PRESS RELEASE

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LCBI launches its low carbon buildings certification in Portugal

The real estate sector accounts for 20 to 25% of Portugal's carbon emissions, highlighting the importance of accelerating the transition towards low-carbon buildings.

In this context, LCBI (Low Carbon Building Initiative), launched in 2022 by major players in the European real estate sector and BBCA (the Association for the Development of Low Carbon Buildings), is expanding its European footprint to Portugal.

By measuring and benchmarking the carbon footprint of real estate operations across Europe using verified data, LCBI facilitates asset comparison for investors and aims to accelerate investment in low-carbon assets. Based on key European standards and benchmarks, the LCBI methodology aims at harmonising the practice of life-cycle analysis (LCA) throughout Europe.

Audited by Bureau Veritas and Certivea, the LCBI standard takes into account the complete life cycle of buildings, measuring and limiting the carbon footprint on three levels: embodied carbon (emissions associated with construction); operational carbon (linked to consumption and energy sources); and the measurement of biogenic carbon stored in the building. It delivers a single result in kgCO2/m², comparable across Europe.

The LCBI certification scheme addresses new-build offices, hotels and residential properties, as there is currently no low-carbon standard for the Portuguese property sector.

Based on existing Portuguese operations analysed by the LCBI Technical Committee, led by Elioth by Egis and Artelia, the LCBI methodology has been adapted in several areas, and its performance thresholds adjusted, to reflect the specific characteristics of the Portuguese market.

Bureau Veritas and Certivea are ready to carry out LCBI certification within Portugal.

"We are pleased to bring our low-carbon certification scheme to the Portuguese real estate sector. It will provide local players with a valuable tool to decarbonise and join a European decarbonisation benchmark, giving them easier access to green investment. The LCBI certification is an essential tool to prepare Portuguese real estate players for upcoming carbon regulations such as the EPBD."

Cécile DAP, Director, LCBI



About LCBI

The Low Carbon Building Initiative was launched in 2022 by major players in the real estate sector (Generali Real Estate, Covivio, BPI Real Estate, BNP Paribas Real Estate, Bouygues Immobilier, WO2, Icamap, NSI, Ivanhoé Cambridge and AXA IM Alts) and BBCA (the Association for the Development of Low-Carbon Buildings). Its aim is to develop the low-carbon certification of real estate projects in Europe in order to hasten the decarbonisation of the sector. Based on key European standards and benchmarks, the LCBI methodology serves to standardise the practice of Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA) throughout Europe. The LCBI certification, audited by Bureau Veritas and CERTIVEA, takes account of the complete life cycle of buildings, and measures the carbon footprint as well as the comprehensiveness of the LCA on three levels: grey carbon (emissions associated with construction) measured in kgCO2e/sq.m over 50 years, carbon from use (linked to consumption and energy sources) measured in kgCO2e/sq.m./year, and the measurement of biogenic carbon storage contained in the building measured in kgCO2e/sq.m. The certification has three performance levels: Standard, Performance and Excellence.

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