



Cracow University of Technology
Faculty of Civil Engineering

MEZeroE

Measuring Envelope products
and systems contributing to next
generation of healthy nearly
Zero Energy buildings

MEZeroE implementation at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Cracow University of Technology

Aneta Nowak-Michta

This project has received funding from the
European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation
programme
under **grant agreement No 953157**





MEZeroE aims to create an EU distributed open innovation ecosystem for:

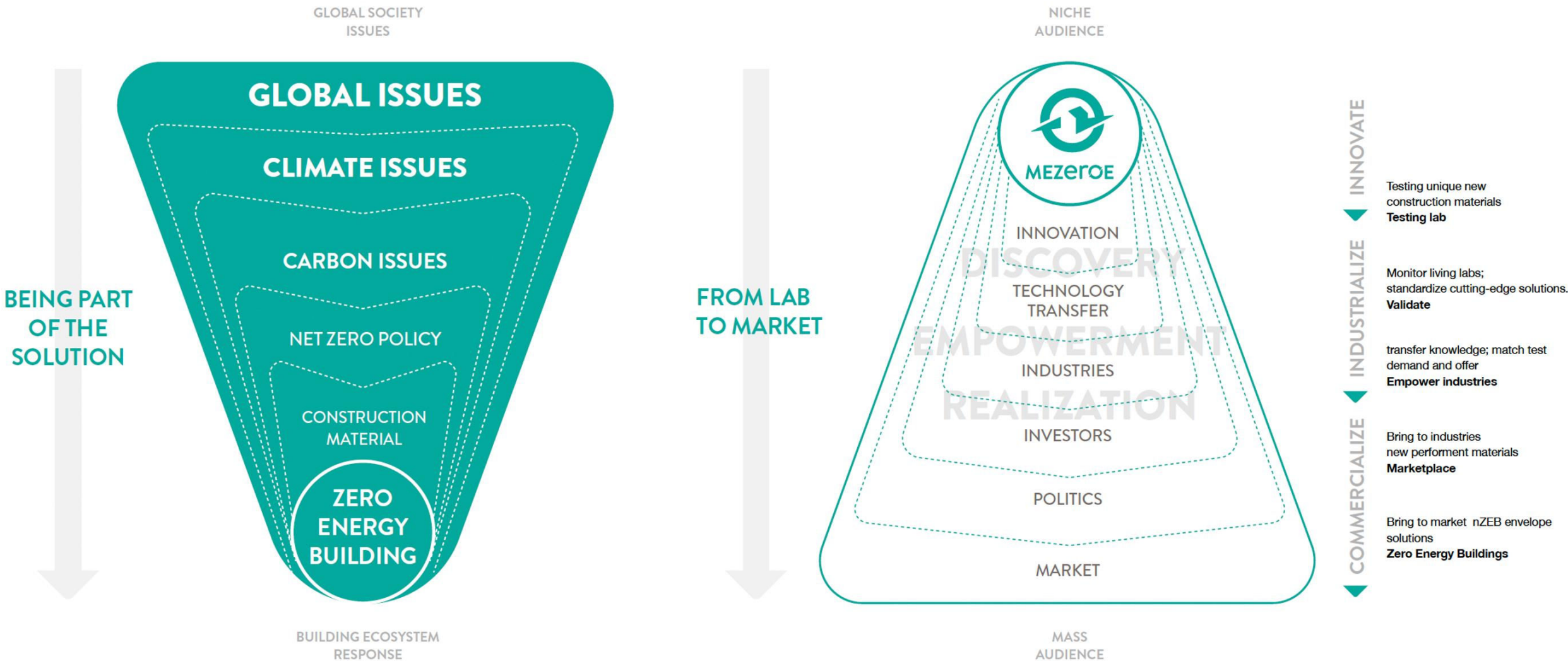
- developing nearly Zero Energy Building (nZEB) Enabler **Envelope Solutions**;
- transferring **knowledge**;
- **matching** testing **needs** with test **facilities**;
- providing **monitoring** in real **buildings** used as **living labs**;
- **standardizing** cutting-edge **solutions** coming from Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and larger industries.

