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# Analysing the impact of retrofitting and new construction through probabilistic life cycle assessment.

A method applied to the environmental-economic payoff value of an intervention case in the Albanian building sector

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## Overview of the existing building stock in EU

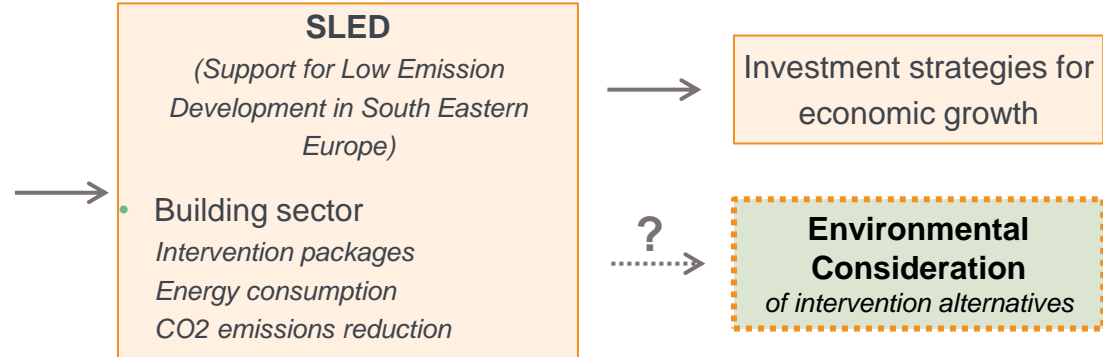
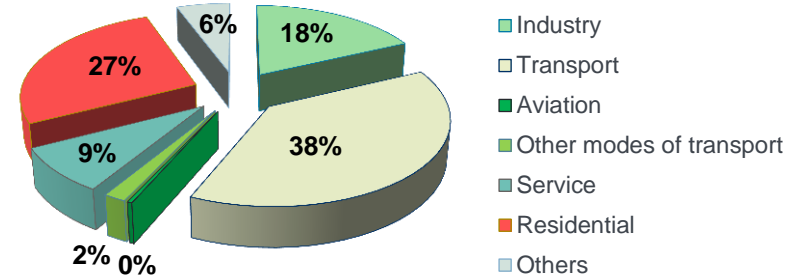
- EU - replacement rate of old buildings by new build = 1% / year (1)
- Renovation rate= 1-2% \* year (1)
- More than 90% of existing stock in EU was built before 1990 (1) →

**Major role** in employing **Energy Efficiency** goals

- Importance of joint pursuit in global scale for achieving CO2 emissions reduction until 2050 →

