level(s) underlines this approach."

Jean-Pierre Pigeolet, our Products and Buildings Sustainability Manager

**OUR PIONEERING APPROACH**

"From the beginning Knauf Insulation has supported our Level(s) work and has been extremely thorough. The center is significant because it is one of the first to contribute to Level(s) and being the first always sends a stronger signal than being the 150th – you are showing others the way."

Josefina Lindblom, European Commission's DG Environment, Unit Eco-Innovation and Circular Economy



**NEW LESSONS TO SHARE**

"No other building in the country comes close to the standards of the Knauf Insulation Experience Center. I think it has been an amazing experience education for everyone involved because the scope has been so wide and the attention to detail has been so demanding."

Primož Bernard, who is in charge of technical support for the centre's construction

**SETTING A NATIONAL BENCHMARK**

"The Knauf Insulation Experience Center is a benchmark for possible projects in Slovenia through certification-related activities such as life cycle assessment, life cycle costing or an overview of embedded materials. I hope the project will contribute to future sustainable construction measures in Slovenia."

Robert Smodiš, DGNB Assessor

**GLOBAL IMPACT**

"Level(s) and the Knauf Insulation Center goes to the heart of what the EU has to offer its citizens and to the global agenda. Our sector is uniquely positioned to help society achieve the aims of the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sustainability Goals of the United Nations."

James Drinkwater, Director of the Europe Regional Network of the World Green Building Council

**KNOWLEDGE CENTRE**

"The new building will not only showcase our ground-breaking solutions but also provide a centre for training, demonstrations and the sharing of expertise and experience. The aim is to become a focal point for the mainstreaming of best sustainable building practices – sharing insight with external as well as internal stakeholders."

Barbara Hafner, our Marketing Director Construction Slovenia & Public Relations System Division

## WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM OUR **LEVEL(S)** **PILOT PROJECT**

By Domen Ivanšek, Technical customer support at Knauf Insulation in Slovenia

- It is a great teacher: detailed sustainability documentation is required for all products and systems, health and safety procedures have to be followed meticulously, installer processes have to be best practice and everything must be photographed. Challenges are inevitable, but this is the cutting edge of sustainable building so there is a lot to learn.
- It is a great showcase: to achieve great results, you need great products that is why we have incorporated the best of our solutions – from Urbanscape® to Heraklith – into the building. There are even QR codes on the wall that reveal which products we installed inside.
- It is a great design challenge: the centre has been a wonderful opportunity to deepen our Building Information Modelling expertise using the latest software. To avoid design errors we used virtual glasses to assess interior dimensions
- It is great to count the cost: life cycle costing is a growing trend as it becomes increasingly important to demonstrate the long-term return on investment of sustainable buildings. Again here our knowledge has been deepened.



## Knauf Insulation Manufacturing Facilities

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