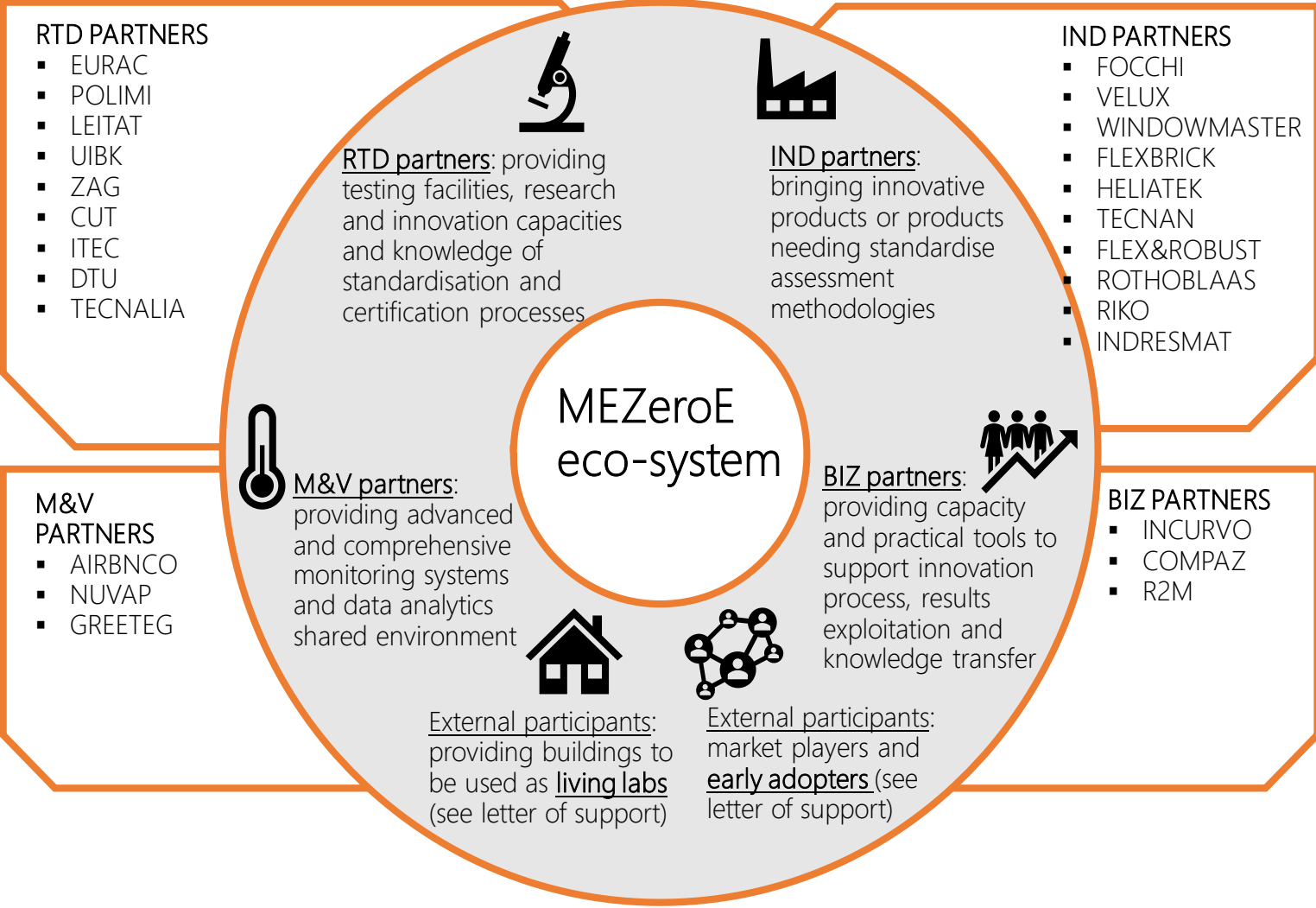
Single entry point (SEP) web-based multi-side virtual marketplace includes:

