

### **D3.2 Performance gap causation**

Task 3.1 Performance gap assessment WP3 Deriving technical Guidelines for EPCs

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report takes the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) methodologies of nine different European countries, across 65 tested buildings, to investigate how the modelled energy consumption compares with real, measured energy consumption of those same buildings. Each individual building is modelled with the local EPC methodology and compared with metered energy consumption, converting the EPC output to a parameter that allows for this comparison where required.

The study demonstrates the challenges in comparing different methodologies, with different metrics and frameworks, particularly across relatively small samples of buildings. However, the 65 case-study buildings do indicate how previously discussed differences in methodologies can be seen when those methodologies are applied to real buildings.

Using real energy consumption values as an effective target for those methodologies – and therefore calculating a Performance Gap for each building – is an approximation of "success" for those different approaches of generating an EPC. However, as discussed in the report, this Performance Gap should not be seen as an absolute measurement for EPC effectiveness, with EPCs not designed to account for meaningful occupancy behaviour in individual buildings. Conclusions must therefore be guided by contextual data and further modelling results, as being explored in the crossCert project.



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#### 1 Introduction

The Performance Gap (Bordass, 2013) is a well-used term in building modelling to describe the difference between the modelled and measured energy consumption of a building, usually based on a year of final energy consumption data (kWh/yr). It is used across many different forms of building modelling as a measure of accuracy or effectiveness of that model, and whether it is describing a building appropriately.

Although a seemingly obvious way of judging the suitability of a modelling method (i.e. how close to reality it is), the Performance Gap can be problematic when used as a test of energy compliance methods. Building modelling approaches with a high degree of standardisation, particularly around inputs such as occupancy and weather data, are intentionally not attempting to model a building under conditions that match those experienced during a specific year of measured energy consumption data. However, when carrying out a comparison of EPC methods across Europe, it could be argued that variations in Performance Gap, combined with a knowledge of factors that might cause such a gap, is a useful part of such a comparison providing it is qualified with limitations of such an analysis.

The crossCert project is attempting to understand how EPC methods differ across chosen European countries, what causes these differences, and whether this has implications for designing new innovations for next-generation EPCs. Informed by a previous crossCert report (Sayfikar and Jenkins, 2022) that documents these differences and building data provided by crossCert project partners, this report uses Performance Gap calculations to illustrate numerical differences that come from selected EPC methodologies. Furthermore, the report documents the difficulties in comparing measured and modelled energy consumption data in a fair and appropriate way – particularly when attempting to do so consistently for different buildings, different EPC methodologies, and different approaches to measuring energy consumption.

Following an overview of already noted differences in how crossCert project partner countries conduct and calculate EPCs, the numerical Performance Gap calculations of a small sample of buildings are presented. An analysis is then provided that discusses whether there are tangible links between these known differences in EPC approaches and how the different methods perform when compared with measured energy consumption data.

#### 2 Methodology

#### 2.1 Data collection

In order to study the performance gap, the information provided by the partners in the local ensemble (referred to as "L-buildings" in the crossCert project) are used. For L-buildings, the EPC certificate as well as any available measured energy data is provided by the relevant partner country and these values are compared against each other. The results of these comparisons are recounted in reports which form the basis of this deliverable. In addition to these reports, all partners were asked to provide a list of all of their buildings where measured energy data was available (regardless of building categories). For consistency purposes, the partners were asked to provide final energy consumption values in addition to the primary energy values provided in the L-building reports.

When comparing actual energy consumption to EPC results, it is important to note the differences in the metrics used on the EPC certificate in each country. Comparing the EPC certificates of different partner counties (Table 8) shows different metrics are used for reporting EPC calculation results. While some countries only provide the primary energy consumption, or carbon emission values, others provide more detailed information including total final energy consumption and carbon emissions as well as consumption values for various building services such as heating, cooling, and lighting. For countries where final energy values are provided on EPC certificates, it is possible to make direct comparisons against measured data, however for countries where only primary energy consumption or carbon emissions are reported, the comparison is less accurate. Although it is possible to calculate the primary energy consumption and carbon emissions from the measured values using primary energy and emission factors for each country, care must be taken to use the same values which were employed in the EPC calculations. These values usually tend to change over time due to decarbonization efforts in each

country's energy infrastructure. For example, in the UK, the primary energy and emission factors provided in the National Calculation Methodology (NCM) in the 2015 version was 1.22 kWhPE(Primary Energy)/kWh and 0.216 kg C02/kWh for natural gas and 3.07 kWhPE/kWh and 0.519 kg C02/kWh for grid supplied electricity, respectively (NCM, 2015). However, these values were changed in the 2021 version to 1.126 kWhPE/kWh and 0.210 kg C02/kWh for natural gas and an average value of 1.513 kWhPE/kWh and 0.138 C02/kWh for grid supplied electricity, respectively (NCM, 2021).

As can be seen from Table 1 and Appendix A, most countries provide final energy values on their EPCs, making direct comparison possible. However, the EPC certificates in Scotland only include the primary energy consumption, non-residential EPCs in England and Wales only include the annual CO2 emissions value, and EPCs in Malta only include primary energy consumption and CO2 emissions. In order to study the performance gap for the non-residential L-buildings in England, the measured energy consumption values were converted to carbon emissions using the emission factors provided in NCM 2015 (NCM, 2015). For Maltese buildings, the detailed calculation results (not included in the certificate) which included the final energy values were provided by the partners which were used in comparisons against measured energy consumption. For the Danish L-buildings, only the measured energy consumption for heating was available. These values were compared against the corresponding values on the EPC certificates.

