

Living smart with climate change

The project focuses on raising awareness on sustainable housing, as construction industry and households have a considerable effect on climate change. Professionals in construction and the whole society should be informed and understand the importance of pattern changes in building industry and change of our living habits. The project will present low-emission solutions to overcome the irrationality of the current conventional construction approach, methods and technologies that ignore the significant environmental impact of high embodied energy of the building materials, have a poor thermal performance and result in high operational household energy consumption, which contributes to the greenhouse gas emissions. Also, the project highlights solutions in integration of climate change adaptation into housing by reducing imbalances on the ecosystems and respecting the local climate, resources, and place.

The **project objective** is to foster an effective engagement of professionals in construction and the public in support of climate friendly behavior through improved awareness and capacity building on low-emission and climate adaptation solutions in housing.

The project activities are:

- 1) Tiny House - low-carbon building and low-impact living** – demonstrating the “tiny house” concept as an example of low-impact size house with low carbon building materials and combination of appropriate low and high technology measures;
- 2) Green roofs** - will demonstrate the natural cooling of buildings by green roofs;
- 3) Climate adaptation** – demonstrating examples of climate change adaptation measures based on greenery and rainwater retention
- 4) Online training courses** – as learning opportunity for interested people from whole Slovakia, the online training courses will be harmonized with the workshops on the related theme (Activities 1, 2 and 3), so that the participants can also gain practical skills.
- 5) Guidelines** – the methods and procedures used during the workshops will be summarized in info sheets and handbooks, also presented in video-documentaries, 3 articles on the Tiny House will be published in popular magazine “Urob si sám”.
- 6) Eco-housing competition** - photo competition devoted to Activity 1, 2 and 3 will be launched, with the purpose to approach and activate general population of Slovakia to share, learn, and present their own contributions towards mitigation of climate change in the frame of eco-housing in a form of photos.
- 7) Eco-housing meetings** – organizing events for direct communication with the target groups
- 8) Eco-housing talks** – supporting the popularization of the project themes and dissemination of project results and outputs in the whole Slovakia

In the frame of Activity 1, 2 and 3, hard practical measures will be installed in Ecocentre ArTUR in Hrubý Šúr, demonstrating different solutions and topics of climate change mitigation and adaptation in housing, grouped in 3 themes:

A): Low-impact building: **“tiny house”** as an example of low impact size house with low carbon building materials;

B): Low-impact living: **passive house windows** and **clay surfaces** as low technology measures, **regulating air exchange unit with heat recovery**, **photovoltaic panels** and **bioethanol burner** as the high technology examples. They present appropriate combination of low technologies to maximize the savings with passive measures, prepare optimum conditions for using high technologies, making the Tiny House energy self-sufficient and no emitting CO₂;

C): Greenery and water for life: **extensive green roof**, **intensive green roof**, **system of rainwater collection and storage**, **raingarden**, **living fence** and **dry-stone wall**, and **insect houses** as examples of climate change adaptation based on greenery and rainwater retention.

The demonstration elements will be built and installed by volunteers during the workshops. The workshops will be attractive for the target groups as they are based on the “learning-by-doing” approach.

Target groups and beneficiaries represent entrepreneurs and workers in construction, craftsmen (i.e., construction professionals), students (life-long learning) and the public. The project will work with and for these target groups to affect them positively by improved awareness and skills, and more climate friendly behavior for their long-term benefit.

The project represents a balanced partnership of organizations active in the field of sustainable housing, natural construction, global education, awareness raising and creative industry, with strong experience in implementing awareness raising and capacity building projects/campaigns on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The project builds on previous experience of all project partners and previous cooperation of the Slovak partners.

Donors and Partners:

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