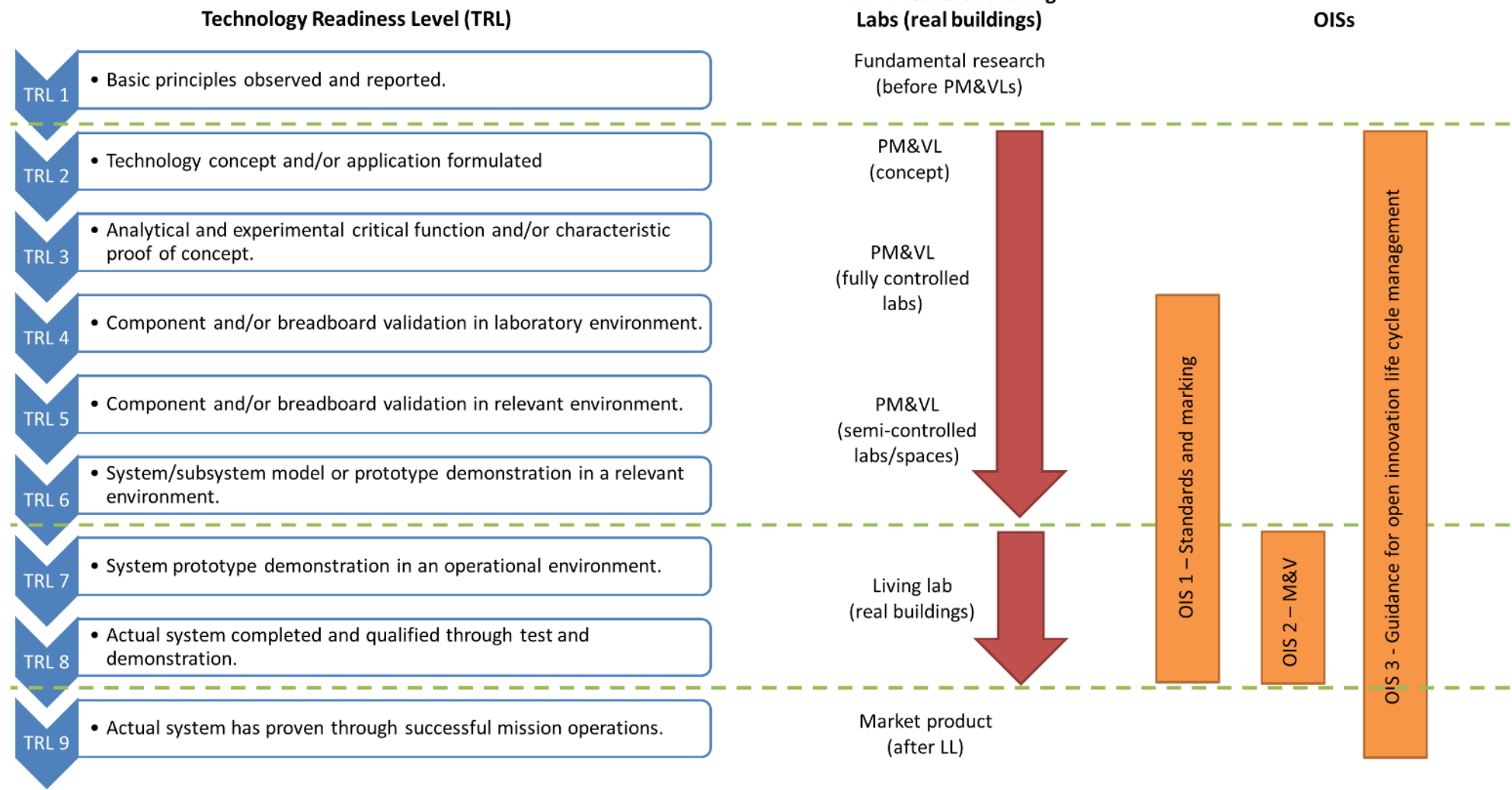
- 9 Pilot Measurement & Verification Lines (**PM&VL**)
- 3 Open Innovation Services (**OIS**)
- Access to real-buildings as living labs (**LL**)
- Additional resources and support including training, business model development, systematic IP and knowledge management, and more

MEZeroE will **fast-track prototypes to the market** as fully **characterized** and **exploited** (full potential unlocked) products



