



Energy in Buildings and  
Communities Programme

**IEA EBC Annex 58**

# **Reliable building energy performance characterisation based on full scale dynamic measurements**

overview and major outcomes

Workshop in preparation of new IEA EBC Annex project – Brussels April 18-19, 2016

14 participating countries:



Austria



Germany



Belgium



Italy



China



The Netherlands



Czech Republic



Norway



Denmark



Spain



Finland



United Kingdom

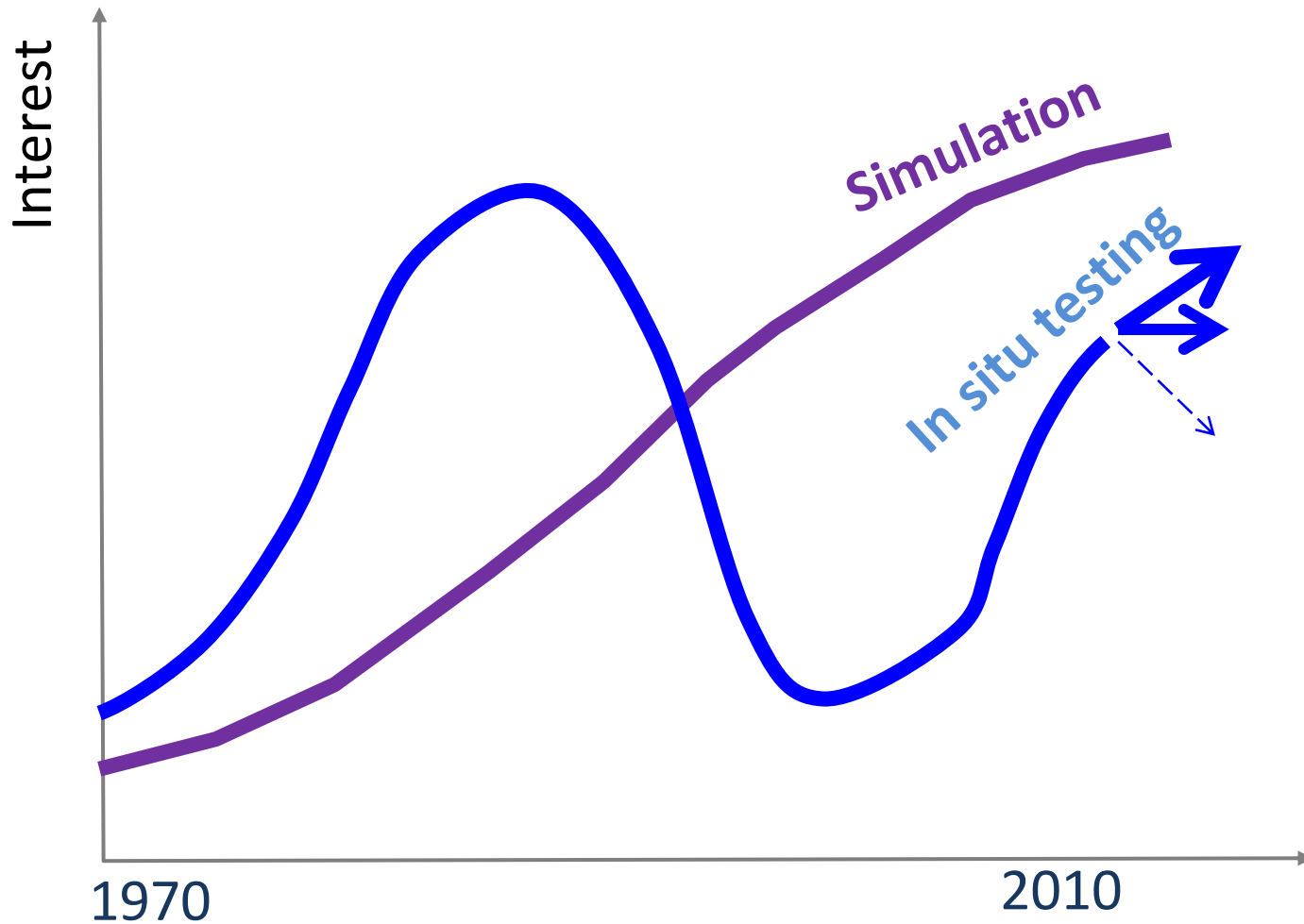


France



USA

# Background: Renewed interest in full scale testing





International workshop in 2011 gave a nice overview of existing full scale test facilities



## Possible explanations for renewed interest:

- Full scale dynamic testing can help to **validate our calculation tools** (building energy simulation models). This becomes more important when moving towards nZEB
- Full scale testing allows to investigate the **performances in reality** (including workmanship)
- Full scale testing can be used to assess the **representativity of laboratory** testing (e.g. thin reflective foils)
- Full scale testing is a necessary tool to **characterise** advanced components and systems and to **evaluate** nearly zero energy buildings

Measurements at EnergyFlexHouse at DTI, Denmark  
investigate performances in reality and characterise whole building  
energy performance





Measurements of thermal performance of newly erected dwellings in UK:  
measured vs. predicted overall heat losses (W/K)

