

# EPBD Recast Policy Brief

## Next Gen EPCs



### Introduction

Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) have improved incrementally since their introduction; nevertheless, they need to become more reliable and visible, with easy-to-understand information, to fully realise their benefits. EPCs could help overcome persistent information deficits concerning, for example, real energy performance, smartness levels, tailored renovation measures, indoor and outdoor environment conditions. Additionally, they should provide financial advice for renovation and empower policymakers with better data on the building stock, thus enabling an improved impact monitoring of policies and financial support schemes.

The Next Gen EPCs cluster, formed by 13 EU-funded projects, fits in this context aiming at:

- Facilitating the convergence of quality and reliability of EPCs across the EU;
- Overcoming barriers to quality and reliability of current EPC schemes;
- Transforming EPCs into catalysts for the deep energy renovation of European buildings.

The Next Gen EPCs cluster has been analysing the implementation and researching possible improvements of digital technologies and processes linked to building performance assessment and certification to enable important energy savings and foster the uptake of renewable energy technologies, essential for a decarbonised and clean future.

### Key words

Harmonisation

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)

EPC

Decarbonisation



## Policy Recommendations

The experts of the Next Gen EPC cluster are convinced it's crucial to make salient the impact of certain policy options, thus supporting an evidence-based decision-making process. The projects of the Next Gen EPCs cluster have developed project specific policy recommendations and experts' opinions that offer a concrete suggestion on how to evolve to and implement the next generation of EPC products and services. Find in the following list a unique selection from the individual policy recommendations stemming from the collaboration activities of the Next Gen EPC cluster just to give a quick flavour of the unconditioned support these EU projects can provide during the triologue period and even more so during the subsequent transposition and implementation of the EPBD Recast at Member State level. Please note that the policy related contribution of each project is richer than this and the full content can be found via the links made available in the "References" paragraph.

- The drawbacks and discrepancies of the current EPC scheme should be defined; EU standards on the classification requirements of buildings should be updated as well ([D<sup>2</sup>EPC](#))
- An hourly calculation time step of the energy balance should be implemented rather than an annual calculation time step, as this could be more transparent ([U-CERT](#))
- Renovation Passport to track the implementation of renovation measures and their impact in terms of energy efficiency improvements and greenhouse gas emission reductions should be adopted ([TIMEPAC](#))
- The support of IEQ sensors/monitoring with a shorter time evaluation to assess the well-being in buildings should be included ([E-DYCE](#))
- Additional national indicators should be considered to harmonize the EPCs and the possibility that countries apply their own rating scheme ([ePANACEA](#))
- EU and national legislation should require that the renovation recommendations on the EPCs are consistent with and conducive to deep energy renovation ([QualDeEPC](#))
- Building sustainability assessment aspects should be integrated in the energy certification process ([SmartLivingEPC](#))
- The prerequisites for prompt adoption of new EPC features should be established by the Member States to promote their broader advantages (health, economic, and environmental) ([X-tendo](#))
- EPCs should be developed as "an interactive model" rather than as passive information ([crossCert](#))

## Conclusion

The objective of these policy recommendations and experts' opinions is to enhance and streamline the advancement of EPCs, with the goal of making them more accessible, cost-effective and centred around human needs. The projects faced typical challenges related to understanding the EPC schemes, their limitations and inconsistencies which led to an accumulation of insights worth leveraging. Additionally, there is a need to establish uniformity in the utilization of EPCs throughout Europe, as achieving a shared understanding on this subject is crucial (building physics is the same globally) and would support the effectiveness of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) at EU level and its successful transposition, implementation and monitoring at Member State level.

## Commitment

The Next Gen EPC cluster remains committed to mobilise if/as needed its 150 organizations across the EU to back up with evidence the ongoing EPBD Recast trialogue and related decision-making processes at EU level (during 2023) and furthermore provide support during the subsequent transposition and implementation of the EPBD Recast at Member State level.

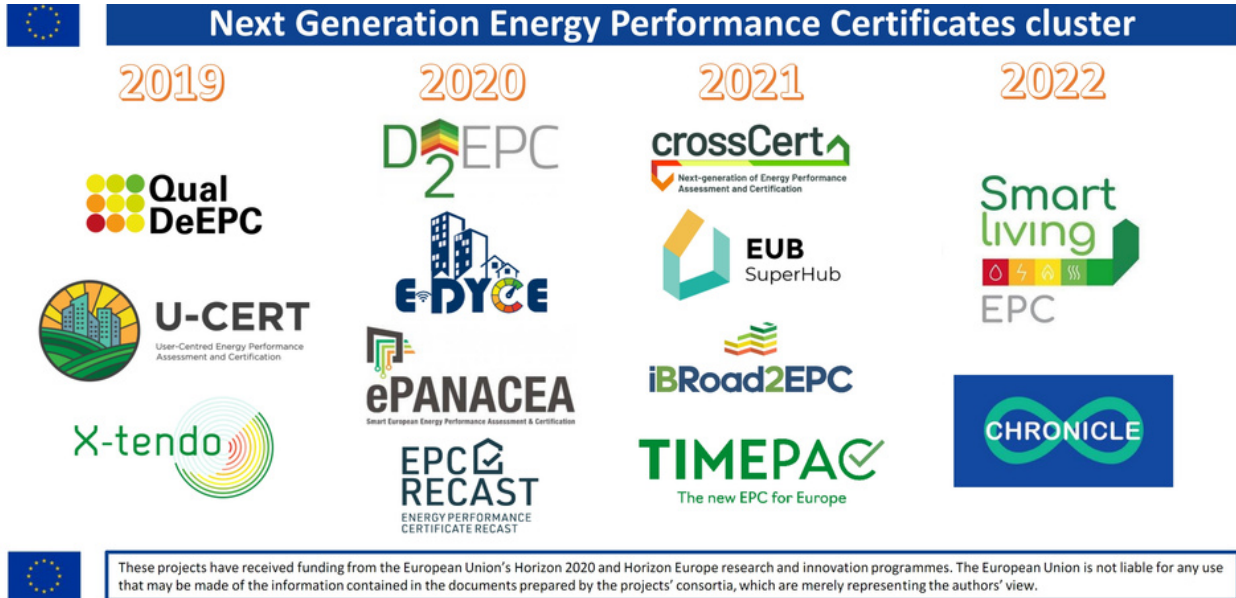
## References

- [U-CERT project recommendations](#)
- [U-CERT project experts' opinion on an EU-wide software kernel](#)
- [QualDeEPC project recommendations no. 1,3 and 4](#)
- [E-DYCE project experts' opinion on closing the performance](#)
- [D^2EPC project recommendations](#)
- [SmartLivingEPC project recommendations](#)
- [TIMEPAC project to the point suggestions on EPBD articles](#)
- [X-tendo project recommendations no. 1,3,4 and 8](#)
- [ePANACEA project recommendations mmendations no. 1, 3, 4 and 8](#)
- [CrossCert project experts' opinion on lack of harmonisation](#)

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# Next Gen EPCs



This policy brief has been produced by ICONS in the context of the Horizon Results Booster services delivered to U-CERT (GA N. 839937), X-tendo (GA N. 845958), QualDeEPC (GA N.847100), ePANACEA (GA N.892421), D<sup>2</sup>EPC (GA N.892984), EPC RECAST (GA N.893118), E-DYCE (GA N.893945), crossCert (GA N.101033778), EUB SuperHub (GA N.101033916), iBRoad2EPC (GA N.101033781), TIMEPAC (GA N.101033819), CHRONICLE (GA N. 101069722) and SmartLivingEPC (GA N.101069639). This product does not reflect the views of the European Commission.