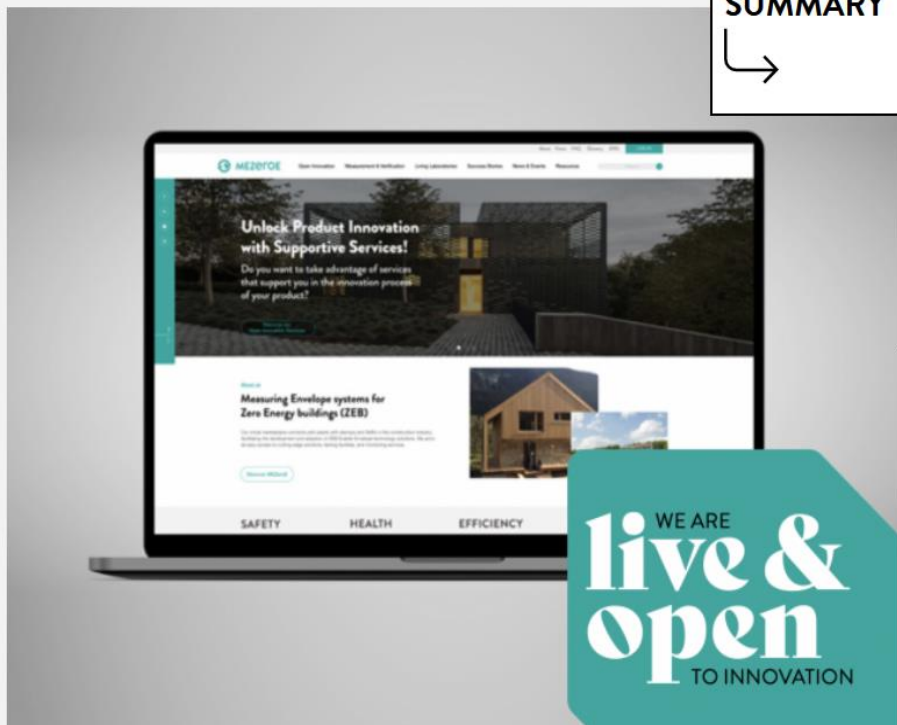
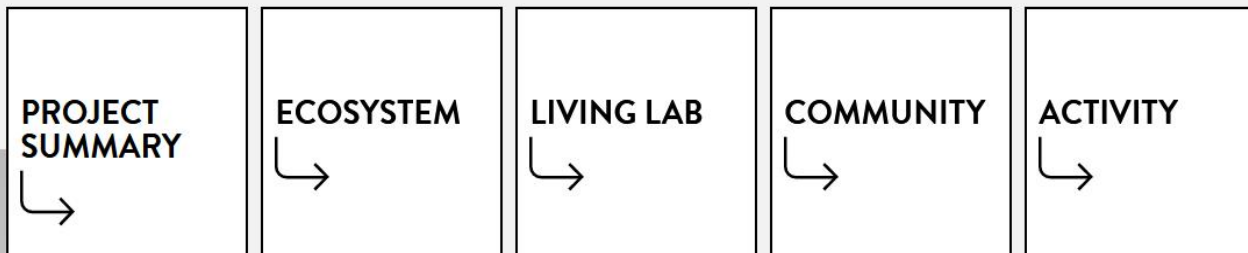








