EU support for innovation and market uptake in smart buildings

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SUMMARY

The opening keynote will present an overview of the current status and future opportunities for smart buildings in Europe, in the context of the transition to more sustainable use of energy. In 2017 EASME mapped the activities of projects working on smart buildings and the extent of EU support given under the Horizon 2020 framework programme. The results were presented at the conference Sustainable Places 2017 at Teeside University (UK) and published the same year in a special issue of the peer reviewed journal *Buildings*. Using the same methodology, updated data for 2018 is here presented along with an analysis of current research and innovation projects supported by the programme.

KEYWORDS

smart buildings; energy efficiency; EPBD; Horizon 2020

The European Commission's Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) manages parts of the Horizon 2020 framework programme for research, innovation and market uptake (2014-2020) , including for energy efficiency in the buildings sector. The Agency supports projects under this programme and ensures that their results are fed to policymaking teams within the European Commission. With the adoption of the revisions to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) in 2018, smart buildings have been given a more prominent place in European energy efficiency policy. The revisions include provision for the Commission to establish a common European scheme for rating the smart readiness of buildings, optional for Member States .

Research carried out by EASME (Moseley, 2017) showed that the Horizon 2020 programme was supporting, since its inception in 2014, some 42 projects carrying out tasks related to smart buildings, in the context of a transition to more sustainable use of energy . This support included around 259 million Euros of EU funding spread across a variety of topics and calls for proposals. The data was accessed via manual searches of the European Commission's CORDIS database. EASME conducted further searches in June 2018 to produce an updated dataset. The new data reveals that 64 Horizon 2020 projects are active in this subject area since the programme began in 2014, which is an increase of some 50% over the previous year's total. The total budget costs of these 64 projects amount to 547.9m Euros, of which the EU contribution is 446.7m Euros. The 64 projects are spread across 35 funding topics and 29 calls for proposals. The project coordinators are based in 14 different countries; these are the same 14 countries as those found in the previous year's search. Close to half a billion Euros of EU grant funding has been mobilised, the majority of this coming from EU funds. Indeed, the pace of funding for smart buildings is accelerating. This trend looks set to continue, with smart buildings becoming more deeply embedded in EU legislation through the revision to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

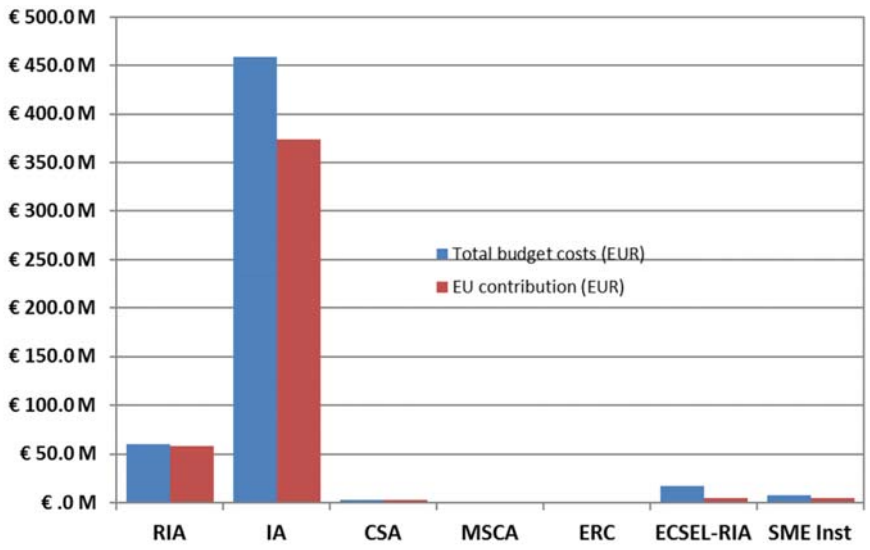

Figure 1: Total budget costs and EU funding for projects working on smart buildings. "RIA" = Research and Innovation Action; "IA" = Innovation Action; "CSA" = Coordination and Support Action; "MSCA" = Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange; "ERC = European Research Council Proof of Concept Grant; eECSEL-RIAe = European Components and Systems for European Leadership – Research and Innovation Action; "SME Inst" = SME Instrument Phase 2.

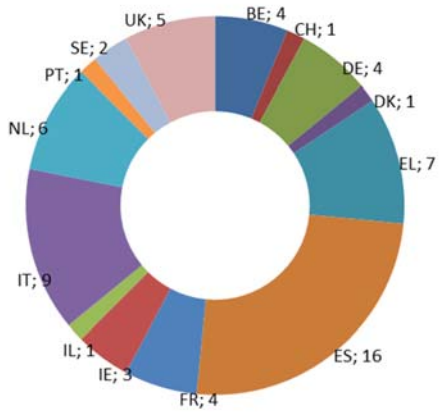

Figure 2: Number of projects per coordinator's country

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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2 REFERENCES

Moseley, P. (2017). *EU Support for Innovation and Market Uptake in Smart Buildings under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.* Buildings 2017, 7(4), 105; https://doi.org/10.3390/buildings7040105