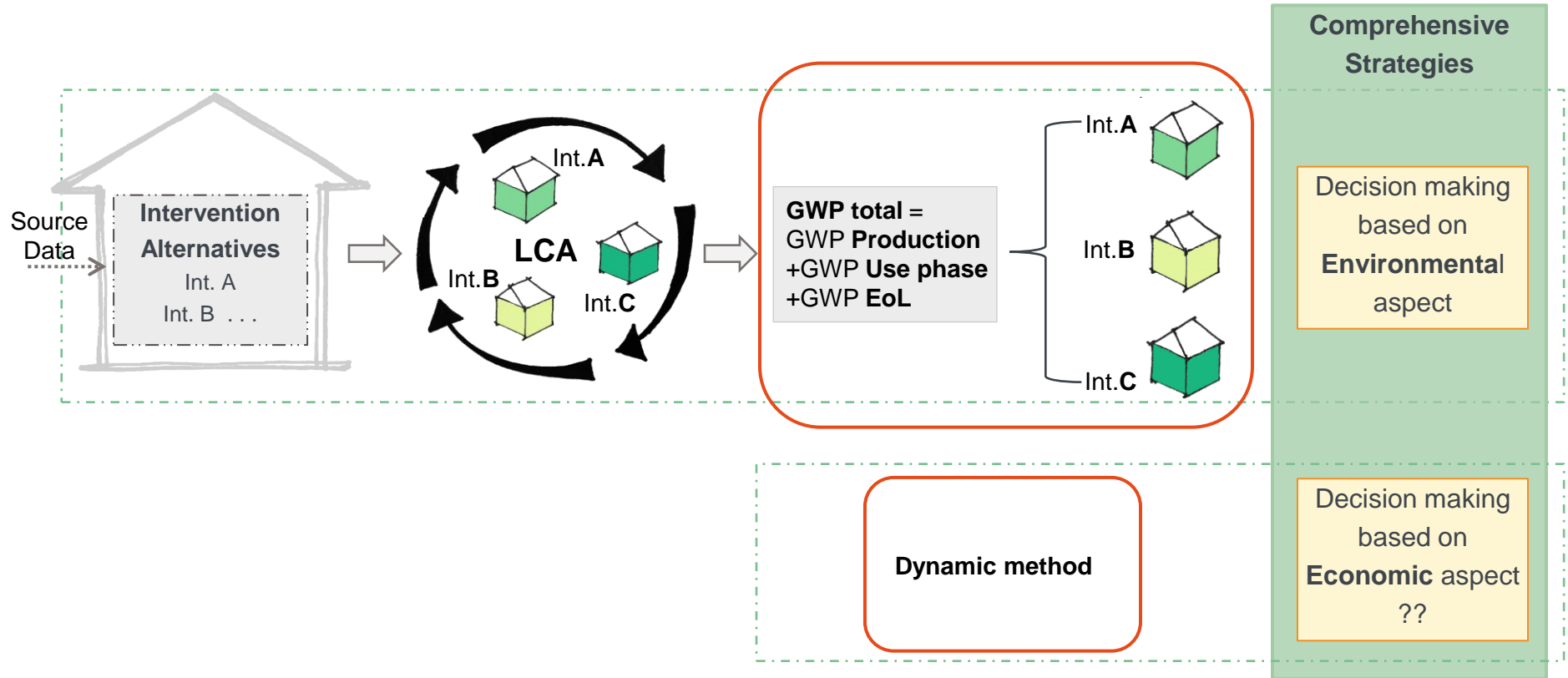
Engagement of **non EU countries** in the **EE** and **environmental protection strategies**

(1) European Parliament *Boosting Building Renovation: What Potential and Value for Europe?* 2016 Study for the ITRE Committee



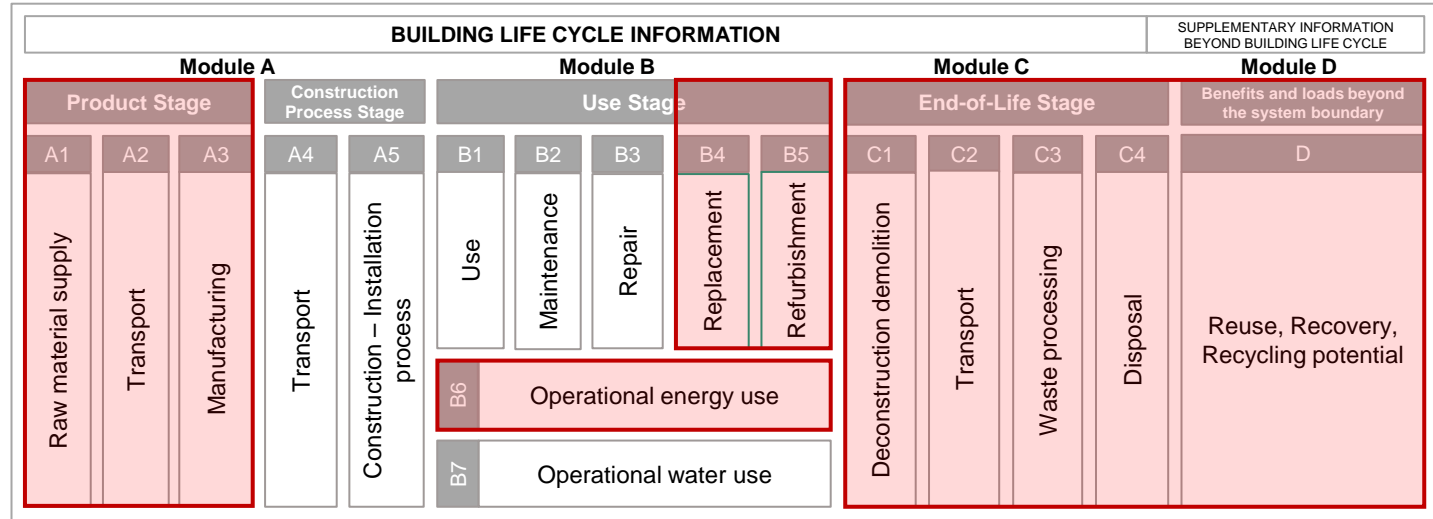
(2) Energy Balance Sheets (EUROSTAT) 2016-data, 2018 edition