<https://www.mezeroe.eu>



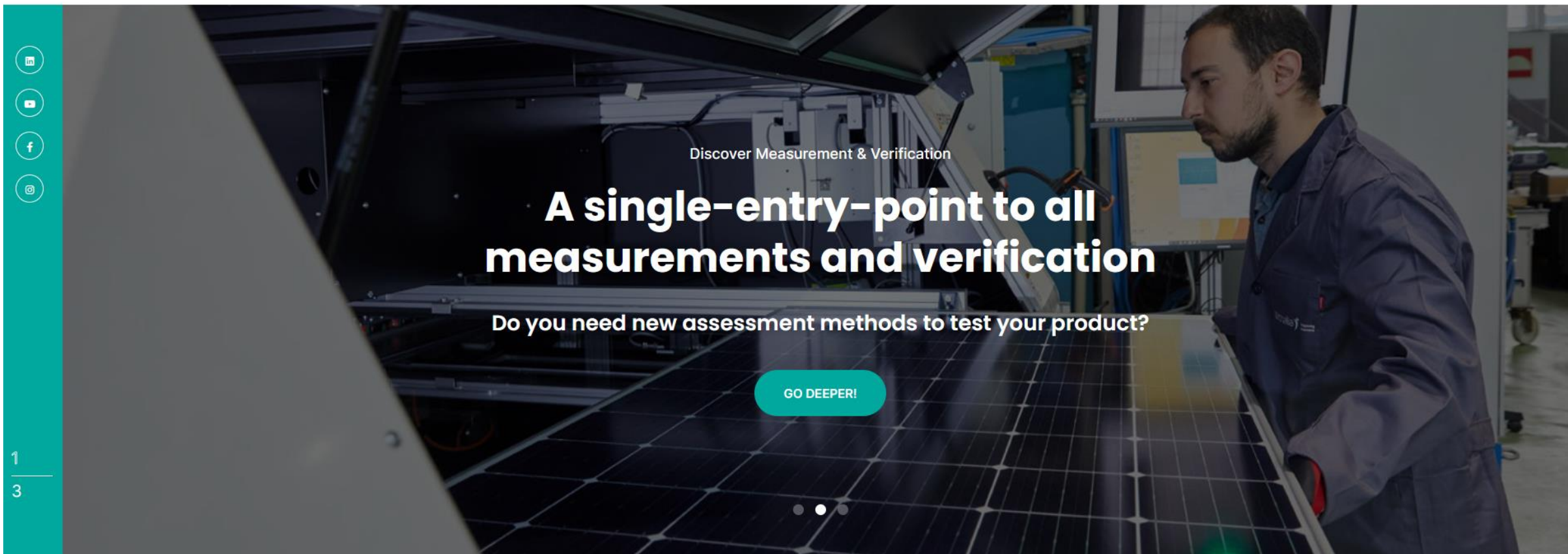
We are open to innovation

The MEZeroE Open Innovation Digital Platform for Zero Energy Building Ecosystem is live and online.

Join now the innovative and unique platform to accelerate the energy transition in the building sector by driving the advancement of low- impact, energy-efficient solutions from open innovation collaboration to the market.

[Access the platform](#)





Discover Measurement & Verification

A single-entry-point to all measurements and verification

Do you need new assessment methods to test your product?

GO DEEPER!

1
3





Coordinator CUT - Prof. Arkadiusz Kwiecien, Ph.D., D.Sc., Eng. L-08

Coordinator PM&VL7 - Aneta Nowak-Michta, Ph.D. L-11

7.1 Mechanical subline:

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 Łukasz Hojdys, Ph.D., Eng. L-01
 Piotr Krajewski, Ph.D., Eng. L-01
 Stanisław Kańka, Ph.D., Eng. L-12
 Jarosław Górszczyk, Ph.D., Eng. L-05
 Konrad Malicki, Ph.D., Eng. L-05
 Piotr Stecz, Ph.D., Eng. L-15
 Jarosław Chełmecki, MSc., Eng. L-15

7.2 Durability subline:

dr hab. inż. Teresa Stryszewska, Ph.D., D.Sc., Eng. prof. CUT L-02
 Marta Dudek, Ph.D., Eng. L-02
 Mateusz Sitarz, Ph.D., Eng. L-02

7.3 Vibroacoustic subline:

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 Krzysztof Nering, Ph.D., Eng. L-04
 Piotr Stecz, Ph.D., Eng. L-15
 Jarosław Chełmecki, MSc., Eng. L-15

7.4 Thermal subline:

Tomasz Kisilewicz, Ph.D., D.Sc., Eng. prof. CUT L-04
 Małgorzata Fedorczyk-Cisak L-13
 Katarzyna Nowak, Ph.D., Eng. L-04

BIM:

Krzysztof Zima, Ph.D., D.Sc., Eng. prof. CUT L-07
 Damian Wiczorek, Ph.D., Eng. L-07

Coordinator Living Lab - Katarzyna Nowak-Dzieszko, MSc., Eng. L-04

PMVL7: MECHANICAL AND DURABILITY TESTS OF CONNECTORS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON VIBROACOUSTIC, THERMAL, AND MICROCLIMATE COMFORT



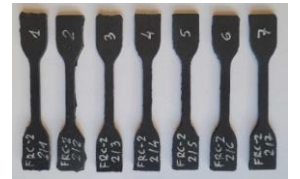
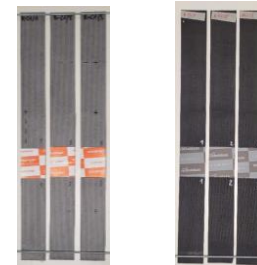
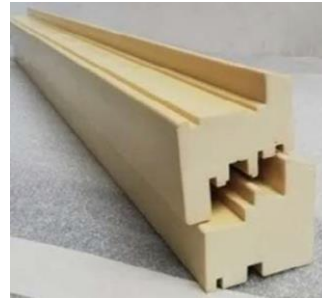
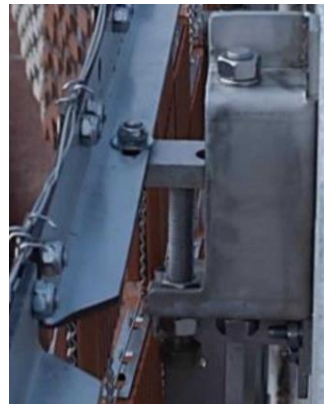


PM&VL7 research line tests

As part of the task of testing the research line using the equipment purchased under the project, research programs for construction products of four European industrial partners were implemented:

- Membranes, tapes and membrane-tape-membrane connections from ROTHOBLAAS,
- Curtain and facade brackets from FLEXBRICK,
- Window frames and sandwich panels from INDRESMAT,
- Composites, injections and layers from FLEX&ROBUST.