Austria residential	Final energy consumption for heating and hot water demand, total final energy, tota primary energy, CO2 emissions	
Austria non- residential	Final energy consumption for heating, cooling demand, hot water demand, lighting, and humidification, total final energy, total primary energy, CO2 emissions	
Bulgaria	Final energy consumption for heating, ventilation, cooling, hot water, lighting, and auxiliary electricity, total final energy, primary energy, CO2 emissions	
Croatia	Final energy consumption for heating and cooling, total primary and final energy consumption, CO2 emissions	
Denmark	Final energy consumption for heating, and electricity for building operation	
Greece	Final energy consumption for heating, cooling demand, hot water demand, and lighting, total final and primary energy disaggregated by fuel type, CO2 emissions	
Malta	Primary energy consumption, CO2 emissions	
Poland	Final energy consumption for heating, cooling demand, hot water demand, and lighting, total final energy, total primary energy, CO2 emissions	
Slovenia	Final energy consumption for heating, ventilation, cooling, hot water, lighting, and auxiliary electricity, total final energy, primary energy, CO2 emissions	
Spain	Primary energy consumption and CO2 emissions for heating, cooling demand, hot water demand, and lighting, Final energy for heating and cooling, total primary energy and CO2 emissions	
UK non-residential (Scotland)	Primary and final energy consumption, CO2 emissions	
UK residential (Scotland)	Primary energy consumption, annual cost rating	

Table 1- Metrics provided in each country's EPC.



Rest of the UK non- Residential	CO2 emissions
Rest of the UK Residential	annual cost rating, Final energy consumption for heating and hot water

#### **3** Sources of the performance gap

When comparing EPCs to measured energy data, it is important to note that the main objective of EPCs is to use normative metrics for facilitating comparison between different buildings rather than accurately reflecting the actual building (Summerfield et al., 2019). To achieve this goal, many aspects of building operation are simplified or standardized during an EPC calculation. Therefore, when comparing performance gaps between different countries, taking into account the differences between countries approaches to such inputs, as well as other differences such as the energy categories considered in calculations is crucial. These differences are highlighted in detail in other project deliverables D2.4 (Fueyo and Herrando, 2022), D3.1 (Sayfikar and Jenkins, 2022) and D2.5 (Gómez, 2022). A summary of the important aspects that could impact the performance gap are included in this section. Understanding these differences are important for placing the results of Section 4 into a wider context, and as a reminder that the EPC approaches across countries can be fundamentally different.

#### 3.1 Energy categories

When comparing the EPC energy consumption values to measured data, it is important to note that the categories of energy consumption included in the calculation of EPCs are not similar in all countries. The Annex I of the revised EPBD published in 2018 (EPBD, 2018) states that the energy performance of a building "shall reflect typical energy use for space heating, space cooling, domestic hot water, ventilation, built-in lighting and other technical building systems", where "technical building systems" refers to any technical equipment used for the purposes of space heating, space cooling, ventilation, domestic hot water, built-in lighting, building automation and control, or on-site electricity generation. However, comparison between the studied methodologies shows some differences in countries' approaches. While all the studied countries include heating, domestic hot water (DHW) and ventilation in their EPC calculation, inclusion of cooling and lighting energy consumption tends to vary. In addition, none of the crossCert countries (except for Bulgaria) include energy consumption of electrical equipment in their calculations, whereas these values are included in the measured energy data unless a building is equipped with submetering equipment.

Lighting is included in EPC calculation of non-residential buildings in all countries. But for residential building assessments, it is not included in Polish and Spanish methodologies, and for Danish buildings only the lighting in communal spaces in multi-family residential buildings is included in calculations. For cooling energy consumption, the approach is similar to lighting, where it is included in non-residential buildings' calculations in all of the studied methodologies. However, for residential buildings cooling is not included in calculations in Cluded in calculations in UK and Austrian methodologies.

#### 3.2 Building zones

The ability to use zoning in the EPC software is an indicator of the level of details required during the assessment and provides insight into the overall approach of a methodology. Dividing a building into multiple zones allows for a more detailed and accurate analysis, which is closer to the actual building usage. On the other hand, it increases the number of inputs which can make the EPC issuing process more time consuming and increase the potential of human errors which could be a source of the performance gap.

Criteria used by different methodologies for dividing the building into various zones include temperature set points, HVAC systems, type of activity, and significant differences in heat loss or heat gains (e.g., south facing rooms). Comparing the methodologies in different countries shows that all countries allow zoning

for non-residential buildings, whilst treating residential buildings as single zone spaces. However, EPC methodologies of Greece, Spain, Poland and Bulgaria allow the assessor to divide residential buildings into multiple zones as well, which is an option rarely used by the assessors.

#### 3.3 Calculation inputs

One of the possible causes of the performance gap is the level of simplification of EPC calculation inputs. In some countries, in order to facilitate the process of issuing EPCs, databases of default values for various parameters such as thermal bridges, building envelope U-values, infiltration and ventilation rates, system efficiencies, etc. are provided and are commonly used by assessors. Using default values instead of performing measurements on-site or using manufacturer documents can lead to EPC results which don't reflect the actual building accurately.

In addition, input parameters such as occupancy, equipment/lighting and HVAC schedules, and temperature setpoints are treated differently in each methodology. Some countries use standardised representations for these parameters whereas others use values closer to the actual building operation. These inputs are highly dependent on occupants and can have considerable impacts on the EPC assessment results. Using standardised inputs for such parameters can serve the comparative purposes of EPCs, as well as harmonizing the results of different assessments of the same building, while potentially creating larger performance gaps.

This section summarizes the differences in how crossCert partner countries approach the calculation inputs and categorises country methodologies.

