

## **Press release**

**October 12th, 2020**

### **Now online: New European Strawbale House Register**

From now on, building decision-makers and building experts can get an overview of existing straw-insulated houses in Europe with a simple mouse click. The new register of houses contains about 1200 entries and can be found online at <http://www.strawbuilding.eu/strawbale-houses-europe>.

France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Germany have joined forces in the European project UP STRAW to promote straw-insulated construction in Europe, especially for urban and public buildings. The aim is to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the construction sector and thus protect the climate. The project is funded by the Interreg programme North-West Europe and the new online register is just one of the many results of the project. Among other things, a large-scale construction project will be set up in each of the countries as an example of climate-friendly construction.

In the online directory, a selection of existing buildings per country can be seen, including some construction information such as year of completion, location, exact construction method, size and participating construction companies. A short description of the houses shows whether it is a new building, an extension or renovation and how the building is used. In addition to single-family and multi-family houses, there are numerous public buildings such as schools, kindergartens, office buildings, cafes and seminar centers.

"The directory gives an impressive overview of the construction activity with straw in our countries", states Stephanie Ventre, manager of the Interreg project UP STRAW. "It also shows how diverse the buildings are in construction, design and execution and that from the outside you can hardly ever tell what is in the walls." Stephanie Ventre also knows that there are far more houses with straw than documented in the directory so far.

That the new online register should be a growing directory is also confirmed by Herbert Gruber, co-founder and co-chairman of the European Straw Building Association (ESBA), who is also one of the web developers of the house database. "The countries Italy, Spain, Slovakia and the Czech Republic also have extensive databases, which they would like to include in the new register by the end of the year." In the future, the register will also be available in several languages.

Homeowners and building professionals who wish to have their straw-insulated buildings entered in the register can contact the national coordinator with the respective straw building association.

"Every house and every register entry can help to increase the awareness of straw building. The construction method is ready for the market and has an outstanding ecological balance. Many more people should know that by using straw as a building material the climate is effectively protected. UP STRAW has made a great and sustainable contribution to this", says Herbert Gruber.

### **Further information is available at:**

[www.facebook.com/upstraw](http://www.facebook.com/upstraw)

[www.nweurope.eu/upstraw](http://www.nweurope.eu/upstraw)