The public version of the research results are posters, two examples of which are presented on the following slides.



Rothoblaas

Product Membrane

Rothoblaas is an Italian multinational company from the Alpine region, leader in the development and supply of high-tech solutions for the areas of beam and post and Mass Timber construction systems, energy efficiency, zero emissions and other building best practices.



Membrane TRASPIR EVO UV 115

Pilot Measurement & Verification Line 7

Managed by: CUT



PM&VL7

Mechanical, durability, vibroacoustic, thermal, and microclimate comfort tests of envelope products and their connectors. Mechanical, vibroacoustic, thermal, and structural (scanning and optical microscope, spectrometer) tests are used for ageing diagnosis.

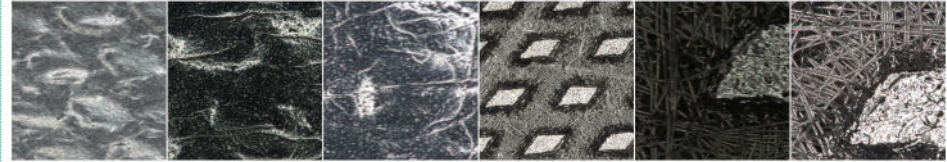


SAFETY



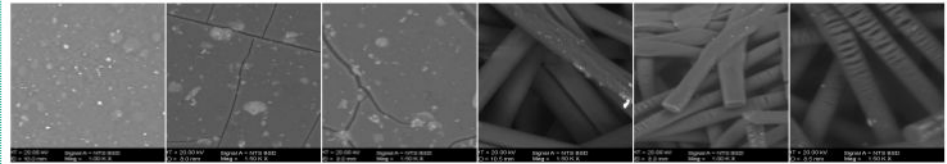
EFFICIENCY

Results – structural properties



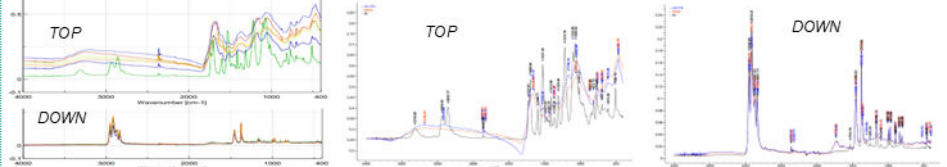
TOP reference TOP after UV TOP after UV+heat DOWN reference DOWN after UV DOWN after UV+heat

OM observation before and after ageing



TOP reference TOP after UV TOP after UV+heat DOWN reference DOWN after UV DOWN after UV+heat

SEM observation before and after ageing



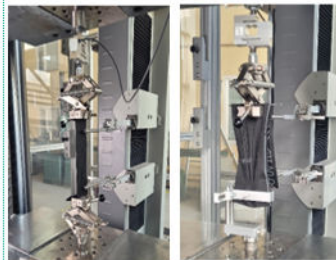
FTIR analysis before, during and after UV, and after UV + heat ageing

Which is the need covered by this service?

The implemented program of mechanical and durability tests was based on certification requirements for membranes with appropriate modifications taking into account more intense UV exposure than those provided for in the standard. The obtained results set the path for further research and product development as well as making the construction products comparable.

Design of Experiments

Mechanical properties



Tensile properties according to EN 13859-1 EN 12311-1

Resistance to tearing according to EN 13859-1 EN 12310-1

Structural properties

- Observation in optical microscope (OM)
- Observation in scanning electron microscope (SEM)
- Spectrometric analysis (FTIR)

Durability to UV and heat

- STAGE 1: Structural properties before ageing
- STAGE 2: Exposure to UV according to Annex C EN 13859-1 with modification to 5000h; FTIR after 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000 h
- STAGE 3: Structural properties after UV ageing
- STAGE 4: Exposure to heat according to Annex C EN 13859-1
- STAGE 5: Structural properties after UV and heat ageing

Open Innovation outcomes

The standard ageing time under UV rays was significantly modified from 336 to 5000 hours to better reflect real exposure conditions and enhance the credibility of product performance information. In addition, the scope of diagnostics before and after ageing was extended to include the observation of microstructure in an optical and scanning microscope as well as FTIR analyses before, during and after ageing.