#### 3.3.1 Building envelope U-values

Thermal transmittance of materials (i.e., U-values) and other similar characteristics of building fabric are usually either calculated by the EPC software using a library of commonly used materials or taken from databases of default values for common structure types in a country. It is worth noting that these libraries and databases are specific to each country, therefore identical material might have different values in each country. In most of the partner countries, if enough data is available, the assessor uses the software to calculate these values based on the information they collected during a site visit, using building drawings, or other documents such as wall construction certificates (in the case of Denmark).

For most countries, a database of commonly used wall, roof and floor constructions as well as U-values and G-values for windows is implemented in the calculation software. Exceptions are Bulgaria and the methodology for residential buildings in Malta, for which there is no database implemented in the national software and assessors must calculate U-values separately using information from other official resources and enter the results into the software.

Some countries also allow estimating the thermal transmittance of the building envelope using general information about the building, such as building age or use-type. Spain and UK use such a feature for existing buildings, which infers values based on the building sector, climate zone and the building regulations that were in use at the time of construction.

Table 2- Countries' a	innroaches to Ll-values

Uvalues	
	Malta (residential)
No default values, only calculated based on the actual building fabric	Bulgaria
	Austria
	Croatia
	Denmark
	Greece
Default values based on construction type or inferred using building characteristics	Malta (non- residential)
	Poland
	Slovenia
	Spain
	UK

#### 3.3.2 Infiltration and ventilation rates

Infiltration rate is also an important input which could affect the performance gap in EPC models and is linked to the building fabric and opening types. The EPC methodologies of most countries require the assessors to perform a pressure test at 50 Pa to measure the infiltration rate (Austrian Standards, 2019, Dansk Standardiseringsrad (DS), 2020, PIS, 2014, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, 2019, BRE, 2020, BRE, 2012a, BRE, 2012b). Similar to the U-values, in the absence of a measured value, some methodologies provide default values based on certain building characteristics. For example, the default infiltration rates in the Austrian methodology depend on the building type, whereas in the Danish methodology they depend on the level of weatherproofing of the building (The Danish Energy Agency, 2021). The Polish methodology determines the default infiltration value depending on whether a building was built before or after 1995. In some countries it is possible to infer infiltration rates from building age. Greece, Malta, Spain and UK methodologies provide default values based on building age. For the UK, this only applies to existing buildings, and it is mandatory for the assessor to measure the infiltration rate onsite for new buildings. In the Bulgarian methodology, assessors use infiltration rate values based on their experience, and adjust these values by calibrating the model against actual energy consumption data.

Comparing countries' approaches to ventilation rates shows that most countries provide databases in their software with default minimum values for different activity types. Bulgaria, however, doesn't provide default values for ventilation rates and requires the assessor to use system design values or measure the ventilation rates on-site using a thermo-anemometer. Although, this is usually not the case in practice, mostly due to the low cost of EPC assessments, and similar to infiltration rates, most assessors use values based on their experience and make the necessary adjustments during the calibration step.

Infiltration rate	
No default values/ or only measured values allowed	UK (new buildings)
	Bulgaria
	Austria
	Croatia
	Denmark
	Greece
default values	Malta
	Poland
	Slovenia
	Spain
	UK

Table 3- Countries' approaches to Infiltration rates

#### 3.3.3 Temperature setpoints

Temperature setpoints have a direct impact on the energy consumption results, and in turn the performance gap. All of the studied countries apart from Bulgaria use default temperature setpoints for EPC calculations. However, these setpoints are different across different countries, mostly due to the country specific norms of temperature settings in buildings. Default temperature setpoints are generally defined in a static way; and for some countries don't change between cooling or heating seasons. In Bulgaria, although the official EPC methodology doesn't include default setpoints, there are reference values provided for various building use-types in national ordinances that are commonly used by assessors.

For non-residential buildings, it is common to link the setpoints to activity types, which is the case for Greece, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and UK. Greece sets the default values based on the building use-type. Slovenia, Malta, and the UK define different setpoints for each zone activity type such as offices, circulation areas, etc. Poland uses a similar approach, but instead of specific activity type, the default values are based on the level of physical activity (seated, standing, walking) and clothing type. Denmark uses a different approach where temperature setpoints are linked to building controls instead of activity type, and Spain and Austria use fixed heating and cooling setpoints regardless of activity. Bulgaria doesn't provide default values in the EPC methodology and leaves it to the assessor's discretion, however there are national ordinances for reference temperature settings in buildings such as workplaces that are commonly used by assessors in calculations.

For residential buildings, some countries use a fixed value for all seasons (Austria and Denmark) which could contribute to higher performance gaps compared to others which use different setpoints for cooling and heating seasons (Greece, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, UK).



Non residential		Residential		
No default values	Bulgaria	No default values	Bulgaria	
	Spain		Austria	
Default values, less	Denmark	Default values fixed all year		
detalled	Austria		Denmark	
	Greece		Greece	
	016666		Malta	
Default values based on	Malta	Default values different for	Poland	
activity type	Poland	cooling/heating season	Slovenia	
	Slovenia		Spain	
	UK		UK	

Table 4- countries' approaches to temperature setpoints

#### 3.3.4 Occupancy schedules

Internal heat gain is an important factor in calculating heating and cooling demands which can affect the EPC rating of a building. Therefore, comparing how internal heat gains (i.e., occupancy, lighting, and electrical appliances) are defined in each methodology can provide valuable insights for studying the performance gap. In addition to affecting the internal heat gains, HVAC and lighting operation profiles can directly change the energy consumption results of the model and should be considered in any comparison of EPC methodologies. It is here that the fundamental difference between a standardised model (intentionally simplifying building occupancy) and real building energy consumption (betraying real choices by individual occupants in a specific building) is particularly apparent.

