



SBE19 Graz

SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT D-A-CH CONFERENCE 2019
Graz, 11–14 September 2019



SPECIAL FORUM

Level(s)¹ and its place in the tool box for sustainable construction

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12 Sept 2019, 11.30am -01.00pm | Rechbauerstraße 12, 8010 Graz

SUBJECT

Systems for describing, assessing and certifying the contribution of individual buildings to sustainable development are important tools for motivating building owners and assisting architects in the design process. So far, they are used in Europe for only a limited number of objects. Potential users fear a high financial expenditure for the collection of additional data and detailed documentation combined with additional costs for the certification process itself. Thus, the question arises for an additional entry point into the topic through the scope and type of sustainability assessment. Level(s) is a voluntary reporting framework for describing and documenting relevant building features with respect to their sustainability related characteristics. The Special Forum will discuss the role of Level(s) in the overall system of instruments and tools to promote sustainable design, construction and operation, and how interdependencies with other approaches can be shaped.

As part of the Special Forum, four presentations and a detailed discussion with all participants with interactive elements are planned:

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| Presentation 1 | Overview of the Level(s) framework/Results of test applications
Josefina Lindblom Ph.D., DG Environment, European Commission |
| Presentation 2 | Level(s) in Austria – 2 case studies
Martin Röck & Alexander Passer, TU Graz |
| Presentation 3 | Results of Level(s) testing process in Denmark
Harpa Birgisdottir & Kai Kanafani, Danish Building Research Institute |
| Presentation 4 | Demand for building related information to support appraisal and green finance – (how) can Level(s) help?
Ursula Hartenberger, Head of Sustainability, RICS |
| Presentation 5 | Job sharing between Level(s) and Sustainability Assessment Systems
Andreas Rietz, Head of Division Sustainable Building, BBSR |
| Moderation | Thomas Lützkendorf, KIT |

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

During the discussion with the participants the following questions will be discussed, among others:

- (1) How can obstacles be overcome in the context of a broad application of design process accompanying sustainability assessment systems?;
- (2) What new approaches and indicators does Level(s) offer?;
- (3) What are the experiences with Level(s) in practical application?;
- (4) How can a division of labor between Level(s) and other instruments and tools designed to support sustainable planning, construction and operation?

The results of an interactive opinion-forming and the overall discussion are summarized and made available to the participants of the Special Session, the organizers of the SBE19 Graz and the European Commission.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/pdf/factsheet_DEF.pdf

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