



# Annual Report 2024

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# What did we achieve?

For the eleventh year now, Buildings for the future (B4F) has continuously worked on improving public policy approaches to the buildings sector in Slovakia. As the largest Slovak professional interest group representing the construction and renovation industry in policymaking, we worked to ensure the continuity of government assistance schemes for home improvements and renovations. The programme “Obnov dom”[1] has been operational for two years now. Throughout 2024, the Slovak Environment Agency [2] managed to expedite its project evaluation process for incoming subsidy/grant applications.

The support schemes set up for **renovation of public buildings** show that the absorption capacity of the construction sector significantly exceeds the volume of funds available through the support schemes. The key to B4F’s success in the year 2024 was our ability to **communicate** in a manner that is **consistent, transparent and comprehensible**, to **conduct professional analyses**, to **formulate arguments supported by data** and our ability to act as a **mediator between the private sector and government institutions**, which led to concrete recommendations to policymakers.

[1] Translated as the “Renovate (your) house” programme.

[2] The government agency responsible for the evaluation of applications for funds from the Obnov dom programme.

# Who we are and whom do we represent?

**8 member organisations** and more than **1000 business entities** active in construction sector gain representation via their membership in our platform.

We are the most significant interest group of its kind for the buildings sector and a relevant partner for government authorities in policymaking. We abide by the principles of transparency and of technological and product neutrality. We take care to promote solutions informed by expert research and best practices from other countries. As a professional interest group, we take a strong stance against corruption.

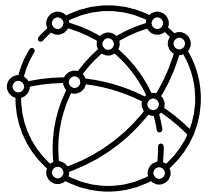
**Our core values are professionalism, political neutrality, attention to facts and detail, and transparency.**

In the year 2024, we acquired 4 new business partners

- Baunit,
- Daikin Slovensko,
- Wienerberger,
- the Slovak branch of the hypermarket chain Kaufland.



# Our biggest success stories in 2024



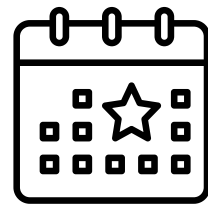
## Establishing connections across the sector for the future of buildings – together we can achieve more

We initiated an **open letter to the Slovak government** which has since been supported by 33 business entities and associations. It has shown itself to be one of the ways of communicating our interests to the members of the new government and to get the government's attention for the issue of energy efficiency. Thanks to the open letter, we were able to hold talks with the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.

We **encouraged the government to invest in the renovation of buildings and in measures enhancing the energy efficiency of buildings**, which could over time lead to a decrease in energy costs, improve the standard of living and stimulate economic activity. Together with signatories we emphasised the need for a thorough and proper implementation of the relevant EU legislation pertaining to energy standards in buildings and for the allocation of sufficient volumes of funds to the renovation of buildings and to training programmes teaching in-demand skills for the labour market.

Moreover, we **proposed the establishment of a coordination platform which would facilitate the collaboration of all relevant stakeholders**. Such multilateral cooperation aims to support a sustainable renovation of buildings that leads to energy savings, creation of new job opportunities, development of the construction sector and ultimately contributes to economic growth and to the fulfilment of climate targets of the Slovak Republic.

# Our biggest success stories in 2024



**We organise public events and enable discussion on issues, which otherwise would not appear in public discourse**

We organised a conference on energy efficiency and energy savings in buildings that brought together **110 participants and 15 speakers** working in public administration, EU agencies, and in the private sector.

The event took place under the auspices of several government agencies, and it underlined the importance of collaboration through public-private sector partnerships to achieve the building renovation targets. The aim of this conference was to identify opportunities for accelerating the rate of renovation of public buildings to ensure compliance with the targets set in the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).

In the closing remarks of the conference, the participants jointly expressed a need for legislative stability, technical support, and effective private sector participation to safeguard timely progress on the existing targets.