## Life Cycle Assessment application



# Static LCA

- System boundaries  
**Cradle – Grave**
- Building lifespan  
**50 years**
- Functional Unit  
**Net surface area**



- Environmental Impact  
**GWP**  
**(kg. CO2 eq.)**

	Indicator	Unit	Model
<b>Climate change – total*</b>	Global Warming Potential total (GWP-total)	kg CO2 eq.	Baseline model of 100 years of the IPCC based on IPCC 2013

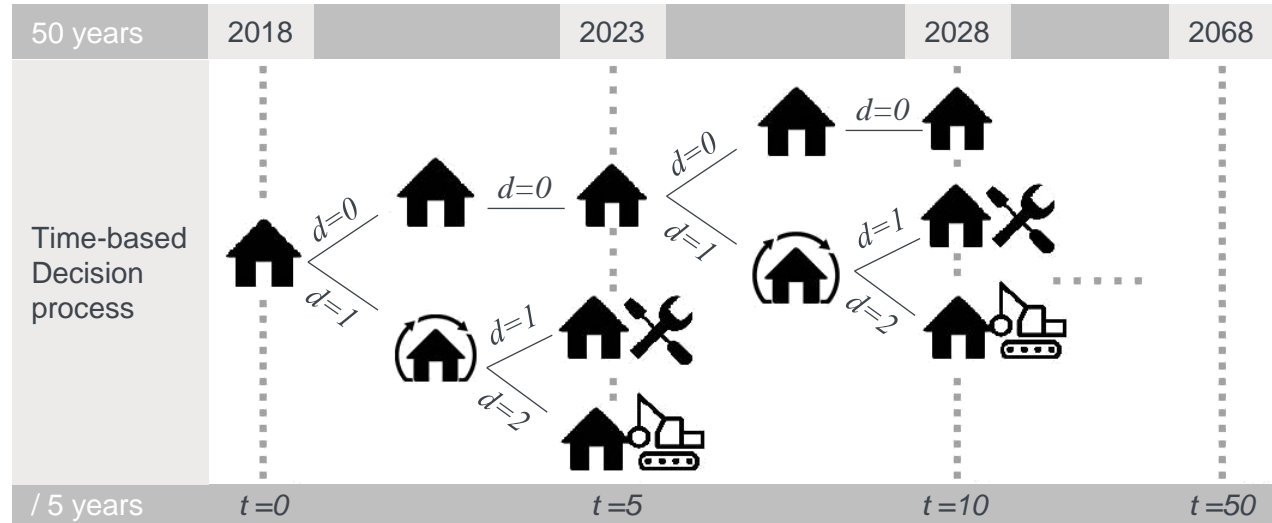
- Intervention Alternatives

**Existing** (no intervention) USE PHASE & END OF LIFE

**Intrv. A - Refurbishment** (intervention in existing structure to extend its nominal service life) – PRODUCTION & END OF LIFE