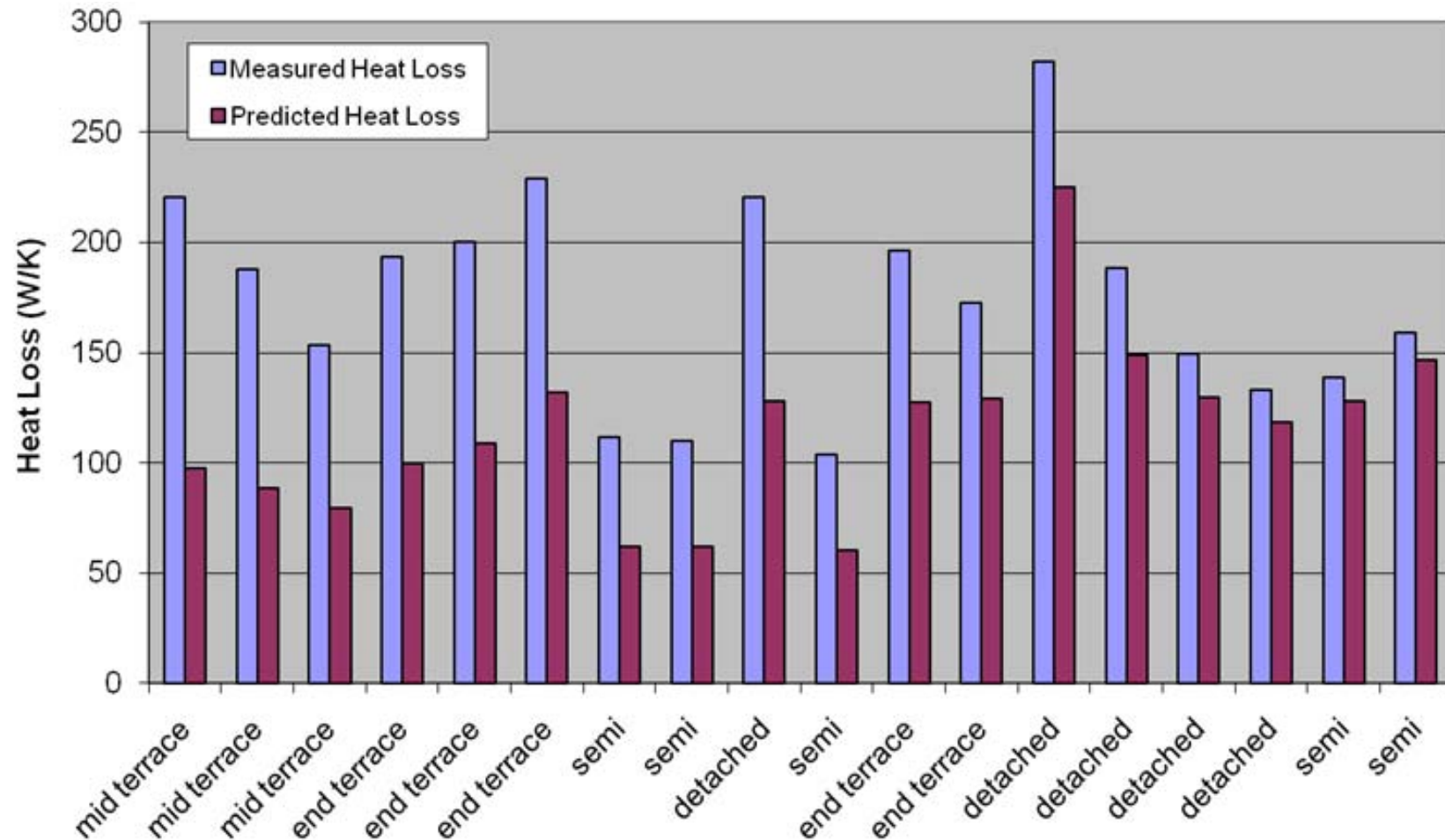
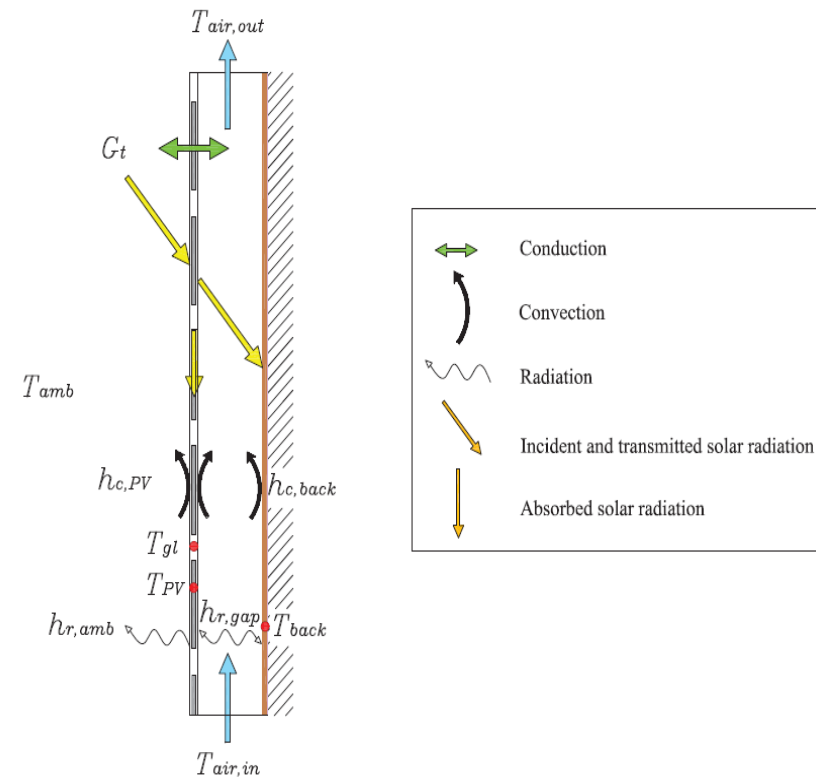


Figure from [Wingfield et al., 2011]

Full scale testing is essential to characterise the real thermal performance of buildings

Measurements at CIMNE (Lleida, Spain):  
analysis of dynamic thermal response of ventilated photovoltaic double skin facade



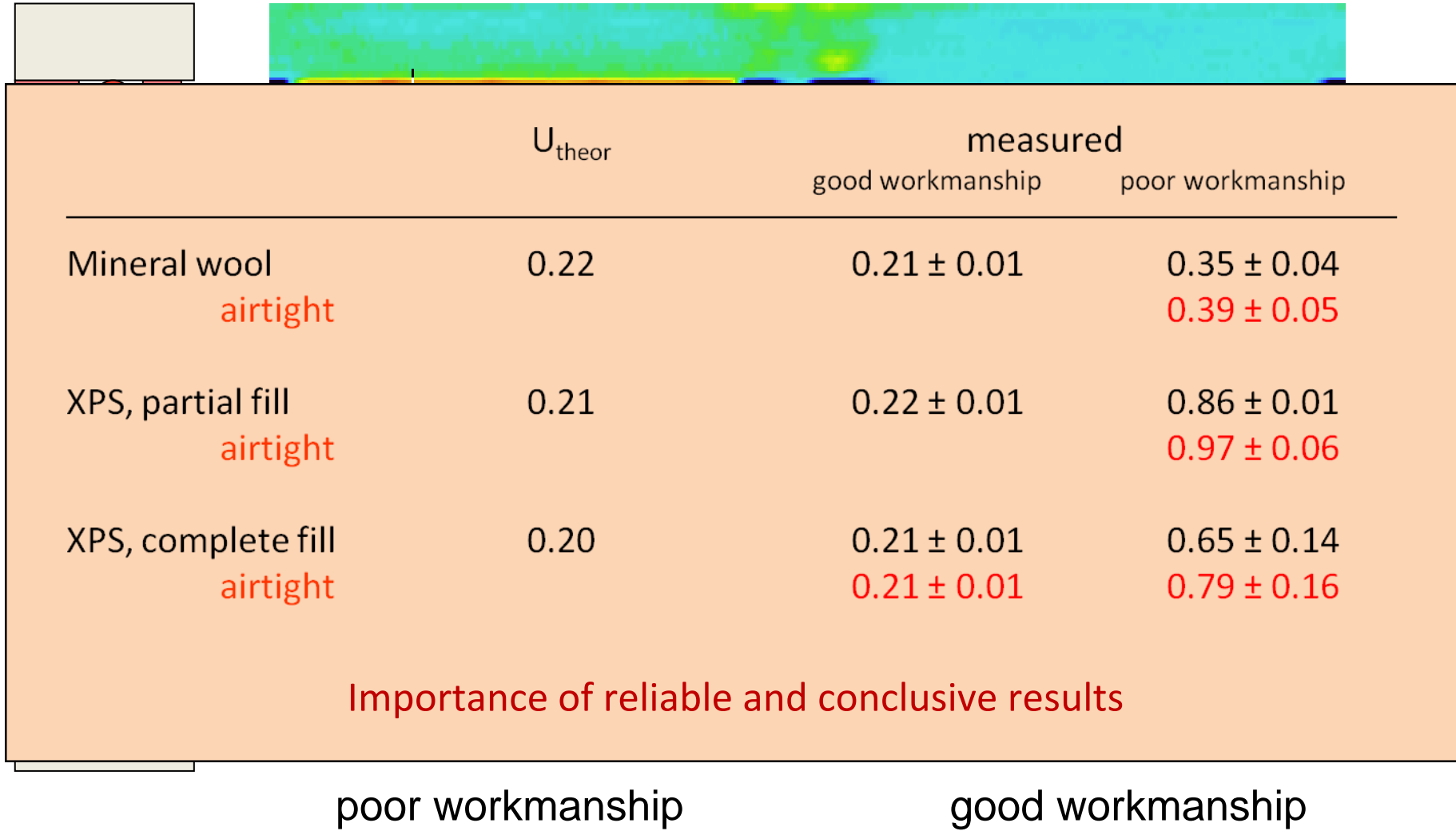
Full scale testing is essential to integrate the behaviour of new advanced building components in a correct way in BES-models



