



Ekubirojs

Annual impact report 2022

Mission

Ēkubirojs rethinks cities. We advocate for evidence based-policy and develop projects that connect people, drive local economies, and lower CO2. As an NGO, we are committed to rejuvenate urban infrastructure and its social fabric. Our One-Stop-Shop aims for impact where it matters: our homes, delivering guaranteed Safety, Health and Comfort - long term.

HOW

Citizen-driven, we conduct multidisciplinary research, lead engaging communication campaigns, build strong networks, and implement practical urban projects, including deep Energy Efficiency priority (dEEp) through our One-Stop-Shop (OSS).

Vision

Ēkubirojs re-imagines urban life. We are committed to creating inclusive neighbourhoods — a people-planet approach by building collaboration and designing services with stakeholders. At Ēkubirojs, we advocate for the right of each to enjoy where they live, love, work and play. Why? Because good places build local economies, civic engagement, lower CO2 emissions - better lives.

We are committed to shaping a new urban future that guarantees the quality of life while balancing planetary resources and needs.

We believe that through projects, working directly in neighbourhoods, supporting collective action by communities, and collaborating with cities while advocating with policymakers, we can co-create well-being for all citizens throughout the urban environment.

Values

- Build a home: we work to turn buildings into homes and to support each one in improving their home.
- Be transparent: to build trust and guarantee collaboration and efficiency, we work to make the building renovation processes more transparent.
- Keep it simple: we make sure our solutions are easy to understand and to implement, and decrease the costs for all involved parties.
- Scale-up: all our solutions are developed with the intention of being scalable and allowing scalability for the involved stakeholders.

Sustainable Development Goals

In order to address the effects of our work on local communities and further centre it on people and their living circumstances, as an NGO, we have integrated four Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) into our business strategy.

SDG 3: Good health and well-being

Promoting wellbeing at all ages and maintaining healthy lives are essential for sustainable development. Since people spend 20 hours each day on average in homes and public spaces, buildings in particular have a substantial, if sometimes overlooked, influence on occupants' physical and mental health. Anxiety and depression, asthma and cardiovascular diseases are brought on by factors including poor indoor air quality, chemical pollution, noise from passing vehicles, inadequate ventilation, and temperature extremes¹. Affordable, high-quality homes with good energy efficiency and ventilation have the potential to significantly enhance people's health and wellbeing.

SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy

Global development in the twenty-first century depends on having access to affordable, dependable, cutting-edge energy. Due to the war in Ukraine and sanctions, the EU has been experiencing a serious energy crisis this year, which has resulted in skyrocketing utility costs, and caused the rise of energy poverty. As a result, people are being compelled to drastically alter their daily lives. Building refurbishment can have a significant impact on energy efficiency, thus helping residents maintain a comfortable lifestyle without compromising their budget.

SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Infrastructure that is well-developed and diverse in industry helps economies recover more quickly. The modern infrastructure and industry need to be modernised to face future challenges. In order to do this, we must support cutting-edge, environmentally friendly technology and guarantee that everyone has equitable access to information

¹ MacNaughton, P., Satish, U., Laurent, J. G. C., Flanigan, S., Vallarino, J., Coull, B., ... Allen, J. G. (2017). The impact of working in a green certified building on cognitive function and health. *Building and Environment*, 114, 178–186. doi:10.1016/j.buildenv.2016.11

and financial markets.² This will lead to prosperity, the creation of employment, and the creation of a society that is both stable and successful.

SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities

Accelerated urbanisation has led to a number of issues, including an increase in slum dwellers, increased air pollution, a lack of vital infrastructure and services, and unchecked urban sprawl that renders cities more vulnerable to disasters. A just, inclusive, and resilient society may be produced by making investments in structures. Climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts should be centred on people and communities. Buildings provide a huge investment opportunity to enhance social resilience, health, and quality of life for all communities, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable populations.