Conclusions

Exposure to 5000h UV of membrane causes their degradation (the both side) visible changes include microcracks and defragmentation of fibers PP.
IR spectra after exposure to UV for 1000, 2000 3000, 4000 and 5000 hours allow to monitor changes and determine the beginning of degradation.
IR spectra and SEM images show that exposure to heat intensifies the degradation process. No additional changes were observed.




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INDRESMAT

Product: KLIMA-PUR window frame

INDRESMAT is a company founded in 2017 and located in Barcelona (Spain) & Geleen (The Netherlands) that is redefining the thermal envelope of buildings with materials such as biobased Polyurethane window frames and insulation foams.



Pilot Measurement & Verification Line 7

Managed by: CUT



PM&V L7

Mechanical, durability, vibroacoustic, thermal, and microclimate comfort tests of envelope products and their connectors. Mechanical, vibroacoustic, thermal, and structural (scanning and optical microscope, spectrometer) tests are used for ageing diagnosis.



SAFETY



HEALTH



EFFICIENCY



INTERACTION

Which is the need covered by this service?

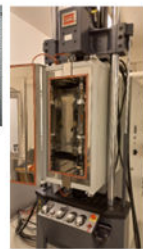
The completed program of mechanical, durability and vibroacoustic tests as well as thermal simulations were based on the certification requirements for window frames with appropriate modifications taking into account the biopolyurethane raw material used to produce the frames and the designed solutions for their connections. The obtained results indicate a path for further research and product development and may also be used during product certification.

Design of Experiments

1. Low temperature cracking according to EN 12697-46 with modifications.
 2. Durability:
 - Resistance to artificial ageing by exposure to freeze-thaw according to EN 13165 with modification.
 - Resistance to accelerated ageing by exposure to temperature in accordance with the requirements of EN 13165.
- Diagnostics of durability due to ageing included features not defined in the standard:
Mechanical test before and after artificial ageing - Strength of corners according to EN 514.
3. Direction-averaged junction velocity level difference for connector or for connection model according to our own procedure based on EN ISO 12354-1 and EN ISO 12354-2.
 4. Internal surface temperature according to EN ISO 13788.



Strength of corner



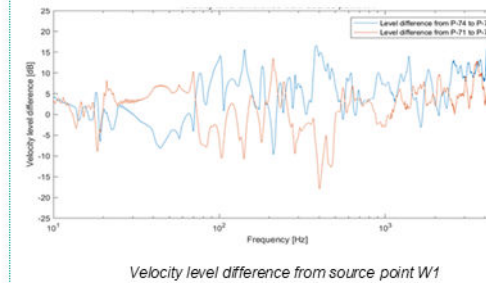
Low temperature cracking



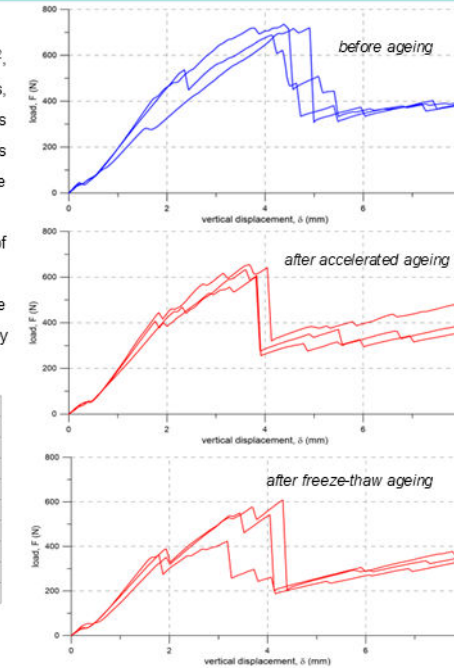
Velocity level difference

Results

1. Strength of the tested window frame corners is 3.3 N/mm², 2.5 N/mm² and 2.9 N/mm² for reference specimens, specimens after freeze-thaw ageing and specimens after accelerated ageing, respectively. Relationships between load and vertical displacement of corners before and after ageing.
2. In the low temperature cracking test, the average value of maximum cryogenic stress was equal to 1.36 MPa.
3. Foamed (bio)polyurethane frame connections found to be acoustically stiff. Average transmission of vibration velocity in frequency domain is below 6 dB.