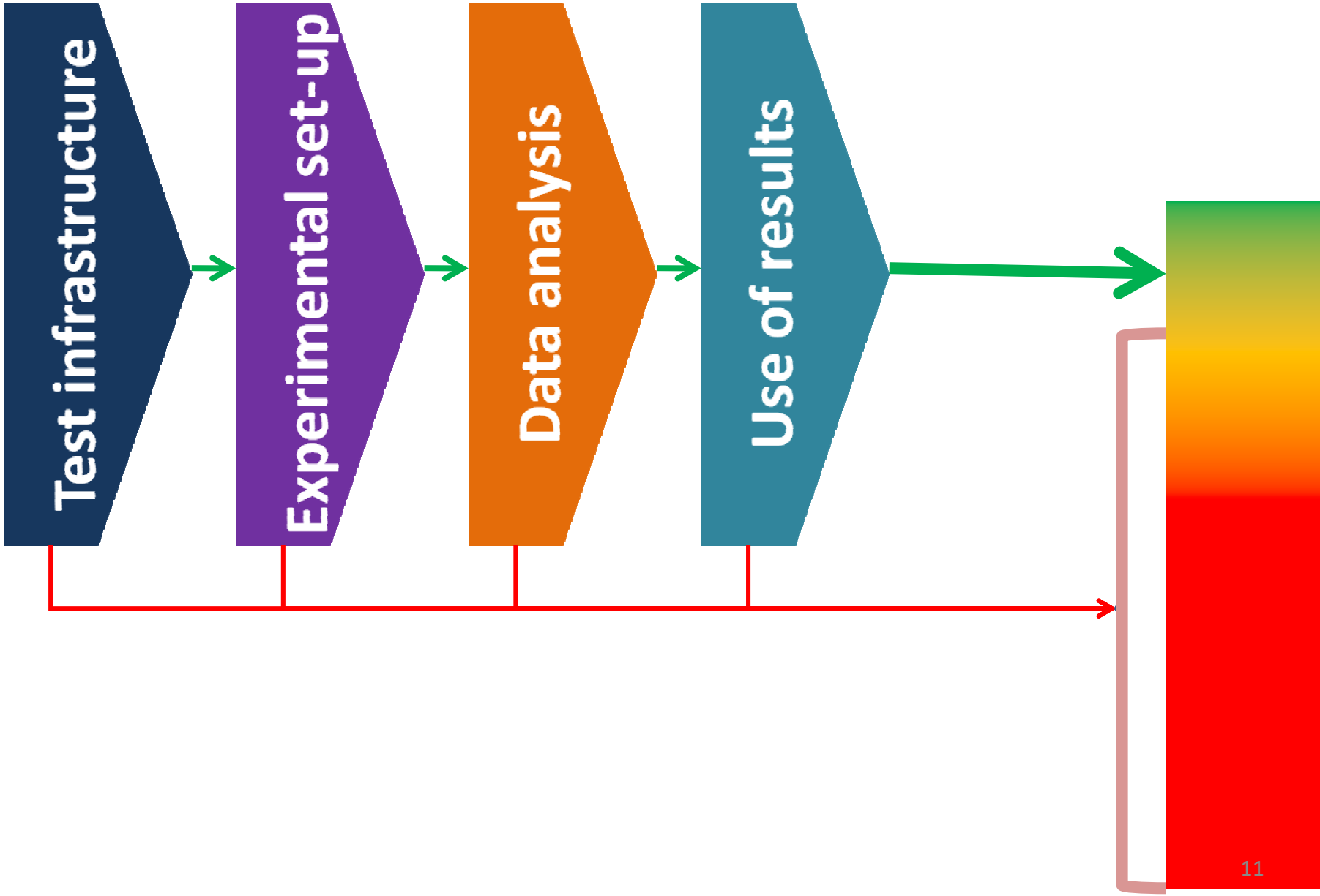
Measurements at K.U.Leuven VLIET-testbuilding:  
impact of workmanship on thermal performance of cavity walls



# IR-images of the outer leaf



# Full scale testing requires quality!



## IEA EBC Annex 58

# Reliable building energy performance characterisation based on full scale dynamic measurements

- Determine the actual energy performance of buildings
- Characterise the dynamic behaviour of buildings (grey box models)
- Validate our numerical BES-models
- Guarantee quality of measurements / data analysis / use of the results

major aim of the Annex-project was a collaboration in the ECBCS-context to

**develop the necessary knowledge, tools and networks to achieve reliable in situ dynamic testing and data analysis methods that can be used to characterise the actual energy performance of building components and whole buildings.**

The procedures should focus both on the **test environment and experimental setup** as well as on the **data analysis and performance prediction**.