SDG 13: Climate action

2020 saw record-breaking global greenhouse gas concentrations, and recent data suggests that this trend may continue. When these concentrations rise, so does the Earth's temperature. About 1.1°C has been added to pre-industrial levels by 2021's average global temperature (from 1850 to 1900). From 2015 to 2021, we had the seven warmest years ever recorded. For the sake of the environment's health as well as our own, greener construction techniques are crucial. In order to prevent global warming to 1.5°C, it is expected that the global decarbonization objective of a 7.6% annual CO2 emissions reduction will be achieved.³ The world's annual CO2 emissions might be decreased by 6.78% with renovations to the existing building stock.⁴



² "How Does Infrastructure Support Sustainable Growth?" (World Bank Blogs, April 18, 2022)

<<https://blogs.worldbank.org/digital-development/how-does-infrastructure-support-sustainable-growth>>.

³ "2021 One of the Seven Warmest Years on Record, WMO Consolidated Data Shows" (World Meteorological Organization, January 17, 2022)

<<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/2021-one-of-seven-warmest-years-record-wmo-consolidated-data-shows>>

⁴ Asdrubali, F., Desideri, U. (2019) Handbook of Energy Efficiency in Buildings, Butterworth-Heinemann, ISBN 9780128128176, <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-812817-6.00042-5>.

Issues we are targeting

Slow renovation rate in Latvia

Only 10% of all Soviet-era homes in need of refurbishment have been renovated and insulated in Latvia⁵. There are not enough people who believe the approach will provide significant results, and the general public is still sceptical. In Latvia, there is a dearth of quick and effective decision-making systems, it is solely the apartment owners' obligation to take care of the house. Of course, it goes without saying that individuals need to exercise responsibility and care for their real estate. However, it can be challenging for apartment owners to comprehend the value of collective decision-making since they sometimes do not view the home as the common property of all the tenants. When it comes to making choices and committing to large quantities of money spent on illogical, technically challenging things, they are left to their own devices, which drastically slows down, or even completely stops the renovation process.

Energy poverty

About 8% of Europeans have had trouble keeping their houses warm enough in 2020.⁶ Energy poverty is a complex phenomena that is thought to be brought on by a combination of low income, high energy costs, and inadequate building energy efficiency. In 2022, due to Russian gas supply decrease, energy wholesale costs have soared by as much as 15 times since the beginning of 2021⁷, significantly impacting both families and businesses. Investments in building renovations increase energy efficiency and can lower energy consumption, making them an efficient solution to lessen the impact of the energy crisis.

⁵ "Soviet Buildings: Serious Renovation Needed, Scarce Funds Allocated" (Soviet buildings: serious renovation needed, scarce funds allocated / Article, February 5, 2021)
<<https://eng.lsm.lv/article/economy/economy/soviet-buildings-serious-renovation-needed-scarce-funds-allocated.a391710/>>.

⁶ "8% of EU Population Unable to Keep Home Adequately Warm" (8% of EU population unable to keep home adequately warm - Products Eurostat News - Eurostat)
<<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20211105-1>>

⁷ "Beating the European Energy Crisis" (IMF, December 1, 2022)
<<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2022/12/beating-the-european-energy-crisis-Zettelmeyer>>.

