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## **DGNB cooperates in Spain: Green Building Council España becomes new partner**

**The German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) and the Green Building Council España (GBCe) have agreed on a comprehensive partnership. As part of the DGNB Sustainability Day on 25 June 2019 in Stuttgart and on 11 July in Madrid, both organisations signed a corresponding cooperation agreement. In the course of the cooperation, among other things, the DGNB certification system for sustainable buildings is being adapted for the Spanish market. It is also planned to link up with the VERDE system developed by the GBCe. In the future, the Council will act as a certification body for DGNB-certified projects in Spain. The overall objective of the partnership is to establish a common European understanding of the requirements of sustainable construction.**

"We are glad and proud that we have been able to implement the partnership with the GBCe in such a comprehensive way", says Dr. Christine Lemaitre, CEO of the DGNB. "On the one hand, we are on the same wavelength with our approaches and thematic priorities based on European fundamentals. In addition, GBCe has extensive experience in building certification through its own VERDE system and has been working successfully with us in other projects for many years."

As early as 2013, the DGNB and GBCe had signed a Memorandum of Understanding providing for closer cooperation. The step now is much bigger and more concrete as the partnership also means the extensive entry of DGNB certification into the Spanish market. Perspectively, other Spanish-speaking countries, for example in South America, will be added.

"The DGNB system with its holistic understanding of sustainability is internationally the most advanced and the best answer to the most pressing challenges of our time," says Bruno Sauer, CEO of the

GBCe. "We are firmly convinced that it fits in well with Spain and that it can help to promote sustainable building in our country significantly."

### **Recognition of the DGNB certification with the Spanish VERDE system**

In a first step, the DGNB criteria for new buildings will be adapted to local peculiarities in Spain and tested in a pilot phase. This adaptation should be completed by mid-2020. Other forms of certification of the DGNB, for example in the field of renovation, for buildings in use or for urban districts, will be available in Spain in the future as well. This is also the case for the application of DGNB's framework for carbon-neutral buildings and sites which is currently being evaluated.

GBCe will undertake the conformity assessment of the submitted documents for all projects that are seeking a DGNB certification in Spain. Here, GBCe benefits from the extensive expertise in dealing with the local system VERDE. In the area of VERDE, a recognition procedure will also be introduced in future. GBCe aims to introduce the double certification on the Spanish market. Any project that receives a DGNB certificate in Platinum, Gold or Silver in Spain will thereby also automatically receive a VERDE certification. "It is important to combine a superior international vision with a local solution," says Bruno Sauer. "That's exactly what we achieve with the double certification."

The partnership also focuses on the topic of knowledge transfer. For example, the GBCe will be the first point of contact for the DGNB in Spain in the field of continuing education and training for experts in sustainable construction. In the fall of 2019, there will be a first joint training session, giving industry experts in Spain the opportunity to qualify as DGNB consultants or auditors.

### **Towards a European understanding of sustainability**

"The partnership is another important milestone on the way to a common European understanding of the requirements of sustainable construction," says Christine Lemaitre. After Austria, Switzerland and Denmark, Spain is the fourth European market in which the DGNB has its own system partner who actively manages the DGNB certification on site. This will also increase the network of European organisations, which in the same way bear the measurable requirements of sustainable construction in the respective local markets.

Together with organisations from Denmark, France, Austria and Switzerland, the DGNB and the GBCe had already launched a new European alliance for sustainable buildings with G17 last year. "The name G17 is derived from the 17th Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations, which emphasizes the value of partnerships to achieve the other sustainability goals," explains Bruno Sauer. "We believe in the power of collaborative initiatives, which is why the partnership with the DGNB is only logical and meaningful to us."

### **About DGNB German Sustainable Building Council**

The DGNB German Sustainable Building Council was founded in 2007 and has around 1200 members, making it Europe's biggest network for sustainable building. The aim of the DGNB is to promote sustainability in the construction and real estate industry and instil awareness of building sustainability among the broader population. The DGNB is an independent non-profit organisation. Its certification system offers a planning and optimisation tool for evaluating sustainable buildings and urban districts. It was developed to help organisations enhance the tangible sustainability of construction projects. The DGNB system is based on the concept of holistic sustainability, placing equal emphasis on the environment, people and commercial viability. The DGNB Academy is an education and training platform that has already provided more than 3500 people from nearly 40 countries with official qualifications in sustainable building.

### **About Green Building Council España (GBCe)**

Green Building Council España (GBCe) is an internationally recognized association bringing together most of the national stakeholders of the building sector: professionals, industry, real estate, public sector, universities, research centres, professional associations, contractors and developers. GBCe was founded in 2008 and built upon a clear strategic vision: measure sustainability, train professionals, focus on policy and communicate broadly. GBCe owns the VERDE certification system, a methodology based on a Life Cycle Analysis of buildings. GBCe organized in 2014 the World Sustainable Building Congress in Barcelona reclaiming a Global Vision towards Climate Change of the building sector. Since 2014, GBCe is showing a clear leadership in coordinating and developing European Innovation Projects with a main focus on Rehabilitation Strategies on the building and city scale.

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