

President's Indoor Environmental Quality lunch - Meeting Summary

The IEQ President's Lunch, held on October 18th, brought together key stakeholders to discuss the future of Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) in the context of the recently adopted Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) IV.

The event opened with a welcome by **Gusts Kossovics**, Managing Director of **eu.bac**, and **Andrei Vladimir Lițiu**, Executive Director of the **EPB Center**. Participants representing various organizations shared their perspectives on the latest EPBD developments, emphasizing the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead.

Key Takeaways

1. IEQ in the EPBD

The inclusion of IEQ in the EPBD was recognized as a significant achievement, especially for its potential to benefit EU citizens—the ultimate beneficiaries of the directive. Participants stressed that while this inclusion is a milestone at the European level, the real work begins at the national level, with implementation being the critical next step.

2. Going farther together, as opposed to fast alone

A recurring theme was the importance of collaboration across the concerned stakeholders to achieve the EPBD's goals rather than operating in silos. This event provided a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas and strategies to ensure the shared objectives were met efficiently.

3. Urgency and momentum

Participants emphasized the need to maintain momentum and avoid losing sight of the tasks ahead. Quick action is essential to ensure the EPBD's objectives are met effectively.

Organisations represented at the event



Challenges highlighted

Measuring IEQ performance Participants discussed the difficulty in establishing clear, standardized metrics for IEQ across the EU, as the starting point with regards to IEQ provisions is not the same.

Renovating existing building stock The challenge of integrating IEQ improvements in both new and existing buildings was noted, focusing on ensuring these considerations are present from the design stage.

Enforcement and flexibility Ensuring compliance with the new measures while maintaining flexibility across the EU remains challenging.

Action points and next steps for the Informal IEQ Gathering

Engagement at the national level

A priority list of countries will be identified during the next Gathering secretariat meeting, taking into account the political climate, with plans to engage national authorities as soon as possible. During the mapping exercise of the national authorities it was suggested to cover holistically those responsible of energy, environment and (public) health.

Playing a constructive role

Participants will provide recommendations at the Member State level, backed by technical guidance, best-case examples, and success stories with the mindset of implementation ready support (practical approach) that builds upon what's already in place. The establishment of national mirror I-IEQ-G (reflection of the I-IEQ-G at EU level) is a way to maintain ongoing activities pushing and supporting, in national language, national authorities from within.

Leveraging networks

Participants are encouraged to start reaching out to stakeholders like building owners, national authorities, real estate developers and investors through their Member State networks. MIPIM 2025¹ was highlighted as a meaningful upcoming event worth participating.

Clarifying the message

Participants noted that overcomplicating messaging could cause confusion at the national level. A clear and understandable message (tailored to the different target groups) is key to ensuring effective communication and action.

¹ <https://www.mipim.com/en-gb.html>



Convergence through standardization

Utilizing **CEN** and **ISO** standards for harmonized methods (not values) was urged. This approach safeguards a common framework while the setting of requirements remains within the Member States' competence. Participants were encouraged to join standardization efforts and support opening these processes to a broader range of stakeholders (especially IEQ experts) by reducing barriers to entry, such as participation costs. The Gathering secretariats will work on a joint paper supporting this call.

Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) integrating IEQ

EPCs were identified as a vital tool for assessing and demonstrating IEQ performance in buildings. Participants agreed on the need to prioritize and promote EPCs in this context. The 16 sister EU projects of the Next Gen EPC cluster (Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, LIFE subprogramme Clean Energy Transition) provide a sound basis of resources and evidence that shall be tapped in.

Broadening support for the IEQ initiative

Participants suggested opening the IEQ initiative to additional co-signatories, including NGOs and individuals (IEQ experts only), to broaden its support base. A flexible approach was suggested, meaning to rather endeavour to secure additional support even if it means slightly adjusting the content of our documents, as opposed to the take it or leave it procedure.

Engaging young professionals

A concern was raised about the lack of young professionals involved in association work. Ideas were shared on how to engage the next generation, including student competitions and encouraging companies to involve early-career professionals in association activities. REHVA highlighted the structures already in place (e.g. REHVA Student Competition, REHVA Community of Young Professionals, Healthy Buildings Design Competition) that can be swiftly leveraged (optimal usage of our shared resources).

Incorporating IEQ in the Smart Readiness Indicator (SRI)

Ensuring that the SRI accounts for IEQ, not just energy efficiency and grid integration, was deemed essential. The 7 sister EU projects of the SRI cluster (LIFE subprogramme Clean Energy Transition) provide a sound basis of resources and evidence that shall be tapped in.

Transforming the Informal IEQ Gathering into a Cluster

Participants discussed the potential of evolving the IEQ Gathering into a more formal cluster and considered the identity of the "we" it represents, as well as the target groups it aims to reach. The Gathering secretariats will work on this further.

Next Steps for the I-IEQ-G Secretariat

The Informal IEQ Gathering Secretariats will meet within the coming month to establish a detailed action plan and assign responsibilities for future joint activities.



Launch of key documents:

The event also saw the launch of two key documents co-drafted by the members of the Informal IEQ Gathering.

Political position paper This document outlines the political priorities and commitments necessary for ensuring IEQ remains at the forefront of building performance discussions within the EPBD framework. It advocates for strong support from policymakers to ensure IEQ is integrated and enforced at the national level, emphasizing the importance of health, well-being, and comfort for all EU citizens.

Technical guidance document: This aims to provide practical, technical recommendations for implementing the EPBD IV IEQ provisions in buildings, covering areas such as assessment methods, performance standards, and best practices for both new and existing buildings. It serves as a resource for policy makers and technical stakeholders to ensure that IEQ standards are met and converge across the EU.





List of participants

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