**Annex should answer (at least) the following questions:**

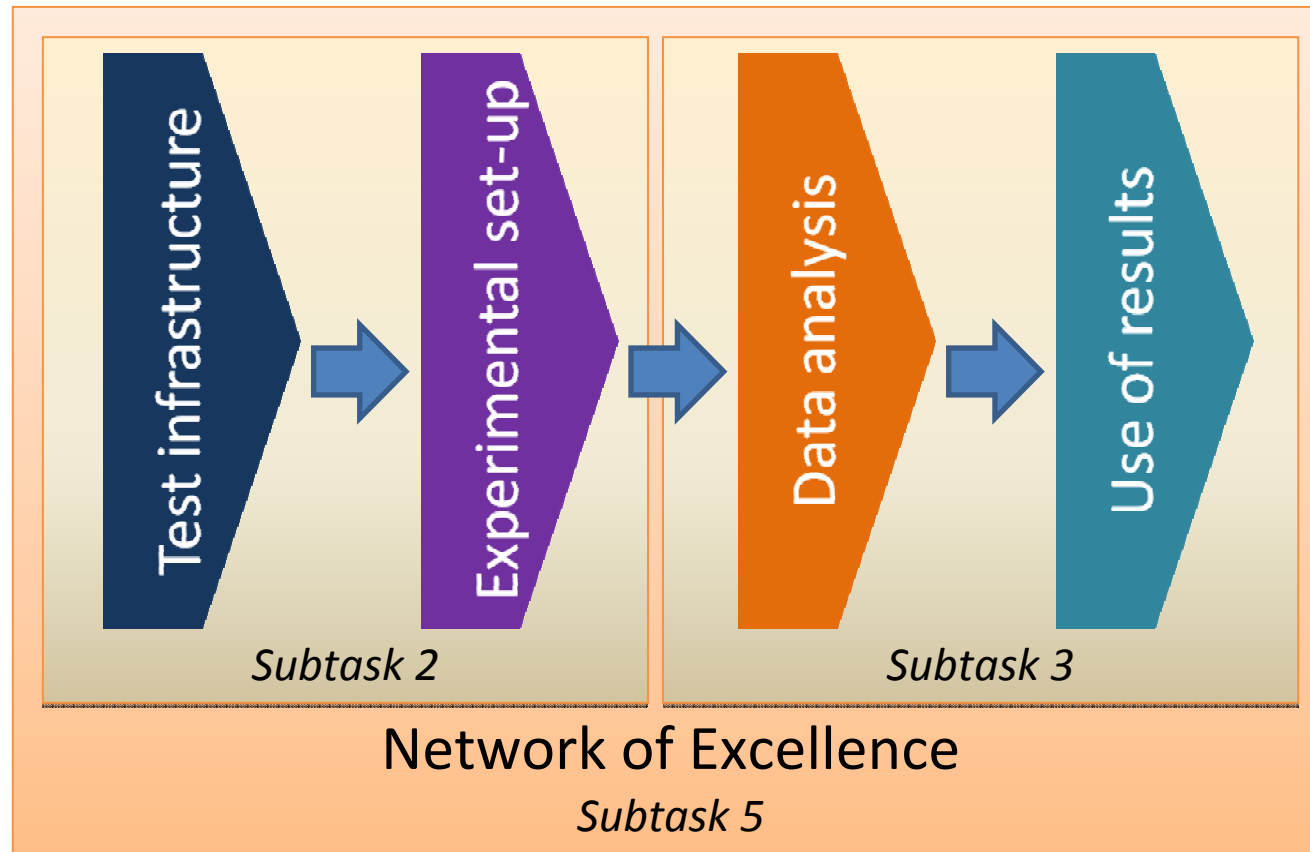
- How to organise a good full scale test ?
- How to perform a reliable data analysis ?
- How to deduce the performances of the building (component) ?
- How to use measurement results / show applications?

at the same time annex should create a '**network of excellence**' for full scale testing



Collection and evaluation of in situ activities

*Subtask 1*



Application of developed concepts

*Subtask 4*

Subtask 1. State of the art on full scale testing and dynamic data analysis

Arnold Janssens

Subtask 2. Optimising full scale dynamic testing

Aitor Erkoreka, Chris Gorse

Subtask 3. Dynamic data analysis and performance characterisation

Maria José Jiménez Taboada, Henrik Madsen

Subtask 4. Application of the developed framework

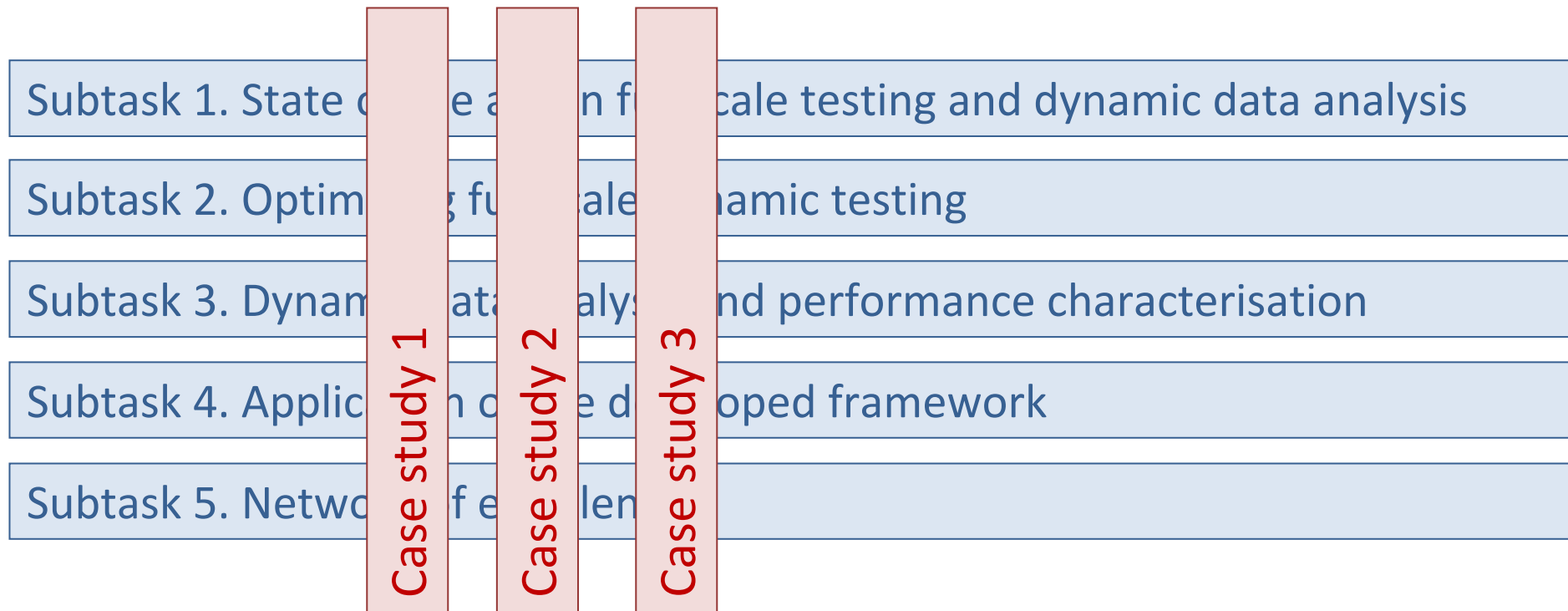
Paul Strachan, Dirk Saelens, Shengwei Wang

