Building renovation roadmaps must go deep!

A recent report by Ecofys shows that Member States must choose an ambitious path for their long-term building renovation roadmaps - this will provide enormous environmental benefits, huge energy savings and massive job creation at costs similar to other, less well designed options.

Eurima published today a new Ecofys study entitled “Renovation Tracks for Europe up to 2050: Building renovation in Europe - what are the choices?”

The study comes at an especially critical moment for building renovation policies at EU and national level: The European Commission’s “Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050” has established a long-term objective of decreasing CO₂ emission levels for the building sector by 88-91% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. In addition, the recent EU’s Energy Efficiency Directive requires EU Member States to develop long-term strategies for the renovation of their national stock of public and private residential and commercial buildings.

In this context, the study analyses and compares three possible ways forward (called “Tracks”) for the renovation of the EU’s building stock, with a long-term 2050 horizon:

- **Track 1**: Shallow renovation at a quick pace (3% yearly retrofit rate) with a low contribution from renewables
- **Track 2**: Shallow renovation at a moderate pace (2.3% yearly retrofit rate) with high use of renewable energy
- **Track 3**: Deep renovation at a moderate pace (2.3% yearly retrofit rate) with high energy efficiency ambition and high use of renewable energy

The comparison illustrates mitigation of CO₂ emissions, energy savings, financial impacts and effects on employment for each of the Tracks. The results are straightforward:

- **Track 1** (shallow renovation) clearly misses the CO₂ emission reduction target and provides poor results on reduction of final energy consumption (only -32%), while it does not offer any substantial economic advantage compared to Track 3 and creates considerably fewer jobs.
- **Track 2** (shallow renovation and high use of renewable energy) meets the CO₂ target, but shows significantly lower energy savings and higher resulting costs than Track 3, and falls mid-way on potential for job creation.
- **Track 3** (deep renovation) achieves the best results in terms of CO₂ emission reduction and energy savings, while showing similar total costs to Track 1 in the long term and providing substantially more jobs than the other two Tracks.

“The recently adopted Directive on Energy Efficiency puts national, regional and local authorities in front of a critical choice to make about which renovation path to follow” says Jan te Bos, Eurima’s Director General. “This report clearly shows that the most cost-effective way to reach better results for the environment, the economy and society as a whole is a well-designed long-term roadmap for the deep renovation of the building stock. Member States need to start designing such roadmaps now in order to enable all actors to plan ahead, renovate right and go deep”.

To see the full study and summary leaflet go to: [www.eurima.org](http://www.eurima.org)

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