Most of the studied countries use pre-defined profiles in their EPC calculation methodologies in order to standardize and facilitate better comparison between buildings. Assessors must use these profiles in order for the EPC to be valid. Exceptions to this approach are Bulgaria, Poland and Slovenia. Bulgaria and Poland don't provide standard profiles and leave it up to the assessor to collect the necessary information during site-visits or use their own professional judgement, whereas Slovenia provides default schedules for various activities but allows the assessor to override these and use customized profiles based on the actual building activity. Spain also allows the assessor to use tailored schedules for HVAC operation, but only for non-residential buildings. Even though such approaches could lead to results closer to the actual building operation, hence a smaller performance gap, they might also lead to variations in assessment results even for the same building when assessed by different assessors or during different times, rendering EPCs less consistent and standardised for that country.

Since the calculation methodologies of most of the studied countries are steady state, the exact timing of occupancy or system operation does not directly affect the results. Therefore, in most methodologies, occupancy and system operation profiles are defined in terms of a fixed number of hours in a typical day (sometimes different between weekdays and weekends, and heating and cooling season). These numbers vary across different countries as well which affects the results, leading to difference in performance gaps. For example, public buildings are assumed to be occupied for 8 hours per day in Poland, whereas in Denmark this value is 9 hours. Another example is the variations of the HVAC operation profiles for residential buildings across different countries. In the Spanish methodology, the HVAC system operates from 7 AM to 11 PM from October to May and from 3 PM to 11 PM from June to September. Whereas Malta assumes the HVAC system to run from 6 to 8 AM and 5 to 11 PM. The UK methodology assumes the heating schedule to be between 7 to 9 AM and 4 to 11 PM on weekdays and 7AM to 11PM for weekends and a uses a



standard cooling schedule of 6 hours/day. Slovenia and Denmark both assume 24-hour HVAC operation all year round.

Some countries provide more detailed profiles for non-residential buildings which are also suitable for using in dynamic simulation. This is the case for the UK and Spanish methodologies which have dynamic simulation options in their methodologies. The UK's National Calculation Methodology (NCM) (BRE, 2020) provides different hourly profiles for occupancy, lighting, HVAC operation and electrical equipment operation based on zone activity type for non-residential buildings. The Spanish methodology divides all building types into 8hr, 12hr, 16hr and 24hr operation times and provides the default profiles for each type. It is worth mentioning that in the Spanish methodology, it is not possible to define different profiles for each zone separately, and the operation profiles apply to all zones in the building.

Type of schedules	
	Bulgaria
No standard schedules	Poland
	Spain
Standard schedules-not mandatory	Slovenia
	Austria
	Croatia
	Denmark
Standard schedules- mandatory	Greece
	Malta
	UK

Τ	able	5-	Countries'	approaches	to	schedules

#### **3.3.5 HVAC systems**

For defining HVAC equipment, most countries take a similar approach by requiring the assessor to collect information regarding system efficiency parameters such as the Coefficients of Performance (COP), EER (Energy Efficiency Ratio), and SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) using manufacturer documents or equipment nameplates. Some countries require more detailed inputs, for example for defining boilers, in addition to the system efficiency; Slovenia requires the heating power at 30% operation, the efficiency at 30% operation, and the heat loss in standby mode.

In the absence of the required information, different countries provide assessors with different options. Austria, Denmark, Greece (Technical chamber of Greece, 2012), Malta (only for non-residential buildings), Poland (Rozporządzenie Ministra Infrastruktury I Rozwoju, 2015), Slovenia, and the UK provide default values in the software or in a separate database which can be used in the calculations instead of the actual values. These values are selected based on system type, range of system power, or device manufacturing date. However, this is not the case in all countries. For Bulgaria, if manufacturer data isn't available, the assessor should use instruments to measure device performance on-site. It is also mandatory to perform on-site measurements for any equipment with capacities over 70 kW. Also, for the countries studied, only Spain allows using default parameters in cases where the installed HVAC system doesn't meet the necessary setpoint temperatures, for example in older buildings with no installed heating systems.



	andinocoro
HVAC performance parameters	
	Bulgaria
No default values- only actual values allowed	Spain
	Austria
	Croatia
	Denmark
	Greece
Default values	Malta
	Poland
	Slovenia
	ПК

Table 6- Countries' approaches to HVAC system parameters

#### 4 Numerical analysis

Table 7 shows the performance gap calculated for 65 buildings (anonymised but associated with countryspecific identifiers) for which measured annual energy data is available. As mentioned in previous sections, for Danish buildings, only the measured heating energy consumption is available which has been used for comparison. Also, since UK4 is certified using the UK methodology for England and Wales, only carbon emissions data is available on the EPC certificate, which was compared to the calculated carbon emissions using the measured energy data.

Based on the results in Table 7, the performance gap values range from 0.77% to 859%, showing a wide range of variation. Out of the 65 buildings, for 37 buildings (57%) the performance gap is negative, meaning that the EPC overestimates the energy consumption values, while for the rest of the buildings the EPC underestimates these values. *Figure* 1 clearly shows the variations of the performance gap for the case study buildings (where the level of standardisation of each method has been judged based on a previous review by the project (Sayfikar and Jenkins, 2022).