Subtask 5. Network of excellence

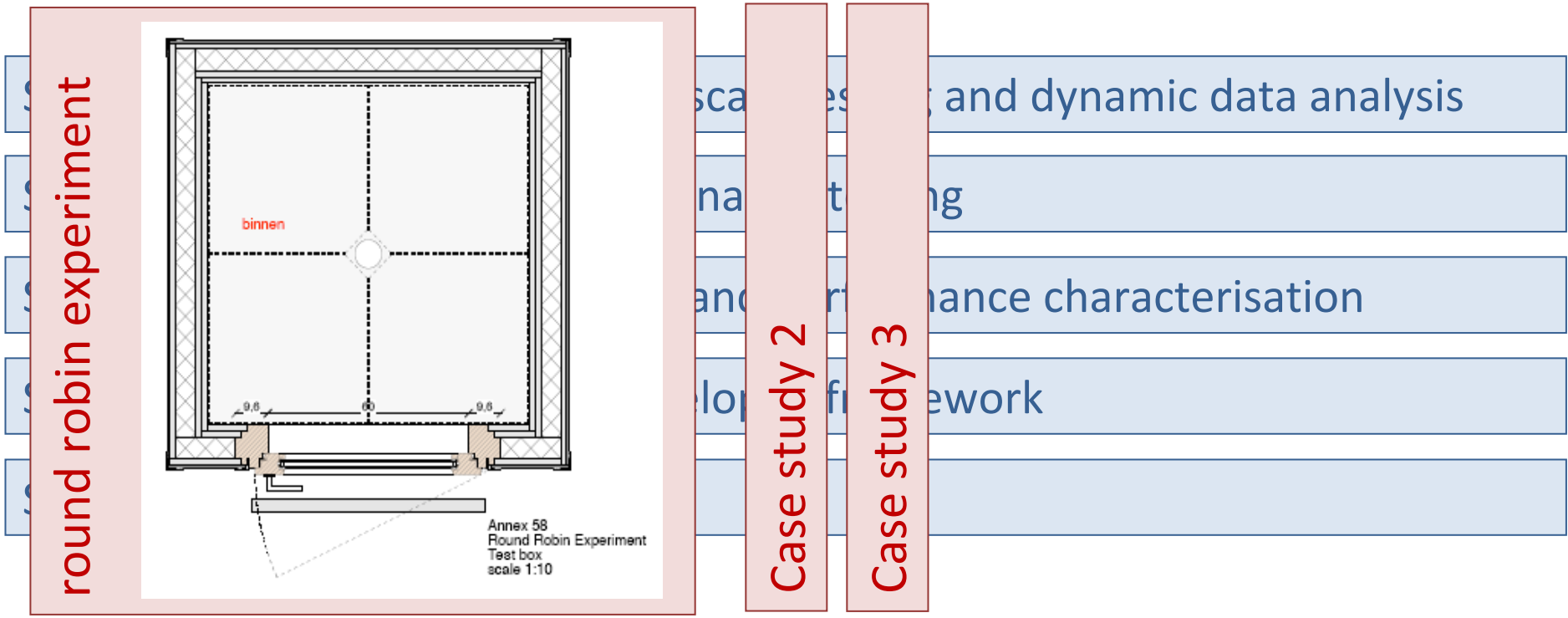
Hans Bloem, Luk Vandaele



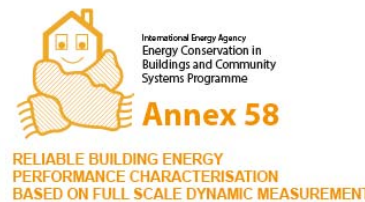
Global framework:



Global framework:



## Round Robin test box



Aim of round robin experiment:

- investigate reliability of full scale testing
- investigate reliability of dynamic data analysis
- investigate impact of climatic conditions on characterisation
- provide well documented data set for validation
- determine state-of-the-art: where are we now?
- first step to go to more complex (real) buildings

Global framework:



Arnold Janssens, UGhent, Belgium

## Subtask 1 provides overview of

### Existing full scale test facilities



### Common data analysis methods

- U-value of building components based on heat flux meters;
- U & g of building components tested in outdoor calorimetric test cells;
- UA & gA of whole buildings based on co-heating tests;
- Energy model characterization of whole buildings based on monitored dynamic energy and climatic data.



### Existing full scale test facilities

Country	Facility	Year	Institute	Type of facility			
				Façade field test	Outdoor test cell	Test building	In-use testing
Austria	BSRTU facility	2010	BSRTU	X			
	Test site UIBK	2010	UIBK	X	X		
Belgium	VLIET test building	1996	KULeuven	X			
	J. Geelen laboratory	2002	ULg			X	
	Lecture rooms KAHO	new	KULeuven				X
Canada	Field exposure of walls	2006	NRC-IRC	X			
Denmark	The Cube	2005	U-Aalborg	X			
	Energy Flex House	2009	DTI	X		X	X
France	INCAS Platform	2008	INES	X	X	X	
Germany	Test site Holzkirchen	1950	IBP	X			
	VERU facility	2004	IBP	X		X	
	Twin houses	2010	IBP			X	
	Calorimetric test facility	2012	IBP	X	X		
	LWF Façade facility	2011	FH-Rosenheim	X	X		
Italy	Florence test cell	2014	UniFI	X	X		
	Passive house test building	new	Polimi				X
Morocco	DEFI experimental platform	new	ENTPE				X
Norway	ZEB test cell	2015	SINTEF	X	X		
Spain	Eguzki and Ilargi test cells	1988	LCCE	X	X		
	LECE-UiE3	1989	CIEMAT	X	X	X	
	ARFRISOL Buildings	2005	CIEMAT				X
	KUBIK	2010	Tecnalia	X		X	
	Lleida Outdoor Test cell	2011	CIMNE	X			
UK	Salford Energy House	2011	U-Salford			X (in lab)	
USA	FLEXLAB	2014	LBNL	X		X	

**Overview of common data analysis methods**

- Measurement of thermal transmittance of building components based on heat flux meters
- Measurement of thermal and solar transmittance of building components tested in outdoor calorimetric test cells
- Measurement of heat loss coefficient of whole buildings based on co-heating tests
- Rapid measurement of heat loss coefficient of whole buildings based on transient heating
- Estimation of the energy signature of buildings in use based on energy use monitoring
- Grey box modeling of buildings in use based on dynamic energy use data