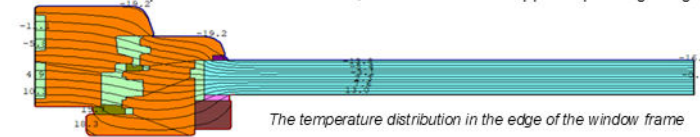


Velocity level difference from source point W1



Relationships between load and vertical displacement of corners

4. The purpose of the test was to check whether condensation and mold may occur on the inner surface of the window frame. The temperature distribution in the edge and middle element of the window frame was calculated as a 2D task. As a result of the analysis, it was found that in typical residential and office spaces with a moderate level of relative air humidity, condensation of water vapor will not occur. However, an influence of the applied specific glazing should also be checked.



The temperature distribution in the edge of the window frame

Conclusions

Both types of the used ageing procedure caused reduction in strength of the tested window frame corners. In the low temperature cracking test, the specimens met the required evaluation criterion. Biopolyurethane frame connections found to be acoustically stiff.



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Faculty of Civil Engineering

Industrial partner:



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Interdisciplinary, Inter-Unit Research Team created at the Faculty of Civil Engineering.





Faculty of Civil Engineering of Cracow University of Technology is the beneficiary of a 5.5% grant - EUR 817,375:

- purchased equipment,
- new research positions were built,
- 32 new research procedures were launched and tested.



Lens for Optical microscope



Spektrometer FTIR + Set of libraries



Watertightness Tester
WSP 3600 V4



Ageing chamber QUVsprayRP



Ageing chamber Xe



Climatic chamber



Hydraulic cylinder Hydropuls PL 250 N as an extension to ISTS



Dodecahedron loudspeaker Nor276
with Power Amplifier Nor280



Microphone boom turntable basic
unit Nor265



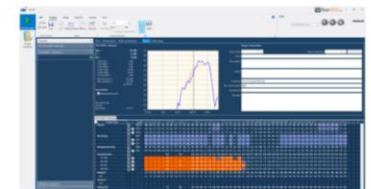
Sound analyzer Nor150



Tapping Machine Nor277



Sound Calibrator
Nor1256



Dedicated software for NOR850





Cooperation with scientists from foreign units:

- ACCADEMIA EUROPEA DI BOLZANO (EURAC),
- POLITECNICO DI MILANO (POLIMI),
- ACONDICIONAMIENTO TARRASENSE ASSOCIACION (LEITAT),
- UNIVERSITAET INNSBRUCK (UIBK),
- ZAVOD ZA GRADBENISTVO SLOVENIJE (ZAG),
- INSTITUT DE TECNOLOGIA DE LA CONSTRUCCION DE CATALUNYA (ITEC),
- DANMARKS TEKNISKE UNIVERSITET (DTU),
- FUNDACION TECNALIA RESEARCH & INNOVATION (TECNALIA).





Workshops with representatives of the Spanish company Flexbrick





PM&VL7, as one of 9 research lines, presents services on the newly launched MEZeroE digital service platform.



Mechanical and durability tests of connectors and their influence on vibroacoustic, thermal and microclimate comfort



PM&VL7

Offers a valuable benefit by providing a comprehensive testing platform. It allows you to evaluate the mechanical and durability aspects of connectors in nZEB envelopes, ensuring optimal comfort and performance in your projects. By understanding the impact of various factors on connection safety and performance, you can confidently choose the most suitable connectors for your specific needs, enhancing overall project quality and user satisfaction.

PM&VL 7 focuses specifically on conducting complex tests on various types of connections found in nZEB envelopes. For example, it examines the performance of polyurethane flexible joints between different envelope components, steel connectors between structural elements, brick panels joined with steel wires, bonding of membranes and tapes with each other and with other envelope materials, sandwich panels, and window joints. By using PM&VL 7, you can assess a wide range of factors that can affect the connections, including environmental, chemical, biological, and mechanical factors. It's important to understand how these factors can lead to a reduction in vibroacoustic and thermo-humidity parameters of the nZEB elements. Armed with this knowledge, you can make informed decisions about the selection and performance of connectors and joined elements in your projects.





Living Lab on the campus of Cracow University of Technology before renovation

Continuous monitoring of indoor air quality and thermal comfort.





Living Lab on the campus of Cracow University of Technology after renovation

Scope of renovation works:

- Structure reinforcement using Flex&Robust flexible polyurethane joints,
- Replacement of window frames - Indresmat,
- Shading systems – Pelini,
- Insulation and acoustic protection of the building.





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MEzeroE

Measuring Envelope products
and systems contributing to next
generation of healthy nearly
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