



erscp2008



## The PREPARE Thematic Group on Sustainable Construction: What is it about?

Robert Lechner – Austrian Institute of Ecology



erscp2008



# Construction and Sustainability?



erscp2008



Recent studies of the OECD and the UNEP tell us:

The construction sector is responsible for

- 40 % of energy consumption
- 30% of raw material use
- 20% of water use
- 10% of the land use
- 40% of GHG emissions
- 30% of the solid waste
- 20% of water effluents



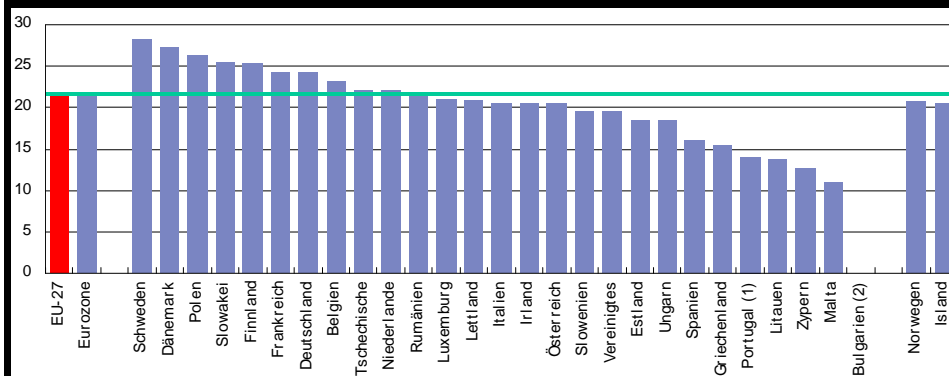
Source: UNEP Sustainable Building and Construction Initiative, 2006



erscp2008



Nearly 25 % of the expenditures of the private households are spent for housing and energy



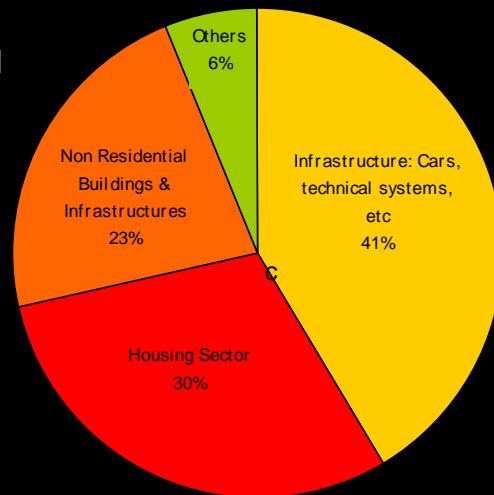


erscp2008



In Germany 30% of the capital investments are used for the housing sector; the overall construction sector generates 53% of all investments.

This figures will be more the less equal in other European countries.



erscp2008



**8 % of the European employees are working in the construction sector.**





erscp2008



and ....



erscp2008



... (nearby)  
all people are  
living or working  
in buildings.

90% of the life  
time is spent in  
buildings.





erscp2008



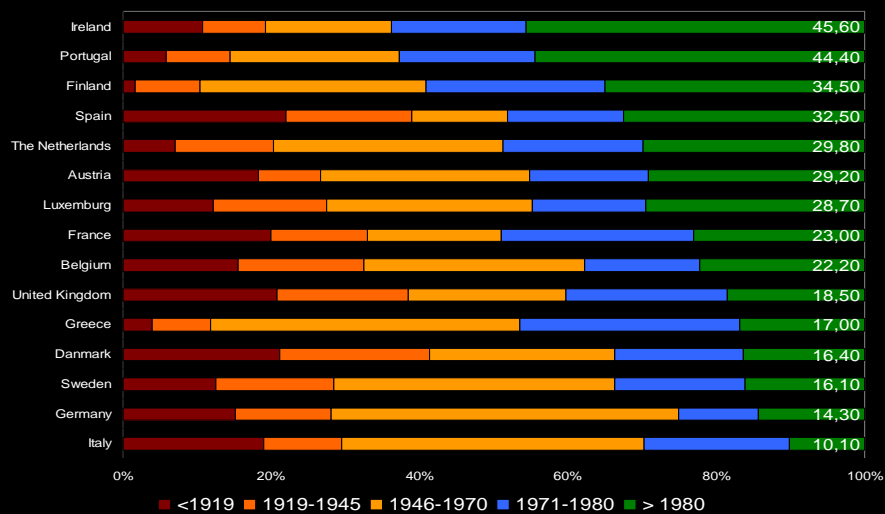
Conclusion I:  
If the construction sector becomes not  
[more] sustainable,  
a Sustainable Europe is impossible.

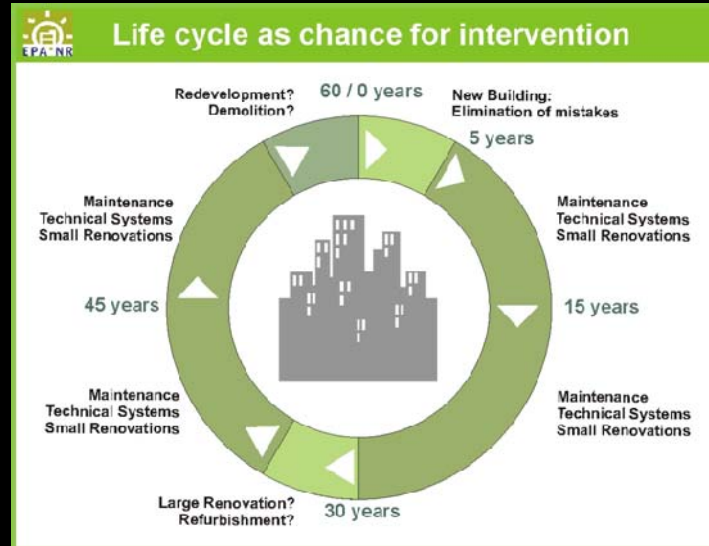


erscp2008



### The EU-15 Building stock





... only the development of the existing building stock is able to give Europe more sustainability.

More precise: The future is situated in the [re-]development of the existing European Cities.



erscp2008



More than 50 percent of the European population is living in cities and their neighborhoods.



erscp2008



## 1. Conclusion II

Common Sustainability is not possible without a sustainable construction sector

Actually the European standardization works on an integrated method / tool / format for buildings; this defines a good opportunity for cooperation

Our common focus should be concentrated on the existing building stock; the most important initiatives are necessary in the urban context



erscp2008



## 1. THE PREPARE THEMATIC GROUP Sustainable Construction [ reanimation initiative ]

Built up of national associations for sustainable construction (GOOD EXAMPLE: German Association for Sustainable Construction - DGNB); in Austria: in the course of incorporation; organized by the AIE  
Built up of the European Association for Sustainable Construction  
Work together as a thematic group in the framework of Prepare