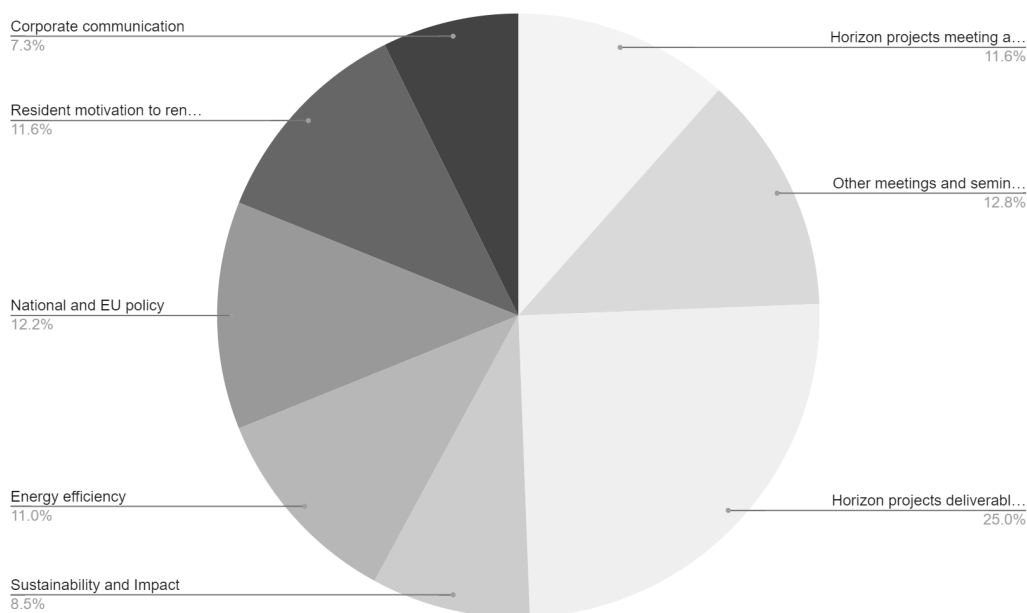
Low willingness to participate in renovation projects

Many individuals are unaware that the home they reside in belongs to them and that it is them, not the government or the property management, who are in charge of maintaining it. People frequently are unaware of how their payments will alter or how much they will have to pay. The majority of the time, lack of knowledge is why people choose not to participate in renovation projects.

Impact in numbers

Digital engagement

In 2022, Ēkubirojs digital content reached 34546 individuals. From the total number of reach, 47.05% came from Facebook, 30.08% from Twitter, 22.40% from LinkedIn, and 0.47% from Instagram. The topics of engagement are described in the following figure. In total, 36.6% of the communication activities were related to Horizon 2020 projects, whereas 65.4% were related to non-project activities. In July 2022, Ēkubirojs launched a LinkedIn newsletter to communicate the result of the research activities. Since then, 323 individuals have read the newsletter related to energy poverty, climate activism, and dependency on fossil fuels from Russia.



Physical engagement

A total of 19 buildings were reached to promote the idea to renovate their building. With the organised in-person meetings, this accounts for 660 households or 1422 individuals reached. The residents were reached by presentations and physical materials such as booklets and flyers. Separately, a one-mass survey was conducted.

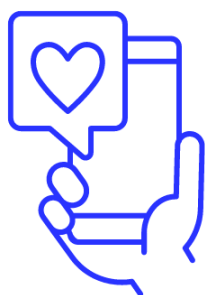
The residents of 13 already renovated buildings in three cities were reached to understand their perception of the buildings. A total of 88 households were surveyed with the results being published in 2023.

Facilitation of the dialogue

In 2022, Ēkubirojs participated in 10 events with a total of 395+ participants. The topics of events included energy efficiency, building renovation, One-Stop-Shop facilitation and operation, urban development, SUNShINE platform, and sustainability and impact. As one of the events, Ēkubirojs participated in the New European Bauhaus Fair, in which we presented the activities of the One-Stop-Shop created within the EUROPA project and were available for discussions on the matter.

Support of the buildings

During this year, the preparation of one project for the building with 22 households was undertaken. Unfortunately, due to the decision of the residents, the project went in another direction without Ēkubirojs.



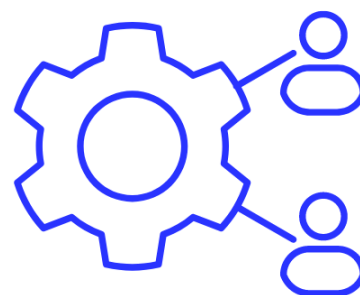
Total online reach
34546 individuals



Total offline reach
660 households



Participation in
10 events



1 building
supported

Our action

Projects

To facilitate our actions as an organisation in line with the mission and vision, we are participating in several projects. In our action, we proceed with both the national and European levels to address the issues and co-create in both dimensions. This enables the complex operational framework that supports different stakeholders and further enriches the knowledge and skills the organisation can provide.