## We foster partnerships and build bridges between stakeholders at the regional level

We concluded several key **Memorandums of Cooperation** at the level of self-governing regions and municipalities of Slovakia. Through our cooperation with the Bratislava Self-Governing Region (BSK) we seek to create a framework for effective and deep renovations of buildings owned by BSK through pilot passports which offer a long-term plan to improve the energy performance of buildings, bring down associated costs and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. The cooperation with BSK presents a viable model for municipalities and specialised organisations planning to renovate buildings and to improve their energy performance.

As a result of B4F's partnership with BSK, **renovation passports for two public buildings in Bratislava were drawn up – a Business College on Dudova street and a social service facility in Rača.** Collaboration with the SK8 association and ZMOS is aimed at the intensification of renovation of public buildings, increasing their energy efficiency and support sustainable solutions which improve the quality of the indoor environment and will deliver long-term savings.



# 2024 in a nutshell



[PRESS RELEASES HERE](#)



[STUDIES & DOCUMENTS](#)



We published **7 position papers and analyses**. Our study titled “How to ensure the mandatory renovation of 3 % of buildings owned by public bodies every year up to the level of NZEB/A0?” has brought concrete recommendations for meeting the objectives of EU-legislation and presents the next step toward a systemic renovation of buildings in Slovakia.

B4F organised **4 expert roundtable discussions on EPBD** and **6 public events, both online and in-person**. The Slovak climate initiative (SKI) contributed by organising 5 discussions within the series “A green vision for Slovakia” and the conference titled Energy of the future, which leaves no one behind, which was ceremonially opened by the Slovak President, Mr. Pellegrini.

We were involved in the **inter-departmental review of 3 separate materials as they were introduced in the legislative process**. Furthermore, we were able to push through a fee exemption for water-to-water heat pumps. The amendment to the Water Act which passed in April 2024 exempts water-to-water heat pumps from a special fee for the energy use of surface water and groundwater is a major milestone that facilitates the use of green technologies in Slovakia.

We participated in 85 work meetings including talks with State Secretaries, the Director General of the Slovak Environment Agency (SAŽP), and the Director General of the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA).

Lastly, we sustained a notable media presence throughout the year, producing almost **300 media releases**.





# What are we going to be working on in 2025?







Our priorities  
for 2025

# Ambitious and proper implementation of EU-legislation

Two key directives – **the EPBD, and the EED** – are to be transposed into national law, with some fundamental consequences for the Slovak economy and its competitiveness and for Slovak households. Slovakia is facing major decisions that will affect the buildings sector at least until 2035. The government will be taking steps which may substantially expedite the building renovation rate, increase the depth of renovations and set conditions favourable to a decarbonisation of the building stock. Among the key objectives of the EU directives are increasing the renovation rate of buildings, creating a stable investment environment, and helping residents save energy.

To attain these objectives, properly set and functioning financial support schemes are necessary. These would also enhance the quality of housing and bring down energy costs for households. Therein lies a unique opportunity for Slovakia to use the directives as a tool by means of which to attain a higher living standard, become more economically competitive and promote sustainability. At B4F, we will try our best to ensure that the government defines and implements measures that will put the building stock on the right trajectory.



Our priorities  
for 2025

# Sustainable financing and functioning support schemes

In the **Obnov dom** programme more than 75 % of all available funds have been allocated or are bound to be allocated based on incoming applications. Support scheme budgets for the renovation of public buildings for which funds were meant to be available up until 2027 have already been exhausted. The pending applications exceed the available funds by about 770 million euros. **The Green light for households programme** has also been in high demand, leaving only some 40 % of its budget available for allocation.

It is expected that at the present rate of depletion, the available budgets will run out in the year 2025, despite having been intended to satisfy demand for renovation up until 2027. Our role is to publicly talk about the need to replenish the budgets of active support schemes and to work towards a political decision being made to satisfy this end.