	Code	Building type	Measured total final energy consumption [kWh/m2/year]	EPC result final energy consumption [kWh/m2/year]	Gap (%)	Country
1	GR100	Educational	207.8	183.8	11.550	Greece
2	GR101	Single family house	170.4	124.5	26.937	Greece
3	GR102	Healthcare building	194.2	222.4	-14.521	Greece
4	GR103	Single family house	232	621.9	-168.060	Greece
5	GR104	Retail building	45.2	86.7	-91.814	Greece
6	GR105	Multi-Apartment building	67.4	40	40.653	Greece
7	GR106	Single family house	87	310.7	-257.126	Greece
8	GR107	Retail building	28.3	271.5	-859.364	Greece

Tabla	7	Dor	form	anco	aan	wal	1100
IUDIE	/-	PEI	10111	IUIILE	uuu	vui	ues



9	GR108	Single family house	198.3 154.1		22.289	Greece
10	DK31	Single family house	160.2252747	162.5	-1.420	Denmark
11	DK5 <sup>1</sup>	Terraced house	68.94308943	88.61788618	-28.538	Denmark
12	DK11 <sup>1</sup>	Multi-apartment Building	104.8389631	104.8389631 128.5938727 -		Denmark
13	DK121	Multi-apartment Building	97.45535714	122.7827381	-25.989	Denmark
14	DK131	Public building for education	57.91638627	75.30114401	-30.017	Denmark
15	DK14 <sup>1</sup>	Single family house with business area	114.1664089	74.45097433	34.787	Denmark
16	DK15 <sup>1</sup>	Single family house with business area	120.4119241	119.5392954	0.725	Denmark
17	DK16 <sup>1</sup>	Multi family building	85.53663571	134.9226006	-57.737	Denmark
18	DK17 <sup>1</sup>	Public Community Hall	125.3578928	102.7702703	18.019	Denmark
19	DK18 <sup>1</sup>	Public Community Hall	59.91570074	58.29293994	2.708	Denmark
20	DK2011	Single family building with business area	142.3684211	115.5789474	18.817	Denmark
21	DK21 <sup>1</sup>	Single family building with business area	124.2095238	109.4603175	11.874	Denmark
22	DK22 <sup>1</sup>	Single family building with business area	114.6245059	128.2806324	-11.914	Denmark
23	DK23 <sup>1</sup>	Multifamily building with business area	92.32676056	140.7605634	-52.459	Denmark
24	DK24 <sup>1</sup>	Commercial building	34.99835255	71.14332784	-103.276	Denmark
25	ES01	Educational	70.85	645.25	-810.78	Spain
26	ES02	Educational	31.17	42.29	-35.675	Spain
27	ES03	Office	132.4	162.28	-22.568	Spain
28	ES13	Sports hall	114.69	315.73	-175.290	Spain
29	ES15	office	65.5	109.82	-67.664	Spain
30	ES17	healthcare	8.03	30.6	-281.071	Spain
31	ESR2	Educational	74.22	134.08	-80.652	Spain
32	ESR3	Social Housing	152.57	439.24	-187.894	Spain
33	ESR4	Social Housing	170.29	443.73	-160.573	Spain
34	ESR5	Social Housing	189.59	395.92	-108.830	Spain
35	HR-3	Educational	103.83	55.54	46.509	Croatia
36	HR-6	Educational	72.6	77.29	-6.460	Croatia
37	HR-10	Community/Public assembly buildings	45.3	154.86	-241.854	Croatia

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#### Version: 02

cro	ossCo	erta
70	LID 11	Educations

38	HR-11	Educational	86.78	49.21	43.293	Croatia
39	HR-12	Educational	147.98	192.4	-30.018	Croatia
40	HR-20	Healthcare buildings	183.08	80.34	56.118	Croatia
41	PL-2	Office	30.98	28	9.619	Poland
42	MT-01	Single family house	54.97	33.46	39.130	Malta
43	MT-10	Office	30.37	108.48	-257.195	Malta
44	MT-03	Terraced house	26.28	114.92	-337.291	Malta
45	MT-12	Non-residential	47.83	92.83	-94.083	Malta
46	SI-1	Educational	37	111	- 200.000	Slovenia
47	SI-2	Educational	145	305	-110.345	Slovenia
48	SI-3	Educational	133	116	12.782	Slovenia
49	SI-4	Educational	313	362	-15.655	Slovenia
50	SI-7	Educational	95	87	8.421	Slovenia
51	UK1	Educational	137	265.88	-94.073	UK
52	UK2	Educational	32	92.308	-188.463	UK
53	UK4 <sup>2</sup>	Educational	51.41	19.92	61.253	UK
54	UK22 <sup>3</sup>	Single family house	139.99	151	-7.865	UK
55	UK23 <sup>3</sup>	Single family house	247.44	346	-39.832	UK
56	BG08	Office	187.01	147.21	21.282	Bulgaria
57	BG1	Multi-apartment Building	57.41	159.8	-178.349	Bulgaria
58	BG2	Multi-apartment Building	60.39	87.8	-45.388	Bulgaria
59	BG3	Multi-apartment Building	86.99	159.9	-83.814	Bulgaria
60	BG4	Single family house	321.95	131.69	59.096	Bulgaria
61	BG5	Public entertainment building	14.77	127.4	-762.559	Bulgaria
62	BG6	Administrative building	98.36	208.5	-111.976	Bulgaria
63	BG7	Administrative building	33.94	34.2	-0.766	Bulgaria
64	BG9	Educational building	64.85	83.9	-29.375	Bulgaria
65	BG10	Educational building	28.88	210.3	-628.186	Bulgaria

Lowest performance gap

Highest performance gap

<sup>1</sup>Heating energy consumption (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>year)

<sup>2</sup>Carbon emissions (kgCO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>year)

<sup>3</sup> Primary energy (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>year)



Figure 1- Performance gap variations

In order to compare the performance gap values across different countries, the coefficient of variation for the root mean square error (CV(RMSE)) for each country is calculated and presented in Figure 2.

$$CV(RMSE) = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (e_i - r_i)^2 / n}}{\overline{e}}$$

Based on these results, it appears that the performance gap is generally lower for more tailored methodologies compared to more standardized ones with Bulgaria as an exception. However, it is important to note that the sample sizes are not equal in all countries, and there is only one building included in this study for Poland which has a highly tailored methodology. In addition, it is important to note that categorising country methodologies accurately is not possible as a country's approach to treating one input can be completely different from its approach in treating other inputs. However, for the purpose of exploring possible links between the performance gap and the general type of the EPC methodology, different methodologies were assigned to different levels of standardization.