Small-scale projects

In 2023, one small scale project is currently in the planning stages supported by the Society Integration Foundation. To address the concerns of the residents in the facilitation of the energy renovation process, the project “Energoefektivitātes telts” will create “tent days” in 8 Latvian cities to provide on hands support to the citizens and answer general questions on the matter. To go in-hand with it, a media campaign including a podcast mini-series will provide further explanations and information regarding the different aspects of renovation of the multifamily dwellings. The goal of the project is to increase the citizen’s knowledge on energy efficiency and link it to more broad issues the residents face in everyday life.

Active Horizon 2020 projects:

Project	FinEERGo-Dom	Europa	UP-Stairs
Summary of the project	The project refines and implements sustainable financing schemes for energy efficiency and renewable energy in guaranteed dEEp renovations of buildings in Poland, Austria, Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania.	The project aims to develop an Energy Efficiency Subscription (EES) ensuring guaranteed energy savings from the deep renovation of residential buildings, which will consider the standards for products and expertise. In order to promote the EES model, OSS are facilitated to support the local or regional stakeholders and widen the scope of possible energy efficiency interventions.	The goal of the project is to support the facilitation of energy communities by providing a comprehensive framework by the work of OSS and use of distributed ledger networks. This enables the creation of prosumer-market relations between the energy communities and service providers.
Role of Ēkubirojs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the implementation of financing schemes. • Coordinate the stakeholder assessment and engagement. • Support the development of a digital platform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate communication and dissemination activities. • Establish One-Stop-Shop (OSS) in Latvia. • Execute OSS activities in Latvia. • Organise a mentoring program for other organisations. • Support the development of a digital platform. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the dissemination and education of one-stop-shops and energy communities. • Research and prepare a white paper on the use of Blockchain in supporting building renovation.
Actions in 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a final report on stakeholder engagement by replication countries. • Support the project consortium. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise additional events for the stakeholders. • Support the beta testing of the platform. • Launch the platform after the beta testing. • Support the project consortium. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the reach of the project's results. • Deliver and present the findings of the Blockchain research.

Project Applications for 2023:

Project	EU Peers	Fideo	Fit4Change
Summary of the project	The project will aim at creating a network of Integrated Home Renovation Services throughout the European Union and enable the information sharing between the community of practitioners.	The goal of the project is to create an European-wide private financial instrument to support the renovation of multifamily buildings throughout the Union.	The project will create a toolbox of neighbourhood-level interventions to support inclusive urban regeneration to reach climate neutrality.
Role of Ēkubirojs	Creation of digital repository. Assessment of financial instruments. Participation in the community of practice. Support the project consortium.	Leading the exploitation and replication processes. Facilitation of communication and dissemination. Creation of visual identity for the project. Stakeholder engagement.	Support the gathering of existing knowledge on stakeholder assessment practises. Support the development of financial tools. Participate in social and economic assessment of the demonstration neighbourhoods. Support the communication activities.

Financial statement

In 2022, we continued our work with the support of European-level projects and additionally integrating additional grants to tackle local challenges on the ground. The financial support via specific activities are provided as a lump sum payment to cover from 3 up to 18 months of work within a specific project and support general administrative activities.

Revenue in 2022

Project	Amount (EUR)
Up-Stairs	24,032.27
EUROPA	40,385.68
US Embassy Grant	6,915.89
Donations and Other	664.64
Total	71,998.48 EUR

Resource allocation for projects

Project	Amount (EUR)
FinEERGo-Dom	15,810.78
EUROPA	98,373.00
Up-Stairs	35,278.64
US Embassy Grant	7,455.46
Total	156,917.88 EUR

Types of expenses:

Concept	EUR	%
Employee salary	67,704.44	57.36%
Accounting & Legal	9,939.87	8.42%
Office expenses	5,573.17	4.72%
Bank commission and Taxes	26,683.28	22.61%
IT systems and media	3,602.38	3.05%
Business Trips	3,006.28	2.55%
Other	1,531.62	1.30%
Total	118,041.04 EUR	100%