Aitor Erkoreka, EHU, Spain / Chris Gorse, LBU, UK

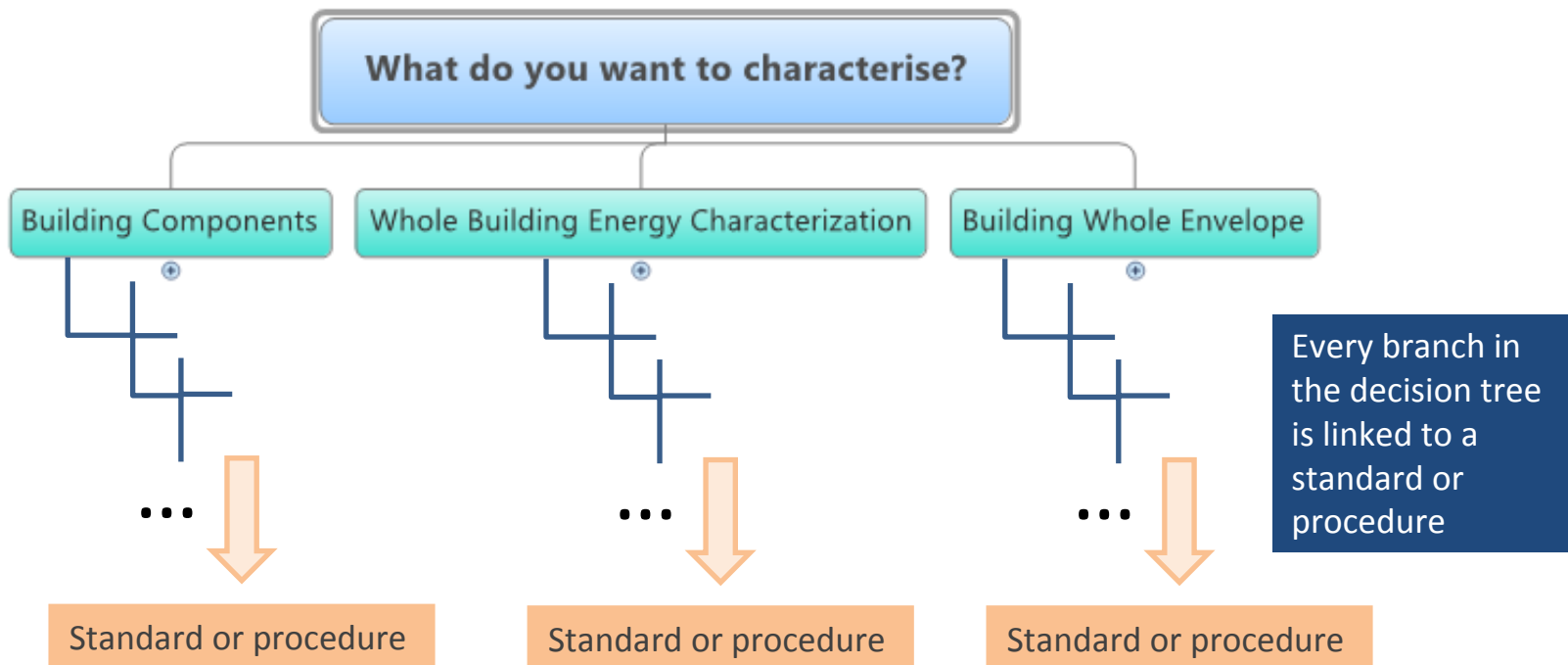
Subtask 2 developed a decision tree for

- building fabric characterisation and
- whole building energy characterisation

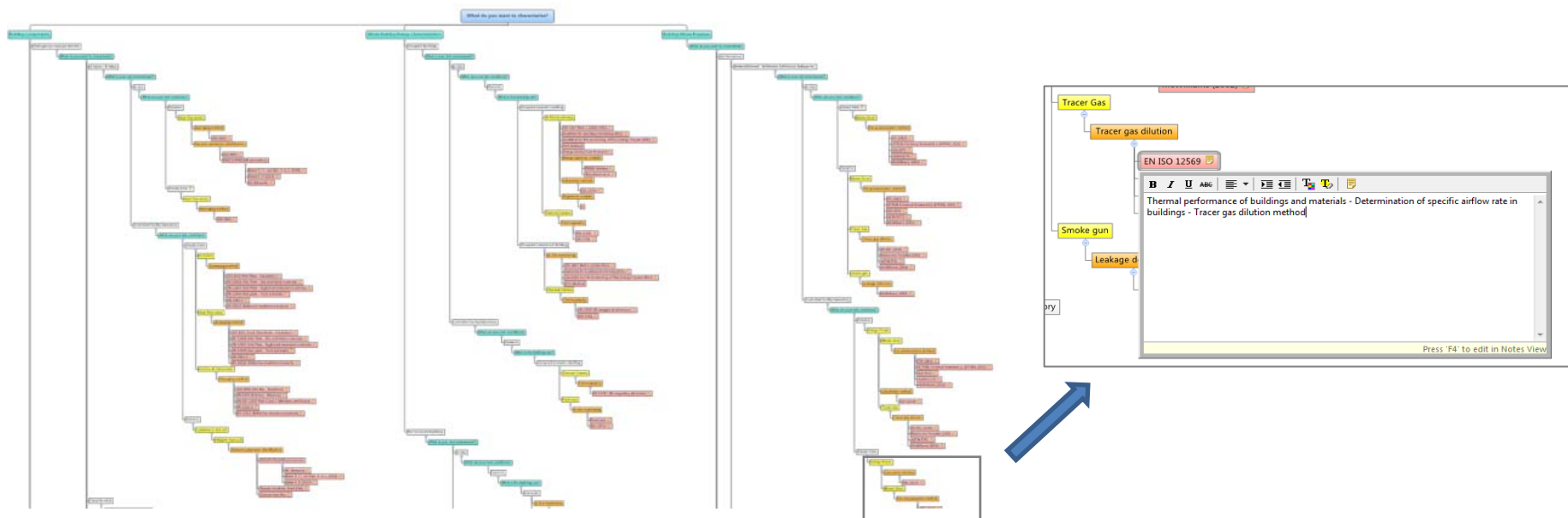


### Decision tree

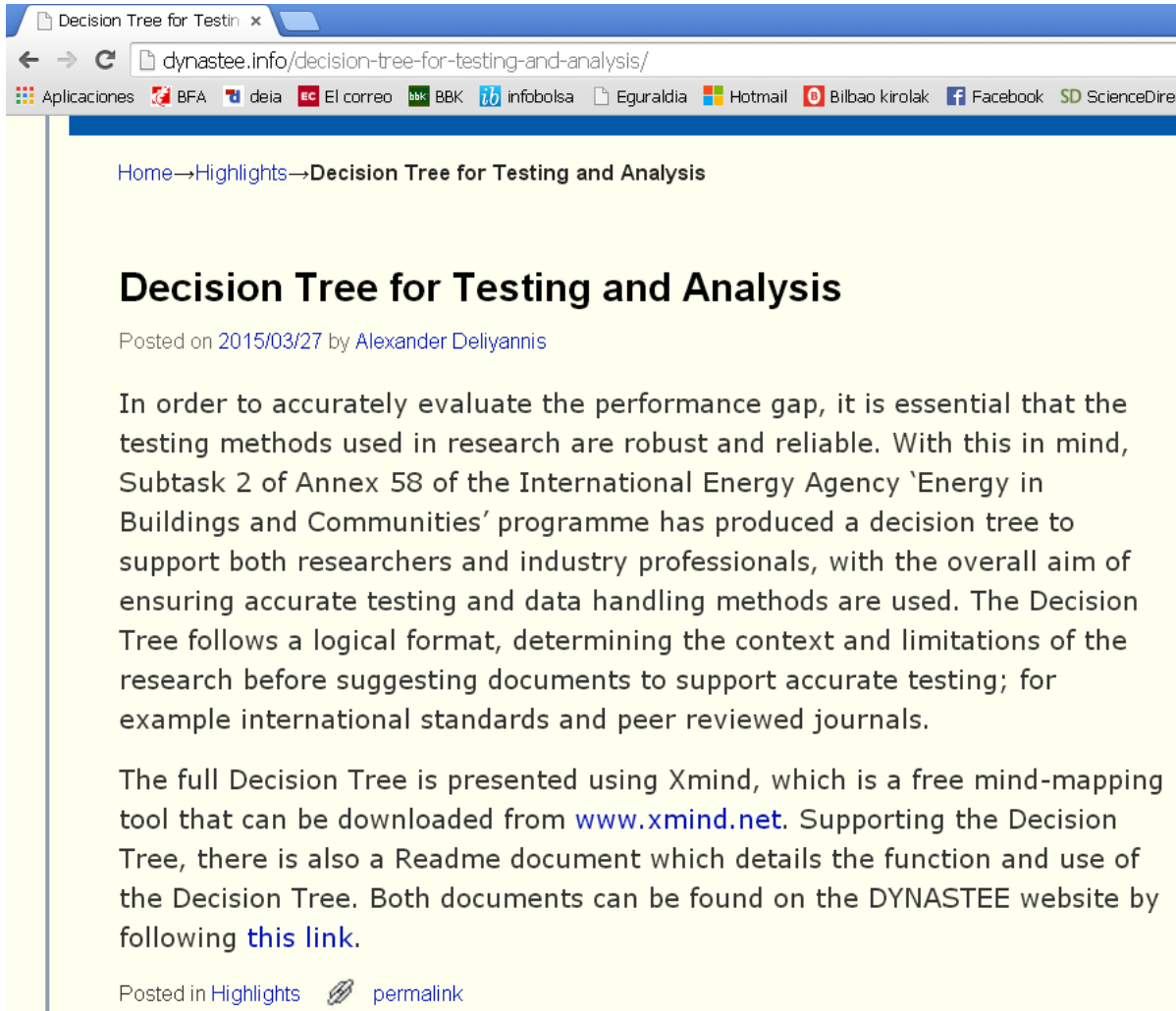
All information collected was transferred onto the Xmind software, which allows easier visualisation and better usability.