Figure 2 shows that amongst the standardized methodologies, the UK performance gap results are in the same range as the more tailored methodologies, even though the UK method is highly standardized. Another important point to note is that the lower value for Denmark buildings could be attributed to the fact that only the heating energy consumption values are compared against the relevant EPC values. For other countries, a large part of the performance gap is possibly caused by other energy consumption categories which are not accounted for in EPC calculation, such as lighting, cooling, and electrical equipment.

crossCer



Figure 2- Comparison of the performance gap across crossCert countries

#### 5 Conclusion

This study has demonstrated the variability of the Performance Gap when comparing EPC-predicted energy use with real energy consumption for a small sample of buildings. Due to this sample size, the methodological approach has been to understand the detail of the calculation procedures, identify potential causes of performance gaps from these descriptions (i.e., factors that cause a standardised representation of a building to be different to the real building), and then document whether such differences are found when applied to a set of case-study buildings. The results, as a whole, should therefore not be seen as numerically generalisable across wider stocks of buildings in the selected countries, but they do help demonstrate that:

- The Performance Gap between the measured and EPC-modelled energy consumption of a building is both significant and variable depending on building type and chosen EPC methodology. This study notes a calculated Performance Gap varying between 0.77% and 859%
- Using Performance Gap as a metric for EPC effectiveness must be placed in context of a) what EPCs are fundamentally trying to do with regards to standardisation of energy assessment, b) the lack of ability in most EPC methods to account for genuine occupant behaviour, and c) the chosen output metrics of a national EPC approach, which may not allow for ease of comparison with a Performance Gap
- Even with difficulties in quantifying (numerically) a Performance Gap for a given method and/or building stock, the list of causes of Performance Gaps (and why this may differ between countries) is a long one. It is suggested that this should be the starting point of any critique of an EPC method (i.e., is an assumption in the methodology justified when compared to approaches elsewhere), rather than making a judgement purely on numerical results.

As discussed in the report, a number of caveats must be understood when making these comparisons – and these, in turn, help illustrate just how different the EPC methodologies are that exist across Europe. In

particular, categorising methodologies by a single factor (e.g., level of complexity or standardisation) does not account for the different layers of complexity (across different input parameters) within an approach. For example, Malta is standardized in many aspects but does not have default values for U-values for residential buildings. Likewise, in the UK where there is considerable standardisation of inputs, it is still mandatory to measure the infiltration rate for new buildings.

It has also been noted that the sample size is too small for detailed statistical analysis and, due to the need to select buildings with specific availability of data, countries are not represented equally in that sample; e.g. Poland only has one building, whereas Denmark has 14.

This broad discussion and comparison have encompassed case studies from different sectors, i.e., nonresidential, and residential. In some countries these building types are treated differently in EPC calculations, and these intra-country variations may be as significant as those occurring between countries.

Finally, it may be surprising that, despite the guidance and boundaries provided by the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, countries do not record the same categories of energy consumption on EPCs. Furthermore, for Performance Gap analysis, different buildings measure energy consumption in different ways (and this can also be country-specific). For example, except for Danish buildings, there is no submetered data available in the sample used in this study. Therefore, it was not possible to directly compare the EPC results to the measured values of the energy categories included in an EPC (even if such EPC categorisation was used). Therefore, electrical equipment, lighting and cooling energy consumption are included in the measured energy data whereas for some countries some or all of these are not calculated in EPCs. This is enough to cause large performance gaps regardless of methodology, particularly for non-residential buildings where a large part of energy consumption is due to electrical appliances and lighting.

The crossCert project will continue to explore these results in future reports, alongside other modelled outputs (such as applying EPC approaches from one country to those of another, and running detailed dynamic simulations of target buildings) that will help identify the causation of differences across EPC methodologies in Europe, and the consequences of this lack of harmonisation for next-generation EPCs.

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### Table 8- Excerpts from crossCert countries' EPCs showing metrics provided in each country's certificate, usable in performance gap calculations.

Austria non- residential	REQUIREMENTS (reference climate) reference heat demand Externally induced cooling demand Final/delivery energy demand Overall Energy Efficiency Factor Renewable portion	68.5 kWh/m²a 1 1.0 kWh/m³a 0.85 at least 5% of the fGEE requirement	fulfilled fulfilled Fulfills Fulfills	HWB <sub>Ref,RK</sub> KB° <sub>RK</sub> E/LEB <sub>RK</sub> f <sub>GEE</sub>	49.0 kWh/m²a 0.0 kWh/m³a 136.7 kWh/m²a 0.59
	HEAT AND ENERGY REQUIREMENT: reference heat demand heating demand hot water heat demand heating energy demand Energy expenditure figure for heating cooling demand cooling energy demand energy expenditure figure cooling humidification energy requirements lighting energy requirements operating power requirements final energy demand primary energy demand Primary energy demand not renewable carbon emissions Overall Energy Efficiency Factor Photovoltaic export	a reast 5% of the IGEE requirement S (site climate) 96,2 102,7 9,4 59,5 1 43,3 21,6 120,7 42,1 244,0 466,1 124,0 466,1 144,0 67,3	276 kWh/a 89 kWh/a 336 kWh/a 336 kWh/a 323 kWh/a 323 kWh/a 44 kWh/a 70 kWh/a 74 kWh/a 72 kWh/a 01 kWh/a 101 kWh/a 103 kg/a	HWB Ref,SK HWB SK WWWB HEB SK <sup>e</sup> AWZ,H KB SK KEB SK <sup>e</sup> AWZ,K commandEB SK BeIEB BOD EEB SK PEB SK PEB SK PEB sK PEB ern.,SK CO2 SK <sup>f</sup> GEE PV Export,SK	56.3 kWh/m²a 60.1 kWh/m²a 5.5 kWh/m²a 34.8 kWh/m²a 0.53 25.4 kWh/m²a 12.6 kWh/m²a 12.6 kWh/m²a 24.6 kWh/m²a 142.7 kWh/m²a 142.7 kWh/m²a 188.3 kWh/m²a 84.2 kWh/m²a 39.4 kg/m²a 0.59

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Austria residential	HWB WWWB HTEB-RH HTEB HEB EEB PEB CO2	Refere zonen [k\	enzklima bezogen Wh/a] 1.912	spezifisch [kWh/m²a] 9,11	Standortklima zonenbezoge [kWh/a] 2.081 2.680 -32 -1.684 8.011 4.070 4.070	a n spezifisch [kWh/m²a) 9,92 12,78 -0,15 -8,03 38,19 19,40 19,40	Anforderun ab 01.01.20 [kWh/m²a 44,9 126,0	ngen 10 a] erfüllt
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Bulgaria	EPmin         kWh/m²         <	EPmax kWh/m² 48 96 190 240 290 363 435 435	Pr cons A+ A B C C D E E F G	imary energy sumption scale kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	e Before measures kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	After mesures kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	Energy pe characteristics Specific annual final energy consumption Specific annual final energy consumption for heating, ventilation and DHW Total annual final energy consumption Generated CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	rformance of the building 159,86 kWh/m <sup>2</sup> 145,82 kWh/m <sup>2</sup> 789,55 MWh 357 t/a





		EXISTIN	G SITUATION AT	THE MOMENT OF	THE E	NERGY	AUDIT
		System	Energy source	Generator	Ar	nnual fir consu	nal energy mption
					Spe	cific	Total
	$\sim$	Type	Туре	Type	kWl	n/m²	kWh
		Heating	District heating	Sub-station	110	,84	547 441
	$\sum$	Ventilation			0,	00	0,00
		Cooling			0,	00	0,00
	$\bigcup$	Domestic hot water	Electricity -	Volume boilers	25,24		124 668
	$\square$	Lighting	Electricity		1.	58	7 788
		Others – appliances using energy	Electricity		12,	,46	61 562
Croatia							
	ENERGY CL	ASS OF THE BUILDING		Specific annual required thermal energy for heating Q"H,nd [kWh/(m <sup>2</sup>	d 1 a)]	Spe prima Eprim	ccific annual ry energy [kWh/(m2a)]
	A+ A B C			197.44		:	336,38
	F G		11AN/L-1/	E			G
	Specific annual	a delivered energy Edel $(m^2a)$	kvvn/(m*a)]	10.49			
	Enter "nZEB" if the requirements for almost	energy property of the buildi st zero energy buildings prescri	ing (Eprim) meets the ibed by the valid TPRUETZZ		-		

# crossCert<sup>1</sup>

	ENERGY NEE	EDS		REFERENCE CLIMATE DATA			REQUEST 2						
				Tot [kV	tal Vh/a]	Speci [kWh/	ific /(m²a)]	Allowed [kWh/(m²a)]					
	Annual required t	hermal energy for heating		187,564.00		197.44	49,48						
	Annual required	thermal energy for coolin		12,279.00		12.92	50.00						
	Annual delivered e	energy Edel	2	283,877.27		298.82	60.00						
	Annual primary en	ergy Eprim			319,563.05		336,38	90.00					
)enmark	CALCULATED ENERGY REQ	UIREMENTS OF THE BUILDING											
					0								
	Warm up	т. т.			Other e	nergy needs	5	ſ					
	FORM OF SUPPLY	63 560 5 779 2	D TO ENERGY UNIT FOR SU	PPLY FORM	ELECTRICITY FO	R OTHER*		kWh 1.78					
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reece	Estimated a	nnual primary energy cons	sumption	100									
	Reference building [k]	Wh/m2]:						188.8					
	of inspected building [kWh/m2]:												
				240									
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Malta										
					$\sim$					
	0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 8	0 90 100 110 120 130	140 150	160 170 180	190 200 210 220	230 240 250 260 270 280				
	Energy Use: 115kWh/m².yr									
	Carbon Dioxide Emissions	: 29 kg/m <sup>2</sup> yr								
	0 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5 15 17.5 20	0 22.5 25 27.5 <mark>30 32.</mark>	5 35 37.5	40 42.5 45	47.5 50 52.5 55	57.5 60 62.5 65 67.5 70				
			/	///	////					
			$\sim / /$							
Poland	Evaluation of the energy performance o	f the building10>	Contraction of	12000		Solution of the second				
	Energy Performance Indicators	Rated bui	lding		Requirements for to technical an	r a new building according nd construction regulations				
	Indicator of the annual demand for usable energy	EU = 14.60 kWh/(m2 ye	ar)							
	Indicator of annual demand for final energy	EK = 21.92 kWh/(m2 ye	ar)							
	Index of annual demand for non-renewable primary energy 11)	EP = 45.90 kWh/(m2 • )	ear)		EP = 110.00 kWh	/(m2 year)				
	Unit amount of CO2 emissions	E = 0.02t CO2 I(m2 yea	r)			A PERSONAL PROPERTY OF				
	Share of renewable energy sources in	what. uo,c = 34.70 %								
	the annual demand for final energy				The second					
						1				
	Calculated annual amount of energy carrie	er or energy consumed	by the buil	Iding12I	Provide State	m2 year)				
	technical system	Type of energy of energy of energy	arrier	The amour	t of energy carrier or energy	Unit/(m2 year)				
	Heating	1) Electricity	Car	9.83		kWh				
	Preparation of hot tap water	1) Solar energy	14 A	1.10		kWh				
		2) Electricity	(1) - C	3.03		kWh				
				7.00						
	Built-in lighting installation111	I) Electricity		7.93		kvvn				
Rest of the UK non- Residential	Breakdown of this property's energy per Main heating fuel Na	<b>formance</b> ıtural Gas	Ene prop	rgy effic perty	ciency ratin	ig for this				
	Building environment Air	Conditioning	This p	property's o	current energy i	rating is B.				
	Assessment level 5			<b>A</b> 1						
	Building emission rate (kgCO2/m2 per year) 12	.61	Under 0	A+		uirements for a new building according beechnical and construction regulations = 110.00 kWh/(m2 year) = 110.00 kWh/(m2 year) mergy carrier rgy KWh kWh kWh kWh kWh kWh h kWh n ccy rating for this nt energy rating is B.				
			0-25	Α						
			26-50	E	3	28   в				
			51-75		С					
			<mark>76-100</mark>		D					
			101-125		E					
			126-150		F					
			Over 150	D	G					
			Prope	erties are o	iven a rating fro	om A+ (most				
			efficie	ent) to G (le	east efficient).					

