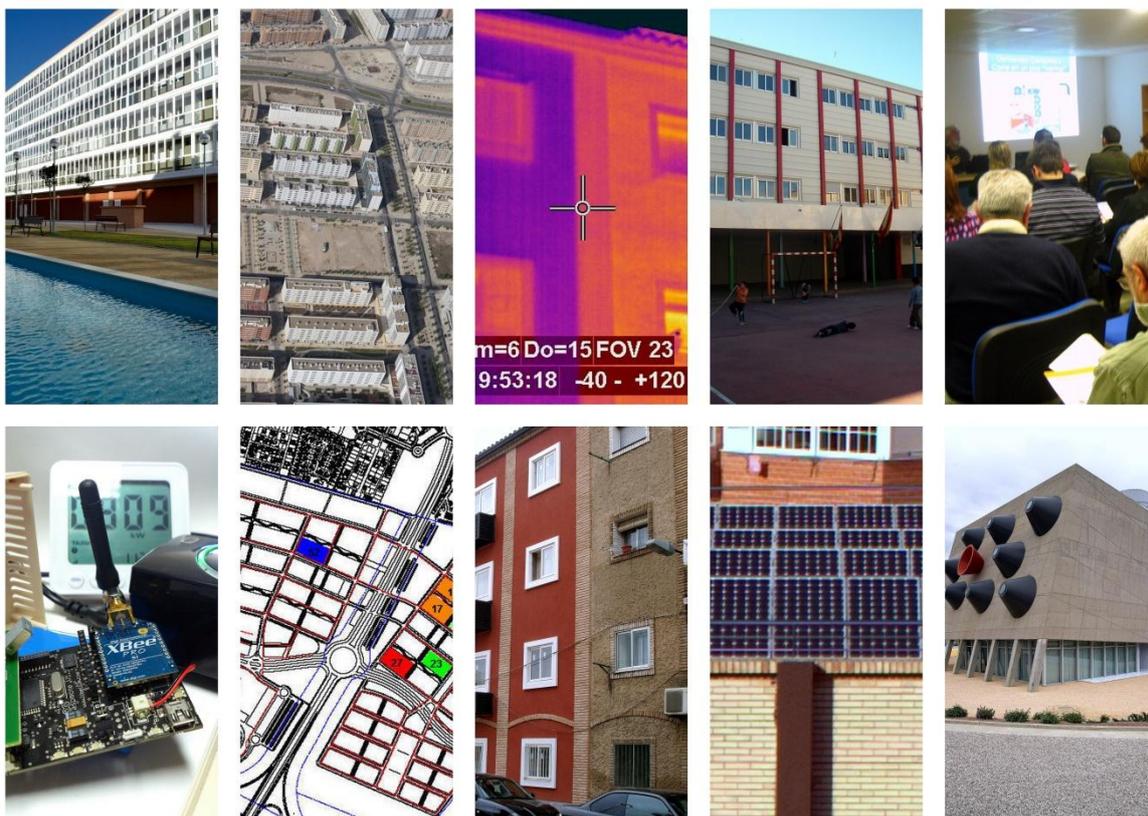


URBAN PLANNING AND
SUSTAINABLE REFURBISHMENT

RENAISSANCE PROJECT
Final conference, Zaragoza

CONCLUSIONS

2012 June 4th and 5th, Zaragoza
Paraninfo de la Universidad de Zaragoza.
Plaza de Basilio Paraíso, 4.



After...

...more than one million of square meters built, 14.122 refurbished, one school refurbished, one urban sustainability center built...

...more than 320 monitored housings, 1600 analyzed, meetings, monthly workshops with neighbors and technicians, ...

...7 project years in Zaragoza, Lyon (France) y Lombardia (Italy)...