Branches are coloured according to following scheme:



Documents can be found on Dynastee website: <http://dynastee.info/>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying [dynastee.info/decision-tree-for-testing-and-analysis/](http://dynastee.info/decision-tree-for-testing-and-analysis/). The browser's taskbar includes icons for various applications like BFA, deia, El correo, BBK, infobolsa, Eguraldia, Hotmail, Bilbao kirolak, Facebook, and ScienceDirect. The page content includes a breadcrumb trail: Home → Highlights → Decision Tree for Testing and Analysis. The main heading is "Decision Tree for Testing and Analysis", posted on 2015/03/27 by Alexander Deliyannis. The text discusses the importance of robust testing methods in research, specifically mentioning the International Energy Agency's program. It states that a decision tree has been developed to support researchers and industry professionals. The full decision tree is presented using Xmind, a free mind-mapping tool available at [www.xmind.net](http://www.xmind.net). A README document is also available on the website, accessible via a link.


Home → Highlights → Decision Tree for Testing and Analysis

### Decision Tree for Testing and Analysis

Posted on 2015/03/27 by Alexander Deliyannis

In order to accurately evaluate the performance gap, it is essential that the testing methods used in research are robust and reliable. With this in mind, Subtask 2 of Annex 58 of the International Energy Agency 'Energy in Buildings and Communities' programme has produced a decision tree to support both researchers and industry professionals, with the overall aim of ensuring accurate testing and data handling methods are used. The Decision Tree follows a logical format, determining the context and limitations of the research before suggesting documents to support accurate testing; for example international standards and peer reviewed journals.

The full Decision Tree is presented using Xmind, which is a free mind-mapping tool that can be downloaded from [www.xmind.net](http://www.xmind.net). Supporting the Decision Tree, there is also a Readme document which details the function and use of the Decision Tree. Both documents can be found on the DYNASTEE website by following [this link](#).

Posted in Highlights  [permalink](#)

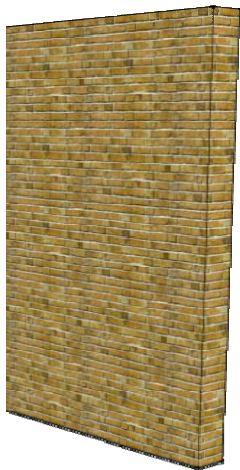
- DECISION TREE file for xmind free mind-mapping software
- DECISION TREE SUPPORT README document.
- THE DECISION TREE WILL NEED PERIODIC UPDATING WITH NEW TESTING METHODOLOGIES.

Henrik Madsen, DTU, Denmark / Maria José Jiménez Taboada, CIEMAT, Spain

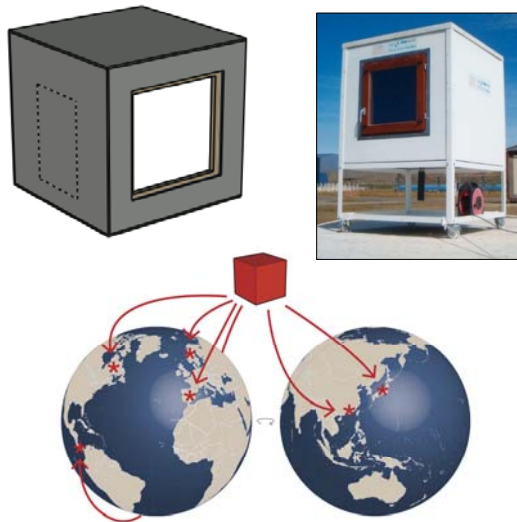
Subtask 3 developed procedures for full scale dynamic data analysis

Common exercises to come up with a methodology for a reliable characterisation

**CE1-CE2**



**CE3-CE4**



**CE5**



**CE6**



from simple homogeneous opaque walls **TO FULL SIZE BUILDINGS**

## TRADITIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR MODEL BUILDING

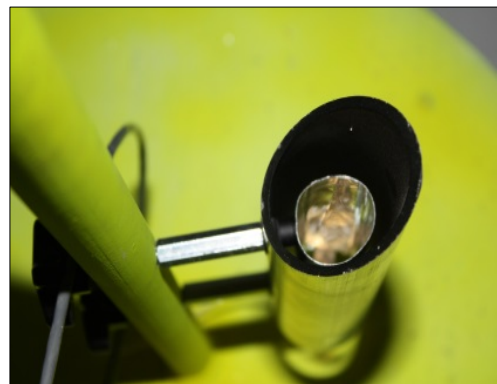
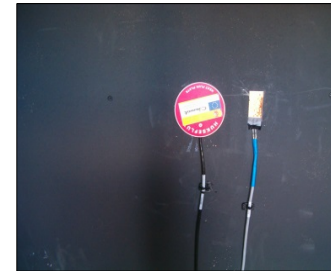
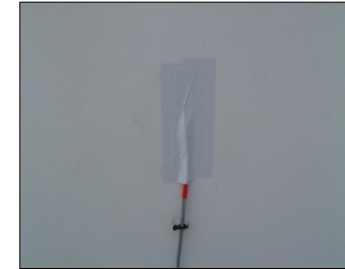
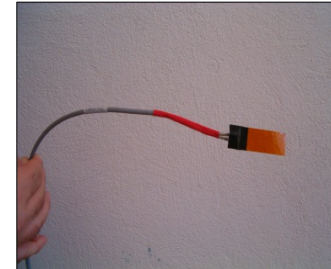
1. Physical prior knowledge (energy balance equation, reasonable approximations, etc)
2. Experimental design (objectives, signal to noise ratio, etc)
3. Data collection (experiment)
4. Identification of model structure
5. Estimation of model parameters (tool and appropriate use of tool and model)
6. Model validation. Both statistical and physical validation
  - If fail go back to 4 or maybe 2
7. Validated final model
  - Can be used for characterization, forecasting, simulation and control



