

SRI TOPICAL GROUPS FEEDBACK MEETING

13 February 2020 @ Borchette Conference Centre, Brussels, 14h – 17h

The meeting was by invitation only. Members of topical stakeholder working groups A, B and C were invited, as well as Member States representatives. Prior to the meeting, the attendees were provided with a draft version of the interim report, a draft version of the summary, service catalogues A and B, and discussion documents on the drafts of the SRI implementing and delegated act.

The Commission services were represented by Sylvain Robert. The technical study team was represented by Stijn Verbeke and Paul Waide. A total of 33 Topical Group members and Member State representatives attended.

1. Welcome

EC Policy officer Sylvain Robert welcomed the audience. He stated the aim of the meeting was to update the members of the topical stakeholder working groups on the latest results of the technical study and to allow them to give feedback on the draft legal acts discussed with the EU Member States (MS) through meetings with the Expert Group on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the Energy Performance of Buildings Committee.

2. Presentation of the latest updates by the technical study team

The main conclusions of the technical support study were presented on the following topics:

- Feedback from the public testing of the SRI, in which 112 SRI assessments were carried out voluntarily by the stakeholder community.
- Updates to the proposed SRI calculation methodology; including updates to the smart services catalogues A (simplified method) and B (detailed method).
- Findings on SRI format research; including presentation of visuals prepared by a graphic design agency and feedback from consumer focus groups, choice of media, brand and language and linkages to other schemes.
- Analysis of potential impacts of the SRI for the EU. 7 main SRI implementation pathways have been defined, and the EU-level impact of these have been estimated via a detailed impact analysis. The impact modeling considers both a pull and push effect on Smart-Ready technologies (SRT) adoption from the SRI, and concludes there is a large cost-effective potential for the SRI.

3. Q&A on technical study: summary of the main discussion points

A non-exhaustive summary of discussions led as part of the Q/A session can be found below:

- Capturing the building performance in quantifiable physical aspects and incorporating actual user behaviour is not part of the proposed method. The issue will be further explored by Topical group C in view of possible future evolutions of the SRI.
- Micro-generation and fuel cells are covered to some extent by the proposed SRI framework, but further stakeholder input is welcome. Some elements of the methodology specifically address the cross-cutting approach and potential synergies between the domains - e.g. services on information provision across domains.
- Stakeholders are in favor of setting up an on-line platform for assisting self-assessment. Practical aspects of such a platform would need to be investigated.
- There was no consensus among stakeholders on weighting factors. The approach proposed by the study team is the one on which the best level of agreement was reached.

- Consumer focus groups revealed a preference to show both the non-aggregated scores as well as an overall score.
- The proposed climatic weighting factors have, according to one participant, little impact on the calculation of the scores. The study team clarifies that the proposed default weighting factors are resulting from available statistical data on the EU non-residential building stock and should be used mainly when there is no energy balance data available for the building in question.
- According to one participant, the notion of 'readiness' also allows buildings to have significant scores on the flexibility impact criterion (e.g. by having storage or potential for external control) even if demand side management services are currently not being implemented in a building.

4. Discussion on the draft legal acts

Sylvain Robert (EC) updated the participants on the state-of-play of the SRI policy-making process and outlined the proposed content of the draft legal acts. He referred to some possible updates that would have to be discussed with MS. The base rationale is to define a common EU-wide approach for the core elements of the SRI framework (as required by the EPBD), while allowing sufficient flexibility to MS to tune to national, regional and local contexts.

Some main building blocks of the draft acts were particularly commented:

1. The notion of optionality for MS, noting that MS would be free to opt in or not (in line with the EPBD). If they would opt in, they would need to comply with the obligations set out in the SRI acts.
2. The possibility for MS to implement non-committal national testing phases for the SRI.
3. Possible requirements that would apply to accreditation and / or qualification of experts in charge of SRI assessment.
4. Possible requirements that would apply to independent control systems of the SRI scheme.
5. The calculation methodology, where it was suggested that some components (service catalogues, weighting factors and formatting) could be addressed in guidance documents, giving flexibility to MS on how to shape these.

Q&A on the discussion documents in preparation of the legal acts

- Stakeholders commented that they understood the need to give more flexibility to MS, but indicate that from a market perspective a more common approach would bring more value.
- Stakeholders provided targeted suggestions to update recitals and definitions in the draft acts.
- The duration of the non-committal test phase and validity of SRI certificates was considered very long by some stakeholders. It was commented that this could be a maximum duration, and that the date of issuance of the SRI could be included, rather than an expiry date.
- Regarding the details of the SRI platform and the formatting of the SRI, it was explained that these were still to be discussed and would not probably not be addressed in the legal acts themselves, but in a later step.
- More forward-looking issues, e.g. database to support assessors could be investigated in next steps.

5. Closing words

Sylvain Robert (EC) thanked stakeholders for the fruitful meeting.