

Youth Employment and the Digitalisation of the Energy Renovation Sector

Event jointly organised by the YOUTH Intergroup and Renovate Europe

Hosted by MEP Brando Benifei (Italy, S&D)

Location: Room A5G305, European Parliament, Brussels

Room capacity: 30 (+15)

Date: Wednesday 28th March 2018

11:00 **Welcoming Remarks by YOUTH Intergroup**

MEP Brando Benifei, Vice-Chair of the Youth Intergroup

11:05 **Introductory Remarks by Renovate Europe – How many jobs? Boosting youth employment**

Adrian Joyce, Director of the Renovate Europe Campaign

Session I: Transformation of the Energy Renovation Sector – More digital, more youth?

Moderator: Adrian Joyce, Director of the Renovate Europe Campaign

11:10 **The Construction Sector – Adapting to the Digital Times**

Fulvia Raffaelli, DG GROW, Digital Construction, European Commission

11:20 **Youth Involvement – Why the Energy Renovation Sector is becoming increasingly attractive**

Domenico Campogrande, European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)

11:30 **HEART PROJECT: Ensuring High Energy Efficiency Standards are maintained in the Digitalisation Process**

(Creating a retrofit toolkit with cloud based computing platform to transform existing building into highly energy efficient smart building)

Julien Dijol, Housing Europe as part of HEART PROJECT

11:40 Q&A

Session II: Digitalisation of the Energy Renovation Sector – Training Youth for the SMEs of Tomorrow

Moderator: Adrian Joyce, Director of the Renovate Europe Campaign

11:45 **Putting SMEs and Youth at the Frontline of the Digitalisation Curve**

Eugenio Quintieri, European Builders Confederation (EBC)

11:55 **The Impact of Digitalization in Energy Renovation SMEs – Boosting Youth Employment in Italy**

Cecilia Hugony, Renovate Italy

12:05 **An Opportunity for Youth Training on Digitalisation and Energy Renovation in the MFF: European Social Fund**

Maëva Roulette, DG EMPL, European Commission

12:15 Q&A

12:20 **Closing Remarks**

MEP Brando Benifei, Vice-Chair of the Youth Intergroup

Adrian Joyce, Director of the Renovate Europe Campaign

End of event

About the event: The main focus of the event will be to look at energy renovation as an increasingly attractive sector for youth, thanks mainly to the digitalisation of this sector and elements such as prefabrication which means that much of the work can be done indoors. With an increasingly widening gap between an ageing construction sector which is unable to find young recruits because of the unappealing image of working on building sites on the one side, and rising youth unemployment on the other, the digitalisation of the energy renovation sector could offer a golden opportunity to equip young people with a new sets of technical skills in industrial automation, robotics and data modelling to address the needs of tomorrow's labour market in the energy field. The variety of skills offered in the building sector, from white collar to blue collar, as well as the fact that these are quality local jobs, mostly in the SME field, which cannot be delocalised, will be emphasised. The opportunities for boosting direct employment in the building renovation field are huge – estimated at 2 million – if strong legislation and incentives are implemented through the Clean Energy Package currently being debated (Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and Energy Efficiency Directive). In addition to boosting local jobs, increased energy renovation will improve the health, comfort and wellbeing of citizens struggling with energy poverty in cold leaky homes, it will alleviate public health budgets, reduce foreign energy imports and cut CO2 emissions. This is a topic which will be of interest at the European level, as the EU votes on the Clean Energy Package and prepares for the post-2020 Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF), where there is a need to increase energy efficiency training opportunities through the ESF, but also as part of the Digital Agenda and the Juncker Fund aimed at stimulating private investment and boosting jobs and growth across the EU. These topics will also resonate on national level, especially in Italy given the high youth unemployment levels.

@youthintergroup



@RenovateEurope

About the Renovate Europe Campaign: [Renovate Europe](#) is a political communications campaign with the ambition to reduce the energy demand of the building stock in the EU by 80% by 2050 compared to 2005 levels through legislation and ambitious renovation programmes. This will bring the energy performance of the entire building stock in the EU to a Nearly Zero Energy (NZEB) performance level. Renovate Europe brings together 38 partners from across the building value chain (trade associations, companies, trade unions, city networks and 15 national partners). [Over 100 MEPs](#), including Mr Benifei, from 7 political groups and 23 Member States have signed the Renovate Europe Manifesto to [STOP Energy Waste in Buildings](#).

About the YOUTH Intergroup:

The YOUTH Intergroup is a cross-party grouping of over 120 Members of the European Parliament working together for better youth policies in Europe.