# ST3

*Dynamic data analysis  
and performance characterisation*

## Example of Round Robin test box in Almeria (Spain)





## Data analysis methods

- Averaging methods
- Single and multiple linear regression

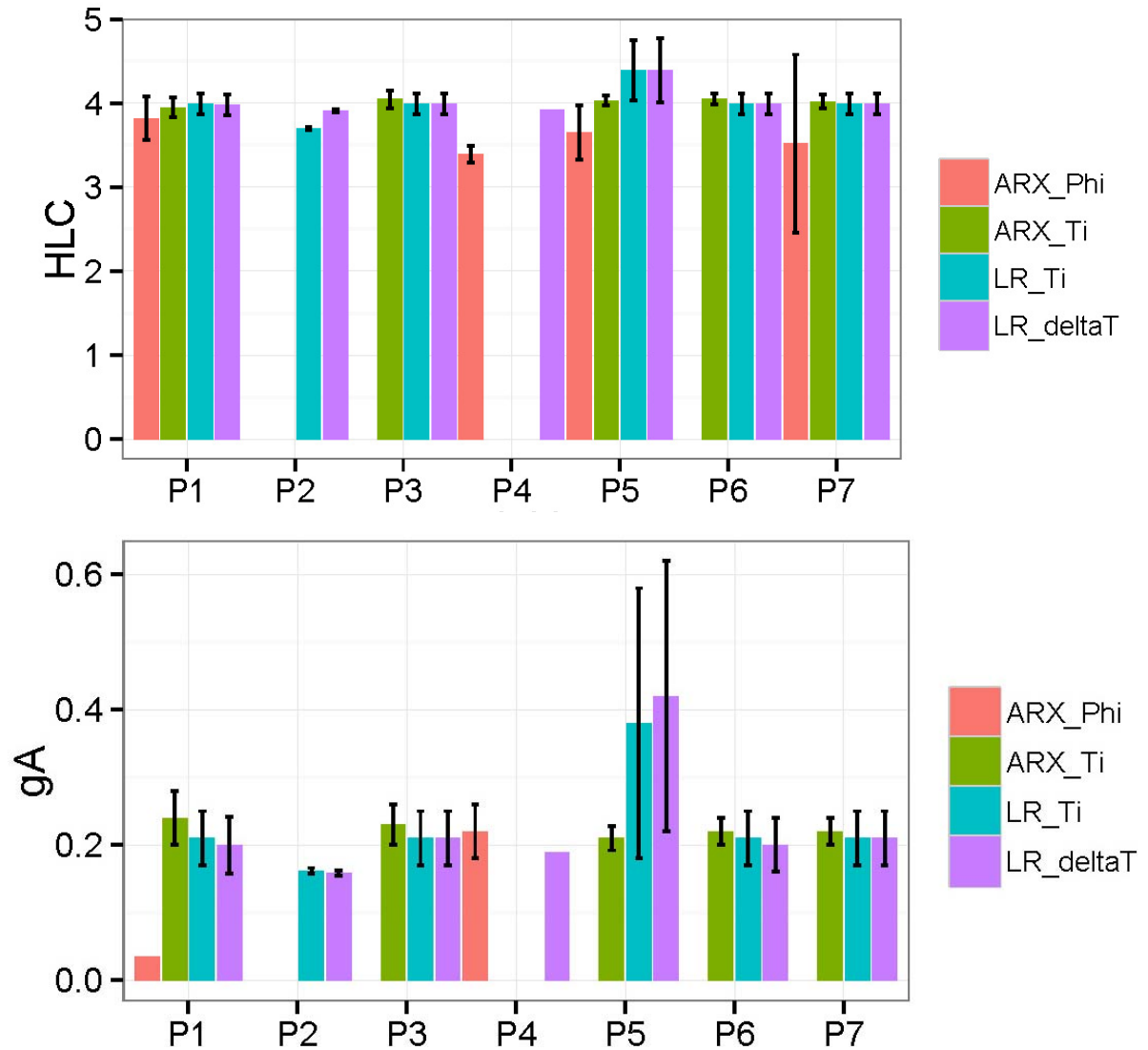
**stationary properties**

- ARX- and ARMAX-models
- State space models

**stationary properties  
+  
dynamic behaviour**

# ST3

## Dynamic data analysis and performance characterisation



**OUTCOME**

- Development and improvement of **Software Tools**
  - Updated versions of CTSM-R. Grey-box modeling. [www.ctsm.info](http://www.ctsm.info)
  - Updated description on the DYNASTEE Web-pages  
<http://dynastee.info/data-analysis/software-tools/ctsm-r/>
  
- **Guidelines** for data analysis and instructions and outcome of common exercises in the ST3-reports

# ST4

## *Application of the developed framework*

Dirk Saelens, KU Leuven, Belgium / Paul Strachan, ESRU, UK / Shengwei Wang, PolyU, China

Subtask 4 showed the applications of the developed concepts and demonstrated the importance of reliable full scale dynamic testing.

Three applications have been put forward:

ST 4.1. full scale experiment to validate numerical BES-models

ST 4.2. Towards a characterisation of buildings based on in situ testing and smart meters

ST 4.3. Application of dynamic building characterisation for optimising smart grids

# ST4

## *Application of the developed framework*

### ST 4.1. full scale experiment to validate numerical BES-models

Two detailed experiments were conducted based on the Twin Houses in Holzkirchen:

- one in summer 2013 with the houses in a side-by-side configuration (one with blinds up and one with blinds down)
- another in spring 2014 on one of the houses.

In each case we have almost 2 months of one-minutely data with high levels of instrumentation.



The experimental specification and measured datasets are considered the best existing empirical validation to date on a full-scale building.

The validation experiment has already proved useful for uncovering program deficiencies and for program development testing.

# ST4

## *Application of the developed framework*

Over 20 sets of modelling predictions have been made by 16 organisations with 12 different programs (both research and commercial), so the specification has been thoroughly tested.

User input errors were common. It is recommended that future studies are undertaken that focus on the types and impacts of user errors on a range of small and large building designs, with a view to informing program developers.

The time and effort to conduct this empirical validation experiment was substantial, both by the experimental team, the modellers and the analysis team. **And this is a comparatively simple unoccupied building.** More such experiments are needed on other building types: but large resources are required: both time and money.

# ST4

## *Application of the developed framework*

ST 4.2. Towards a characterisation of buildings based on in situ testing and smart meters

ST 4.3. Application of dynamic building characterisation for optimising smart grids

- Application of grey box models in intelligent networks to use flexibility of grids and buildings (price signal optimisation)
- Characterisation of larger districts via smart meter data
- Use of smart meter data to investigate feasibility of renovation measures, application of energy grids,...

Mainly qualitative onset via presentations of free papers



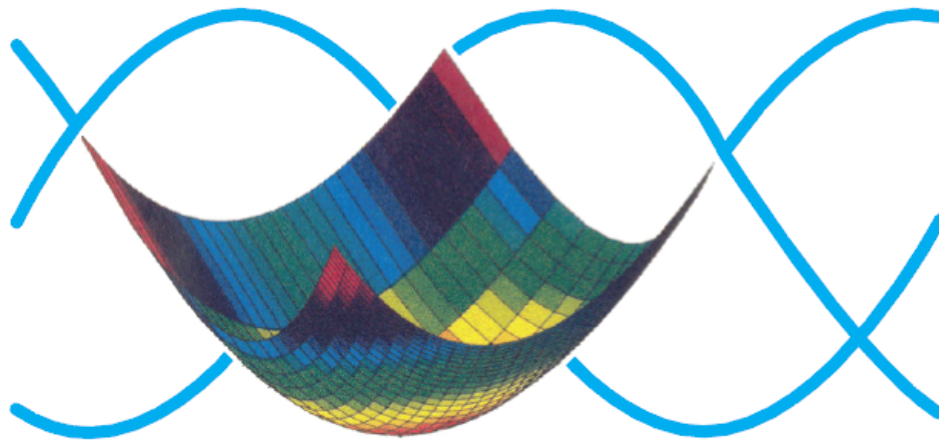
# ST5

Network of excellence

Hans Bloem, JRC, EU / Luk Vandaele, BBRI Belgium

outreach activities via

# DYNASTEE



www.dynastee.info

Dynamic analysis, simulation and testing applied to the energy and environmental performance of buildings

