This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the grant agreement number 839937. The European Union is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained in this document, which is merely representing the authors’ view.

U-CERT is a Horizon 2020 project (September 2019 – November 2022) with the main aim to introduce a next generation of user-centred Energy Performance Assessment and Certification Scheme to value buildings in a holistic and cost-effective manner.

- Facilitate convergence of quality and reliability, using the set of CEN/ISO EPB standards, enabling a technology neutral approach that is transparently presenting the national and regional choices on a comparable basis
- Encourage the development and application of holistic user-centred innovative solutions, including the Smart Readiness Indicator for buildings and Indoor Environmental Quality
- Encourage and support users in decision making (e.g. on deep renovation), nudge for better choices and instil trust by making visible added (building) value, using EPCs

U-CERT has a focus on strengthening actual implementation of the EPBD by providing and applying insights from a user perspective and creating a level playing field for sharing implementation experience to all involved stakeholders, facilitated and empowered by the EPB Center.
New EPC schemes and related business models will be successful as a user-centred concept only if their value will be recognized by non-experts. In other words, if we want to make EPCs a user-centred product, they must be established and recognized as a useful tool in service of the people in their everyday life.

EPC related products and services alone, as a goal in themselves, are not enough. For optimal balance of quality, cost-effectiveness and acceptance, future EPCs need to be integrated with the broader context - firstly by defining differences and touchpoints with related policy instruments, tools and services (e.g. BIM, energy audit, inspections of building services, Building Renovation Passport, Smart Readiness Indicator, Building Digital Logbook), secondly by means of innovative business models promoting and streamlining investments in building performance improvements (Smartness, Energy, Environmental, Indoor Environmental Quality), and thirdly by integration with exiting and emerging technologies.

The quality of user experience of EPCs for general population is strongly dependant on design aspects, such as visual (graphical) representation, content (complexity and contextualization of data), language used, availability of auxiliary services (customer support), quality of certification services (interaction with EPC assessor) etc.

Future EPCs should make energy more intuitive and influence behaviour of building users, including also non-energy aspects which are largely being neglected or not represented clearly in the existing EPC schemes. These include health, safety, convenience, well-being, comfort etc.