**Intrv. B - Rebuild** (demolition of existing & build a new) - END OF LIFE FOR EXISTING & PRODUCTION + USE FOR NEW

# Probabilistic LCA with application of Monte Carlo simulation



- Decision making  
**5 year intervals**
- Observation period  
**50 years**

- 1st Decision: Intervention? **0 / 1**
- 2nd Decision: Refurbishment/ Rebuild? **A / B**
- Total GWP for interventions during 50 years **Σ GWP**

$$R_v = \begin{cases} \geq P(I) & \text{No intervention Dec}=0 \\ < P(I) & \text{Intervention Dec}=1 \end{cases}$$

$$C_{t+p}(\text{Intr. A}) = \begin{cases} \geq 75\% * C(\text{Reb}) \rightarrow \text{Intr. B Dec} = \text{Intr. B} \\ < 75\% * C(\text{Reb}) \rightarrow \text{Intr. B Dec} = \text{Intr. A} \end{cases}$$

← **€ Costs consideration**

$$GWP_{\text{tot}} = \sum_{y=1}^{50} GWP_{\text{prod, y}} + GWP_{\text{use, y}} + GWP_{\text{EoL}}$$

## Building B1 (Albanian residential building typology: Simaku, Thimjo and Plaku 2014b)

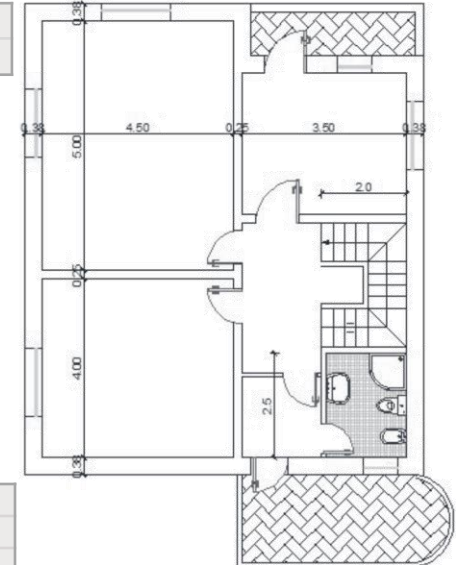
- Type: **detached house**
- Building period: **1961-1980**
- **Construction elements:**

<b>Exterior wall</b>	Solid red brick
<b>Roof/ceiling</b>	Red roof tiles
<b>Floor slab</b>	Concrete floor
<b>Windows</b>	Single glazed, wooden frame
<b>Exterior door</b>	Wooden door
<b>Energy supply system</b>	National electricity network Multi-split AC, Pellet-boiler

Building <b>B1</b>	Cilmate Region Tirana
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Treated floor area	135,12	m <sup>2</sup>
Heated volume	472,92	m <sup>3</sup>
Number of Floors	2	



## Intervention alternatives (3)



Construction	Refurbishment measures	Rebuild characteristics*
<b>Exterior wall</b>	Red brick, Polystyrene EPS 10cm <i>U-Value=0.29 W/m<sup>2</sup>K</i>	Limestone, EPS , Plaster <i>U-Value=0.24 W/m<sup>2</sup>K</i>
<b>Roof/Ceiling</b>	Roof with red tiles, Polystyrene EPS 12cm <i>U-Value=0.27 W/m<sup>2</sup>K</i>	Plasterboard, Therm. insulation EPS, Wood constr., MDF-plates, Roof tiles, <i>U-Value=0.176 W/m<sup>2</sup>K</i>
<b>Floor slab</b>	Concrete floor, Polyst. EPS 5cm, <i>U-Value=0.54 W/m<sup>2</sup>K</i>	Cement, Insulation EPS, PVC-P, reinforced concrete, mineral-wool, gips, <i>U-Value=0.14 W/m<sup>2</sup>K</i>
<b>Window</b>	Triple thermal insulation glass, 90% Plastic frame <i>U-Value =0.65 W/m<sup>2</sup>.K</i>	=
<b>Exterior door</b>	Plastic door <i>U-Value =0.75 W/m<sup>2</sup>.K</i>	=
<b>Energy supply system</b>	Electricity (Hydropower) Pellet boiler 25% energy Low temperature gas system 10% energy Multisplit-clima unit 65% energy	Energy supply based on electricity based systems Electricity from Hydropower 100%
<b>Energy demand</b>	9.410,5 kWh/y. electricity demand 27.785,9 kWh/y. heat energy demand	16.079,3 kWh/year