Our priorities  
for 2025

# Creating partnerships for a long-term vision for Slovakia

We repeatedly encounter the lack of a long-term vision in policymakers' approach to energy efficiency of buildings. We will keep building partnerships cutting across various sectors, which may permit us to have a stronger voice in calling for a long-term and constructive vision for Slovakia which is to integrate formulations of energy savings and energy security.



# What others said about us



Membership in the B4F platform has brought us access to expert information from the buildings sector and enabled connections with many people from across the sector. We appreciate B4F's honest effort to work towards a better future for Slovakia and its active participation in the legislative process. The biggest benefit of our membership is being part of a community which strives for positive changes to the buildings sector.

**Peter Boledovič**

HEAD OF ESG



Our membership in B4F provides us access to up-to-date information on regulatory proposals and the opportunity to take part in reviewing legislative proposals. It also presents a way for us to actively participate in setting the future trajectories for our sector.

**Ondřej Boreš**

CORPORATE AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

# What others said about us



The most immediate benefit of our membership in the B4F platform lies in access to up-to-date information on trends and innovation regarding the sustainable development of buildings in Slovakia. At PSS, we deem the upgrade of buildings to a modern standard necessary. B4F represents a unique space for sharing know-how, for professional discussion and for a joint search for effective solutions in cooperations with experts who share a vision of a sustainable future.

**Oskar Sekereš**

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS



B4F is an excellent platform for networking and for exchanging first-hand experience from a modern and sustainable construction sector. We appreciate that an association of this kind exists and that it regularly organises events and discussions on relevant topics in the buildings sector.

**Lucia Vargová**

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

# What others said about us



Our membership in B4F has opened doors to valuable expert knowledge, enables us to participate in the review of draft laws and represents a space for networking with leading firms in the construction sector. Being a member increases our visibility as a business active in the buildings sector and provides the opportunity for us to strengthen the cooperation with the community of like-minded actors with whom we shape the future of buildings.

**Slavomír Šušor**

MANAGING DIRECTOR



At Knauf Insulation, we get to see the challenges which households and institutions face in renovating their buildings. B4F have been instrumental in voicing our concerns and experiences to government agencies and relevant ministries. In no small part thanks to B4F's work, building owners are able to enjoy less administrative hurdles and a larger financial support. In addition to lowering energy bills and improving the quality of housing, building renovation and insulation results in cleaner air for whole neighbourhoods and a more energy-secure population.

**Vladimír Boroš**

MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC





# As strong as our partners

Our activities in the year 2024 were once again supported by our long-term partners, as well as by new partners. We worked together with Slovak Climakte Initiative (SKI), the Association of Towns in Slovakia, Bratislava self-governing region, and other international partners via the Renovate Europe campaign. We represent 8 member organisations and 10 business partners.

As a member of SKI, we collaborate with experts, elected representatives and other government representatives on creating opportunities for supporting economic growth and increasing employment through gains in energy efficiency. We believe that the buildings sector has a tremendous potential to not only decrease emissions, but to act as a driving force behind regional development, job creation and to help reach climate targets by means of effective investments.

We thank the representatives of our member organisations and members on the Board of Directors at B4F for their support and coordination, expert advice, practical experiences and an excellent cooperation.

- **Peter Robl**, Chair of the Board of Directors at B4F
- **Pavol Kukura**, Slovak Green Building Council (SKGBC)
- **Igor Krajčovič**, Association for the support of renovation of residential buildings (Združenie pre podporu obnovy bytových domov)
- **Daniel Holler**, SLOVENERGOokno – an association of Slovak manufacturers and sellers of fillers for construction
- **Alexander Prizemin**, Association of mineral isolations manufacturers (Asociácia výrobcov minerálnych izolácií)
- **Marcel Lauko**, Association of energy services suppliers (Asociácia poskytovateľov energetických služieb)
- **Vladimír Orovnický**, Slovenský zväz pre chladenie, klimatizáciu a tepelné čerpadlá
- **Natália Šovkoplías**, Citenergo
- **Branislav Puškár**, Fakulta architektúry a dizajnu STU

# Members



# Partners





# Our team and contacts



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