### European Economic and Social Committee

## Civil Society Influencing Public Policy

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#### Content:

- The European Economic and Social Committee
- Overcoming the Babel of Sustainable Construction
- Breaking the language barrier:
   A successful European Glossary
- A "European Sustainable Construction Glossary"



# The EESC – civil society representation at the heart of the EU





# EESC – the bridge between the EU and civil society

# DIRECTIVE 2002/91/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 16 December 2002

on the energy performance of buildings

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 175(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (2),

Council Directive 93/76/EEC of 13 Se limit carbon dioxide emissions by impr ciency (SAVE) (5), which requires M develop, implement and report on pr field of energy efficiency in the buildin starting to show some important ben complementary legal instrument is neemore concrete actions with a view to a unrealised potential for energy savings large differences between Member Stat

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (2),



# EESC – the bridge between the EU and civil society

Organised civil society participates in EU policy making

Three Groups:

- 1. Employers
- 2. Employees
- 3. Various Interests incl. consumers, environmentalists self-employed, architects?!





### Overcoming the Babel of sustainable building

"What can be said at all can be said clearly, and what we cannot talk about we must pass over in silence."

The early Ludwig Wittgenstein

The ACE's and ECP's Common Language for Sustainable Construction glossary permits to communicate clearly about the topic.



### Breaking the language Barrier

- The linguistic Babel persists
  - Many actors and citizens in the Member states do not know the terms and concepts
  - Many terms probably do not even exist in many languages
- Breaking the language barrier is vital to spreading sustainable construction:
  - Wittgenstein's point applies to each language
  - Words change thoughts and thoughts change reality
  - From expert-sprech to layperson language



### Breaking the language Barrier

- The EESC can help to break this language barrier:
  - We work in all official languages of the EU
  - We can do a
     "European Sustainable Construction Glossary"
  - We can build on a previous success:





# The European Economic and Social Committee and Velo-City 2009 present

## The first European Cycling Lexicon

Key cycling terms in all 23 official EU languages with illustrations





### The EESC's European Cycling Lexicon

### 120 key term around

- the bike, accessories,
- different types of cycles for different mobility needs
- cycling infrastructure

fully illustrated

in all 23 official EU languages

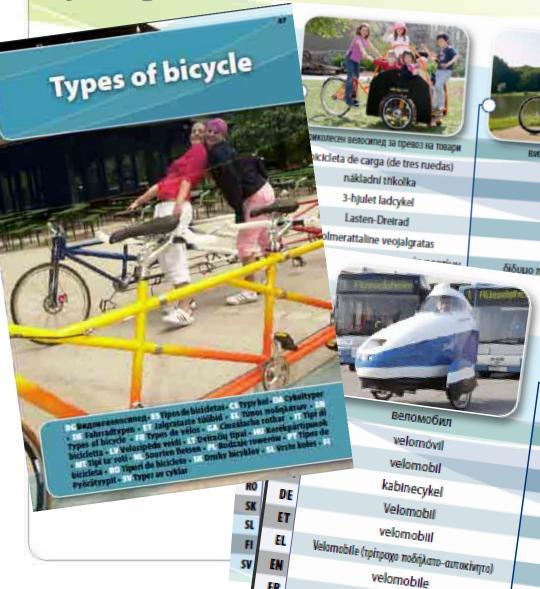




# **Example of an European Glossary: The EESC's European Cycling Lexicon**



# **Example of an European Glossary: The EESC's Cycling Lexicon**





#### вилосипед-тандем

tándem

tandem

tandem

Tandem

tandem

δίδυμο ποδήλατο (tandem)



лежащ велосипед-тандем

tándem redinable

lehotandem

liggetandem

Liegetandem

lamamistandem

ξαπλωτό δίδυμο ποδήλατο (tandem)



лежащ вело

bicicleta recli lehokok

liggecyke Liegerad

lamamisrati

ξαπλωτό ποδή

recumbent blo



#### детски велосипед

bicicleta de niño

dětské kolo

børnecykel

Kinderad

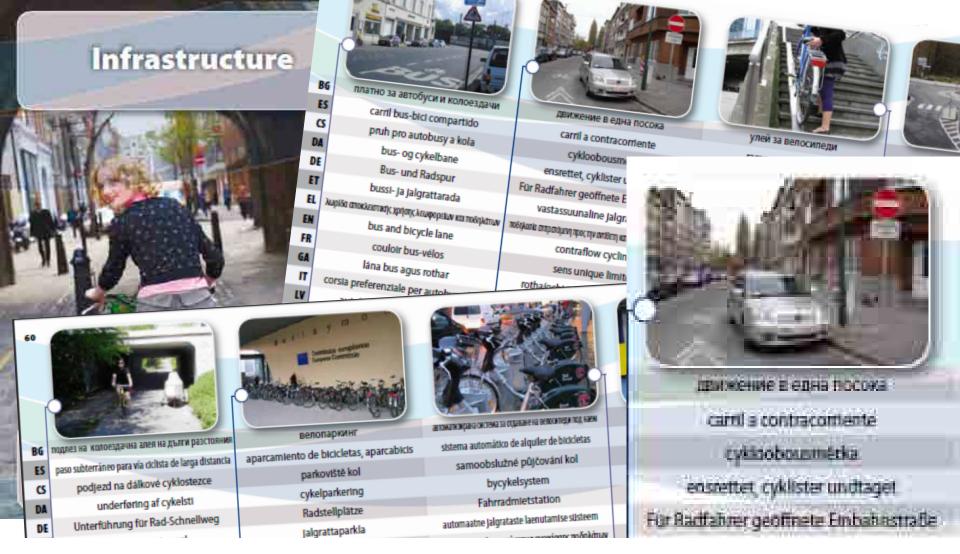
lastejalgratas παιδικό ποξεί

racercykel

Rennrad

съзтезателен велосипед bicicleta de carreras

silniční kolo



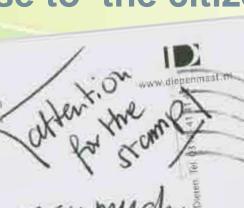
- Translators' terra incognita : need to create new terms
- Words change thoughts and thoughts change reality
- Photos as proof of existence

### EU close to 'the citizen'

#### APELDOORN

Grote Kerk

Aquarel: Marielle Bonenkamp



For the 2 copies of the Cycling Lexicon.

Bike greehings of Ed Oldengarm Apeldown 003106002ABO

Ten Section Rue Belliard gg

1040 Bruxeller



European Economic and Social Committee

### Second edition of European Cycling Lexicon

- More languages, incl. Turkish, Russian, Japanese,
   Chinese...
- A wiki for further terms and languages
- Additional information (EU funding sources, European statistics)
- EU-wide distribution (e.g. via EU-Info points)



### Do you speak Sustainable Construction? Yes! Ja! Jah! Qui! Si! Iva! Da! Ano! Igen!

### Promoting and Sustainable Construction with

- A "European Sustainable Construction Glossary"
- Based on ACE and ECP's Common Language for Sustainable Construction glossary
- Key terms and concepts in all official languages of the EU
- Supplementary non-EU languages?
- Illustrations of good practice
- Printed brochure
- Web-version



### Conclusion

"What can be said at all can be said clearly, and what we cannot talk about we must pass over in silence."

The early Ludwig Wittgenstein

" The meaning of a word is its use."

The late Wittgenstein



#### Conclusion

# Let's make 'Sustainable Construction' meaningful by using it:

- in legal texts,
- on the construction site,
- in calls for tender,
- when we talk with architects and clients
- in many languages.

Thank you for your attention!

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