\* Based on EnEV 2014 requirements

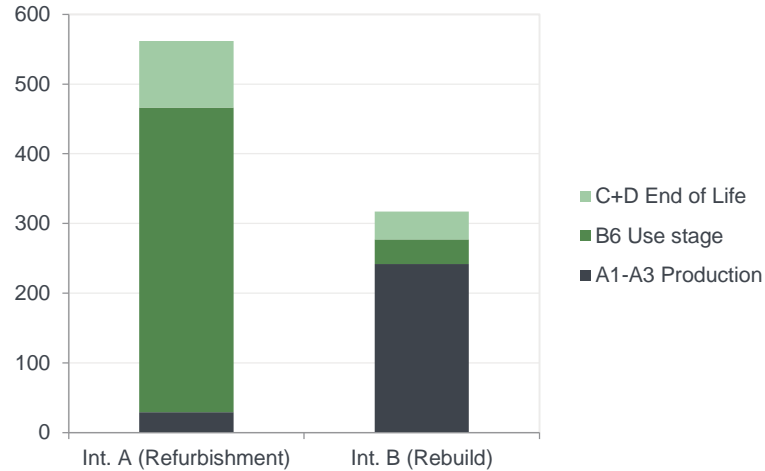
(3) Novikova Szalay Simaku Thimjo Salamon Plaku and Csoknyai *The typology of the residential building stock in Albania and the modelling of its low-carbon transformation 2015*



## Static LCA

### GWP

(kg. CO<sub>2</sub>-eq.)

