Practical experiences with design and construction of Slovenian first Platinum certified DGNB sustainable building

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Abstract:

There are many sustainable buildings, materials and solutions on the construction market. Some are truly sustainable and some are self-proclaimed. How can we differentiate or compare such solutions and buildings and find out how well sustainability aspects are really fulfilled? There is a lack of such benchmarks, good praxis cases and practical know-how in Slovenian construction industry. On the other hand there are several sustainability aspects already incorporated in national policies regarding construction and there is an European voluntary sustainability reporting framework (LEVELS(s)) in preparation. Do we really know how to face them?

Solutions - Methods / Results - Findings

In Knauf Insulation we planned to build a new conference and workshop building in Škofja Loka, Slovenia. For a long time ago we passed energy efficiency mantra and went beyond that – thinking construction industry as a whole, including sustainability aspects. We wanted to prove to ourselves first and to others second that our materials, solutions and know-how can provide modern, truly sustainable buildings. That is why we decided to use internationally used DGNB sustainability certification scheme for independent assessment. There were some specialties and novelties compared to traditional construction processes, since it was the first new built building in Slovenia to be assessed, but we learnt a lot throughout the project. And we achieved excellent result – highest Platinum DGNB certificate. Additionally we are in the process of assessment also according to LEVEL(s) framework. The results, findings and practical experiences from this pioneering project will be the main focus of the presentation.

Novelty - Value / Relevance to...

Knauf Insulation Experience center (KIEXC) is a demonstration and education centre where activities about sustainable construction and materials for the professional and laic public are actively organized. KIEXC is an important exemplary building – it is the first certified sustainable new-built building in Slovenia, certified according to DGNB and Open house scheme and pilot project for LEVEL(s). It is also pilot project for Slovenian Ministry of Environment for gaining practical experience in quality certified sustainable construction on Slovenian market and preparation of national sustainability construction guidelines.

Keywords:
Insulation; sustainability; DGNB, LEVEL(s);

Graphics: