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Plans for Continuation of Design Competitions

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1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents preliminary plans about how the design competitions on Near-Zero Energy Renovation, extensive descriptions presented in NeZeR report “Report on design competitions”, could be continued in each country after the completion of the IEE NeZeR project. Here following issues are addressed:

1. What kind of participants do you want to involve (students, starting professionals, companies)?
2. Can it be part of a study course or other educational sessions?
3. Which other stakeholders do you want to involve?
4. What possibilities for sponsoring or financing the organisation of competition
5. What benefits for participants (study points, PR value)
6. What kind of prize for winner?
7. Which event could the award session be linked to?
8. What bottlenecks need to be solved?

The main responsible partners organizing the NeZeR design competition in each country have replied above questions on behalf of their country-specific situation: W/E for the Netherlands, IVL for Sweden, VTT for Finland, ISPE for Romania and Tecnalia for Spain.

2 NETHERLANDS

In 2016 we held a competition among professional builders. This competition was organized as part the Sustainable Building Awards, which organized by W/E with support of the Dutch government and several other stakeholders. There are plans to organize a new event in the fall of 2017, if there is financing for the organisational part and if all stakeholders show enough interest. Also we have to see if professional parties are interested enough to do a similar activity again.

In this case the PR value (e.g. presentation on building fair and video's) would probably need to be the major benefit that should trigger parties to participate.

Holding a student competition might be an alternative, but previous attempts in 2015 in relation to the NEZER competition did not receive much support from technical universities. Here too, a financial support will be needed for the organisation work. Lessons from the successful student competitions in Finland and Romania could be taken along when this route is taken.

The main bottlenecks are thus: financing for the organisation work and support from the target group of professional builders.

3 SWEDEN

In 2016 the Swedish partners together with University of Uppsala arranged a competition among students. This competition was organized as part the NeZeR project. It is still not decided whether this Design Competition will be arranged in 2017, mainly due to financial matters. If the Design Competition is to be held again it would be suitable that an educational institution such as a University would arrange the competition. For Sweden, the Design Competition would preferably be part of a study course and the participants then of course be the students. The selected field of study course could be Sustainable Energy Systems, Indoor Environment, Civil Engineering etc. Apart from the Educational institute and the students it would also good if some professionals (technical consultants, architects, property owners) were involved e.g. as a jury to evaluate the contributions.

To make the competition attractive it is important that it gives both study points and some PR value for the participant e.g. prize money and an ad/article in an industry magazine. If possible try to do the call for the competition or the prize award ceremony in connection with a conference or an annual meeting for an industry association.

4 FINLAND

The next Finnish design competition is planned for spring 2018. The ZERO!-competition from NeZeR will be used as a best practice example utilizing the lessons learned from that competition.

The design competition on spring 2018 will again be a student competition for the students of Aalto University and Metropolia School of Applied Science. It will include following faculties:

- School of Architecture / Aalto University
- Electrical technology and automation technology department / Aalto University
- Construction technology / Aalto University
- Innovation project from HVAC technology and construction / Metropolia

The competition is arranged by VTT and RIL - Finnish Association of Civil Engineers with assistance of the professors and teachers from Aalto and Metropolia.

The competition will involve construction companies as funders and presenters at the 2 brainstorming sessions to be arranged during the competition. The companies will also participate in the competition jury.

The students will receive study points from the participation and 3 000 € will be reserved to be divided between the winners.

The competition results will be highlighted in relevant Finnish events such as the FinnBuild building fair.

The biggest bottleneck is gathering funding for the organization of the competition. The estimated budget is 30 000 €. The organizers will apply for funding from the Finnish organization STEK, which promotes safe electricity use. STEK could fund max 50 % of the budget and the other half is aimed to be funded by the participating companies (around 2 000 €/company). A seminar will be arranged for possible funding companies to gather their interest and needs for the competition. In the seminar the video from the ZERO!-competition of the NeZeR-project will also be presented.

5 ROMANIA

The next Romanian design competition will be organized by AAECR - the Romanian Association of Energy Auditors for Buildings having the entire aid of the ISPE representatives, NeZeR partners. AAECR intends to organise this competition using two categories of participants: students, including starting professionals and professionals. All participants will be able to entry in competition only as complex team (construction +architecture +HVAC).

The competition will involve Romanian universities (from Bucharest, Iasi, Timisoara, Cluj, Brasov), construction and architecture companies, professional associations, etc.

AAECR, through their members, intends to attract some of recognized experts in the field and academics from the main national universities to take part from the competition jury.

In the same time, AAECR intends also to attract the all AAECR members and other significant manufactures, suppliers and key actors to be sponsors of next event. The level of the prizes will be at least preserved at the same values as in the first NeZeR competition.

6 SPAIN

In the case of Spain, the situation around the competition has been different from in other countries.

In Spain, there are many procurements or competitions available, and professionals choose the most attractive and suitable option based on their interest (profit and generation of business). In this way, the main interest of professionals is to have the chance of executing the renovation project proposed. Therefore, a theoretical competition is not attractive enough for them.

From the other side, it has been impossible to find financing for the competition award. The lack of economic award is not attractive neither for professionals nor students. In this way, this situation has resulted in only one team participating on the NeZeR competition.

Based on this this experience, in our opinion, it has no sense to continue with other design competitions for the next years. However, taking into account, that the aim of the NeZeR project is to promote NZEBR and the implementation of RES, we think that it is possible to disseminate the NeZeR concepts to the entities that usually call different competitions and procurements, (University, Administration, and other Public entities), in order to assure that NeZeR concepts are included and in this way, disseminated to the different stakeholders.

In our opinion, the way to make these design competitions more feasible in the future, to increase the interest of the possible professionals and students to participate on it is by calling for real renovation projects competitions , meaning that projects will be really executed.

7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This report has described preliminary plans about how the design competitions on Near-Zero Energy Renovation could be continued in each country after the completion of the IEE NeZeR project. In Finland and Romania the experiences from the NEZER design competition were very good and therefore there are already concrete plans for continuation of the competition. In Sweden, the Netherlands and Spain financing the work to organize the competition was found as a major barrier for future competitions.