Más información: <http://renaissance.unizar.es>



Europeans face many challenges related to climate change effects in the next decades. At the same time, Europe will need to import more and more energy, while fossil combustibles reserves decrease and price reach unprecedented values. Many people think that we will not be able to face these challenges. They are the same ones that think that nothing can be done individually in order to change things. Nevertheless, Renaissance Project has proved that we all together may make different things, using energy more efficiently. Reducing the energy amount that we use without losing thermal comfort and avoiding energy waste is an attitude that the project has proven to be possible with excellent results. So:

- ❖ Renaissance Project, at the end of the way, proves that its **objectives of energy saving and efficiency have been accomplished** and even overpass the initial objectives of CONCERTO and the Mayors Pact 20+20+20.
- ❖ Once again, the **collaboration among different public and private agents** (public managers, university, users and neighbors, constructors, promoters, etc...) proves to be the best way to define solid processes of citizen participation that turn to produce the good obtained results.
- ❖ In this collaboration context, the **intervention of European Union** through initiatives such as **CONCERTO**, plays the role of **motivating lever** of political authorities, technical staffs, promoters, constructors and even neighbors.
- ❖ **The potential reached on Renaissance Project for its extension and replicability** in new scenarios needs the European Union to start up one group of programs in order to favor experience replicability processes and their tracking and dissemination.
- ❖ One of the conclusions in the Conference-Debate organized by IDAE in GENERA (Madrid) was **the necessity of integrating energy into urban planning**. The results presented in this conference may only stress this conclusion that we make ours.
- ❖ Estos resultados muestran asimismo la necesidad de **reforzar los actuales escenarios de certificación**, altamente ineficaces y centrados en revisiones meramente documentales, incorporando un mayor seguimiento de los proyectos de edificación mediante acciones de verificación en la fase constructiva y post-ocupación.
- ❖ In Renaissance Project conclusions, one model of sustainability evaluation for urban plannings is collected. According to this, we consider **the creation of a quality seal that verifies future urban planning actuations sustainability degree** is a must.

- ❖ Thanks to the funding of Renaissance Project, **we could experiment on new construction and installations solutions, adapted to the economic and technical requirements for social housings in Spain** and proving their feasibility and that they may meet architecture quality, as well as be integrated in modern environmentally sustainable architecture.
- ❖ As far as already constructed buildings are concerned, **the refurbishment model we proposed has been consolidated** in order to improve energy saving, make installation more efficient and eliminate architectonic barriers. This has encouraged other urban groups in the neighborhood to start a similar work and has shown to have a great local, regional and national impact as pioneer experience.
- ❖ The work in refurbishment of Renaissance Project has allowed a **better identification of existing legal and economic barriers**, moving the analysis to other organisms such as local, regional and national administrations for their elimination. Some local regulations have been modified after the acquired experiences, which have also been sent to regional and national organism for their modifications.
- ❖ Also, the project has allowed us to check that **current economic difficulties may endanger the use of common installations** (boilers, solar panels, etc.) due to the increases in slowness in paying inside the communities. Some communities are bringing back private and inefficient systems for heating just not to assume the unpaid fees of the common ones. Thus, it is very important for public administrations to reflect and work on possible alternatives to keep on encouraging refurbishment processes, their tracking and awareness activities in order to adapt to current context where individual saving is the main criterion.
- ❖ **The responsibility and involvement of neighbors for reaching an adequate consumption according to the new performance of bioclimatic buildings is an evident necessity as shown in Renaissance Project results.** The combination of thermal and electrical energy consumptions data with their visualization by means of WiFi systems is a powerful tool to facilitate this involvement, must it must be complemented with an adequate advising by ESCos which should consider technical and sociological aspects all together.

Finally,

- ❖ **The Project has proven the role of education as behavior change and results collecting major factor.** Saving energy does not mean giving up certain activities. On the other hand, new technologies and a more effective behavior by users will bring more chances to improve their life conditions, not to decrease their comfort conditions. Anyway, results show that there is a long way ahead in order to achieve that neighbors involvement and construction quality reach the sustainability objectives that our planet needs. According to this, one project like Renaissance means the configuration of “living labs”, with an experimental proven value that should allow different levels authorities (from local scales to EU) to gather high value information for future regulation actions

<http://www.renaissance-project.eu/>

Zaragoza, June 2012