crossC	erta			Version: 02		
Rest of the UK Residential	Estimated energy use an potential savings	nd	Estimated energy used to heat this property			
	Estimated yearly energy cost for this property	£1107	Water heating	2935 kWh per year		
	Potential saving	£311		••••••		
	Energy efficiency rati property	ing for this	The graph shows this property's current and potential energy efficiency.			
	This property's current energy the potential to be C.	y rating is E. It has	Properties are given a rating from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient).			
	See how to improve this property's energy performance.		Properties are also given a score. The higher the number the lower your fuel bills are likely to be.			
	Score Energy rating	Current Potential	For properties ir	n England and Wales:		
	81-91 B		the average ene the average ene	ergy rating is D ergy score is 60		
	69-80 C	75   C				
	39-54	53 E				

#### **Environmental impact of this** property

Е

F

21-38

1-20

53 | E

One of the biggest contributors to climate change is carbon dioxide (CO2). The energy used for heating, lighting and power in our homes produces over a quarter of the UK's CO2 emissions.

An average househo <b>l</b> d produces	6 tonnes of CO2			
This property produces	6.1 tonnes of CO2			

This property's potential production

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3.3 tonnes of CO2
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By making the <u>recommended changes</u>, you could reduce this property's CO2 emissions by 2.8 tonnes per year. This will help to protect the environment.

Environmental impact ratings are based on assumptions about average occupancy and energy use. They may not reflect how energy is consumed by the people living at the property.

#### Slovenia

#### Delivered energy for building operation

Delivered energy	Delivered energy		Structure of total energy use for building operation				
for building operation	kWh/a	kWh/m²a	by energy sources (kWh/a)				
Heating Q <sub>fb</sub>	1.085.094	44					
Cooling Q fr	10.495	0					
Ventilation Q <sub>fv</sub>	955.098	38					
Humidification Q for	319.063	13					
Domestic hot water Q <sub>f.w</sub>	1.626.026	65					
Lighting Q <sub>fl</sub>	536.446	22					
Electricity Q <sub>f.aux</sub>	25.437	1					
Total delivered energy for							
building operation	4.557.659	183					
Renewable energy							
used in building (kWh/a)		0	Natural gas - 2711119 kWh/a (59%)				
			Electricity - 1846539 kWh/a (41%)				
Primary energy for							
building operation (kWh/a)		7.621.442					
CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions (kg/a)		1.520.890					





UK residential (Scotland)	Dwelling type: Date of assessment: Date of certificate: Total floor area: Primary Energy Indicator: You can use this document • Compare current ratings of • Find out how to save energ	Semi-detached house 04 March 2015 07 March 2015 93 m <sup>2</sup> 555 kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year nt to: of properties to see which are ergy and money and also redu		Reference number: Type of assessment: Approved Organisation: Main heating and fuel: more energy efficient and e e CO <sub>2</sub> emissions by improv		6215-1227-6000-0634-1906 RdSAP, existing dwelling Elmhurst Boiler and radiators, mains gas environmentally friendly ving your home			
	Estimated energy costs	£5,721		See your recommendations					
	Over 3 years you could	£1,284	L I	report for more information					
	* based upon the cost of energy for heating, hot water, lighting and ventilation, calculated using standard assumptions								
	Very energy efficient - lower running costs (92 plus) A (93-94) C (95-68) D (39-54 (21-38) (1-20) Not energy efficient - higher running costs	Currer G	t Potential	Energ This graph taking into costs. The are likely t Your curre for EPCs i The poten of the impure recommen	nergy Efficiency Rating graph shows the current efficiency of your home, ng into account both energy efficiency and fuel is. The higher this rating, the lower your fuel bills likely to be. rr current rating is band E (39). The average rating EPCs in Scotland is band D (61). potential rating shows the effect of undertaking all the improvement measures listed within your pommendations report.				
	Very environmentally friendly - lower CO <sub>2</sub> e (92 plus) (A) (81-81) (9-80) (C) (69-80) (C) (55-66) (1-20) (1-20) Not environmentally friendly - higher CO <sub>2</sub> end	F 33 G missions	nt Potential	Enviro This graph environme emissions on the env Your curre for EPCs i The poten of the imp recommer	vironmental Impact (CO <sub>2</sub> ) Rating graph shows the effect of your home on the comment in terms of carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) sions. The higher the rating, the less impact it has a environment. current rating is <b>band F (33)</b> . The average rating PCs in Scotland is <b>band D (59)</b> . notential rating shows the effect of undertaking all improvement measures listed within your mendations report.				