

BOOSTING THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF UKRAINIAN WOODEN WINDOWS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

UKRAINE

The current conflict in Ukraine has driven up the domestic demand for windows, prompting producers to set their sights on the local market. Ukraine's programme for housing and infrastructure restoration estimates that the country will require 5–6 million units per year. The average lifespan of this type of product is 30 years, meaning that the windows built today will impact the future. Recognizing this, the government has put sustainability at the core of its programme and aims to capitalize on the reconstruction efforts to reduce the energy demand in the country.

Wood is a natural insulator and wooden windows can be one of the most energy-efficient window types when manufactured to the highest standards. About 100 producers of windows and structures operate in the Ukrainian market, which is further served by up to 10,000 small companies. However, the lack of capacities among local window manufacturers to meet quality and sustainability requirements may hamper their opportunities to participate in the reconstruction activities and to generate the much-needed income that would allow them to stay in business.

To support the sector UNIDO, in close cooperation with the Swiss University of Bern, has put at the disposal of wooden window producers a new testing scope that will equip them to measure the thermal performance of their products, optimize their design and make them more energy efficient.

At a time when many firms have had to relocate their production, the new capacities will allow labs to provide the service remotely through simulation-based calculation, reaching their customers throughout the country. The new testing scope will become an integral part of Ukrainian laboratories' offer of services and is the first step of a wider strategy aimed at building digital capacities among labs to improve their future resilience.

Currently, buildings represent 32% of the total energy consumption in the country and the average thermal transmittance of windows installed in Ukraine is higher than the maximum allowed in the EU. Hence, producing energy-efficient windows can enable local producers to meet domestic and international performance requirements and gain access to new markets, ultimately contributing to creating a more sustainable future in Ukraine and beyond.

The Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP) is a global initiative to strengthen the export competitiveness of twelve partner countries, supported by Switzerland through the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).



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 hub.unido.org

 gqsp@unido.org