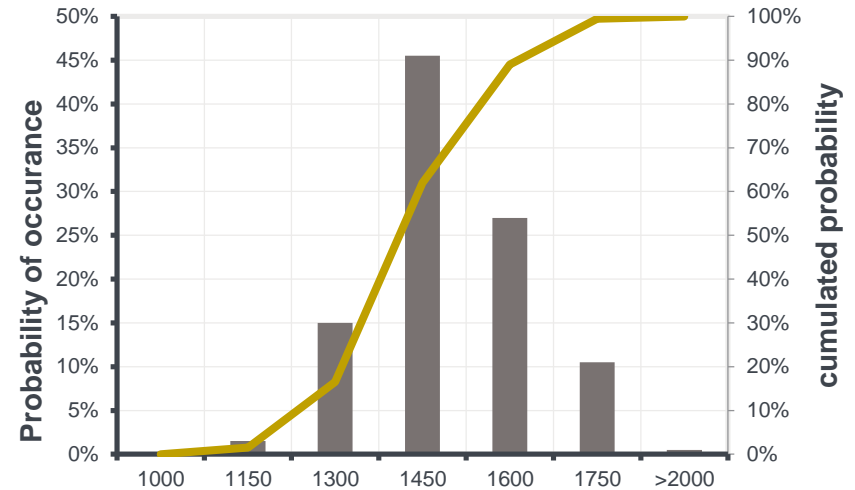


Decision making based  
on **Environmental**  
aspect



Decision making  
based on **Economic**  
aspect

## Probabilistic LCA

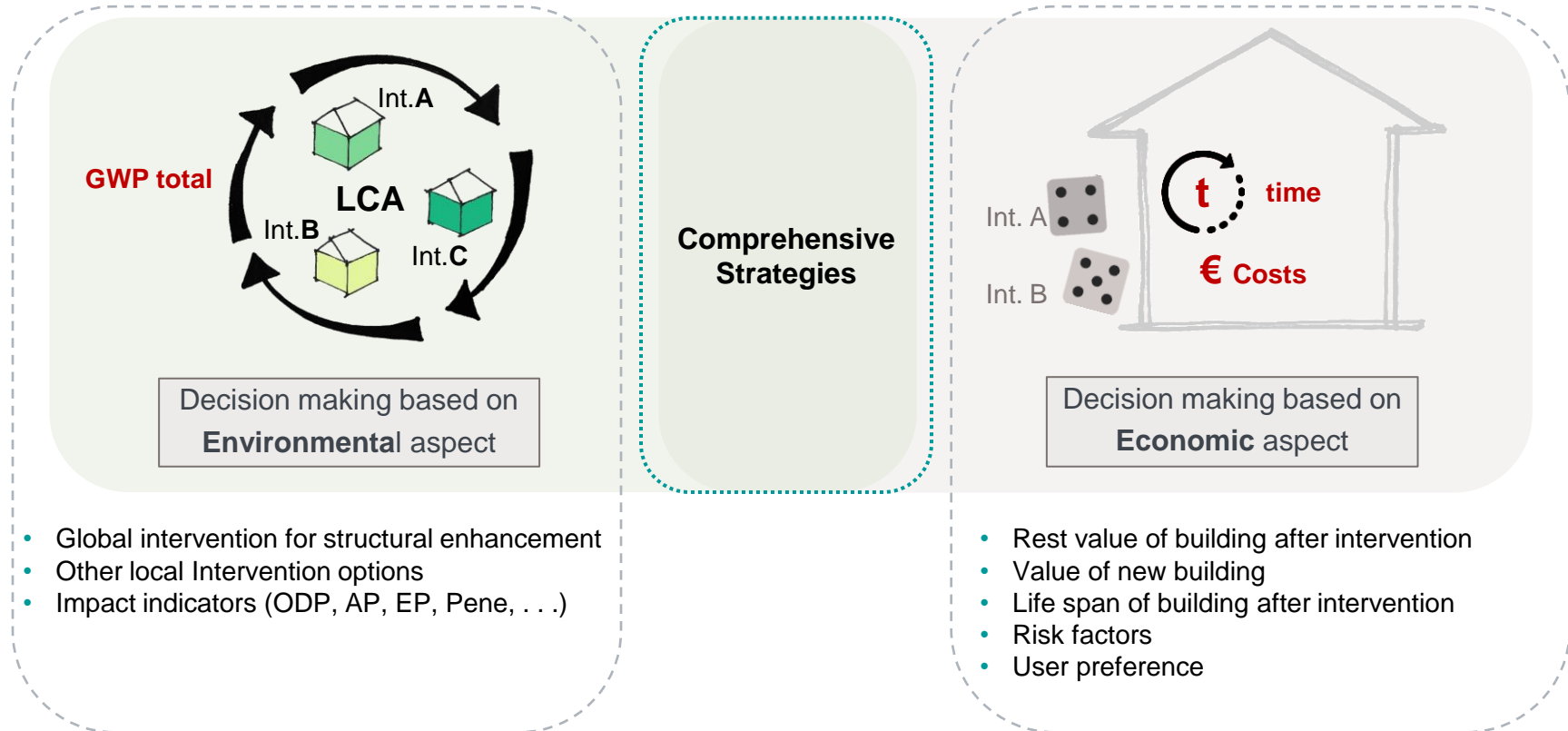


(kg. CO<sub>2</sub>-eq.)

GWP [kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq.]

MAX	4281,49	Nr of refurbishments (for 200 runs)	572
MIN	1052,57		
Average	1372,95	Nr of rebuilds (for 200 runs)	56
Standard deviation	242,38	Total nr of interventions (200 runs)	628
MEAN VALUE	1530		

## The more complex and rich the assessment method – the more relevant the results



- Global intervention for structural enhancement
- Other local Intervention options
- Impact indicators (ODP, AP, EP, Pene, . . .)

- Rest value of building after intervention
- Value of new building
- Life span of building after intervention
- Risk factors
- User preference



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**Thank you!**  
**Questions?**



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